

Black Diamond Foundation, Inc.  
Monday, November 4, 2013, 2:00 pm  
Black Diamond Ranch Club  
Lecanto, Florida

Present: Steve Barnes, Mike Bays, Jim Briley, Dave Burns, Bob Campbell, Bill Joens, Jill Ludowese, Charlotte McKim, Susan Pratt, Kent Rinker, Sharron Rosenberg, Susan Savard

Residents: Jay Joines, Lorraine Carrier

Guests: Joanna Castle and Sara Williamson, YMCA of the Suncoast, Citrus County Program Branch

Dr. Vern Lawter and Traci Mason, College of Central Florida

Harold Seckinger and Walter Guinn, Citrus Youth Educational Symphonic Orchestra

**1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm, November 4, 2013.**

**2. Presentations**

**YMCA of the Suncoast, Citrus County Program Branch**

Joanna Castle, Executive Director, YMCA of the Suncoast, Citrus County Program Branch, provided feedback on the investment the Foundation made for the YMCA's inaugural teen summer camp program in Citrus County. The Foundation approved a community grant of \$11,600 to help low income children participate in the program.

The YMCA's teen summer camp, Camp EPIC, included weekly themed activities, field trips and community service projects. Of the 303 children who participated in YMCA summer camp activities, 55 were enrolled in Camp EPIC. Of those 55, 33 required the scholarship assistance that Black Diamond Foundation provided through its community grant. Feedback from the parents whose children participated in camp activities was overwhelmingly favorable. The YMCA of the Suncoast plans to continue the Camp EPIC program in 2014.

**College of Central Florida (CF)**

Dr. Vernon Lawter, Provost, Citrus Campus, and Traci Mason, Resource Development Coordinator, College of Central Florida presented a video montage of students who had received scholarship assistance from Black Diamond Foundation.

CF has received recognition nationally as an affordable education option with valuable degree programs that help students gain employment after graduation. CF's economic impact is \$349.7 million in Citrus, Marion and Levy counties, contributing to the vitality of our local community, and reducing demand for taxpayer supported services. Duke Energy Florida recently provided a \$100,000 grant to develop a digital media program at

CF's Citrus Campus. The first classes in this specialty will be offered in Fall 2014.

Dr. Lawter requested the Foundation's continued support of the CF scholarship program. He noted that CF needed five more STEPS endowments (\$10,000 each) to ensure that all Citrus County elementary schools can provide post-secondary education opportunities to two deserving 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students each year. Black Diamond Foundation has endowed two STEPS scholarships at the Citrus Springs and Central Ridge Elementary Schools.

### **Citrus Youth Educational Symphonic Orchestra (CYESO)**

Harold Seckinger, founder and President of the CYESO, updated the Board on the status of the program. Black Diamond Foundation provided a \$1,000 community grant to help establish CYESO in 2012. The Orchestra provides the opportunity for Citrus County youth, ages 5 to 19, to study classical music and learn how to play string and woodwind instruments. The program is focused on Citrus County children who would not otherwise have access to these studies and opportunities. Of note, there is no classical music program in the Citrus County schools.

Donors have provided instruments. Classroom space is available at the Cornerstone Church. The program now has 17 students, with a few volunteer teachers. The next step for the Orchestra is to find three to five long-term instructors, and raise funds to pay for their services. CYESO has not yet determined the related costs for these instructors.

Vice Chairman Dave Burns asked that Mr. Seckinger, or a member of his staff, return in 2014 to relate their funding needs after the costs for instruction are established.

### **3. Approval of Minutes, May 6, 2013**

The Minutes of May 6, 2013 were approved as amended/corrected. "Board of Governors" was changed to reflect "Board of Directors" throughout the document.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Jim Briley presented the monthly Financial Report. At the end of October 2013, the Foundation had \$3,000 in restricted and \$260,504 in unrestricted funds. The only Foundation expenditure made during the summer months was a grant of \$1,750 to The Path of Citrus County to repair their freezer unit.

Jim Briley noted that in years past, Black Diamond Foundation has normally entered the new calendar year with between \$160,000 and \$200,000 in unrestricted funds. He and Chairman Bill Joens will provide community grant recommendations to the Board of Directors next month that fall within the Foundation's published areas of emphasis.

Bill Joens noted that a few of the long-term Black Diamond Foundation Pro-Am Golf Tournament sponsors are no longer in business in the area. The Foundation will need to replace roughly \$4,000 in sponsor revenue. Vice Chairman Dave Burns has initiated a dialogue with representatives from Duke Energy to serve as a new tournament sponsor to help close that deficit.

## **5. Community Grant Requests**

### **The Path of Citrus County**

In early October, The Path requested a community grant to help repair their refrigeration/freezer unit. The repairs were necessary not only to maintain their own food programs, but also to store perishables for the Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance prior to the upcoming holiday season. The Board of Directors voted electronically at the time of the request to provide a community grant of \$1,750. Today's formal confirmation completes this action.

MOVED BY:                 DAVE BURNS  
SECONDED BY:             CHARLOTTE MCKIM

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$1,750 (One thousand, one hundred fifty dollars) to The Path of Citrus County, Inc. to repair the freezer unit needed at their facility.

APPROVED.

### **Citrus United Basket (CUB)**

CUB has requested a community grant of \$15,000 to help fund their new building project. The additional financials CUB provided over the summer reflected they needed \$300,000 for the building project, and had raised \$100,000 to that end. At the time of submission, the organization had \$270,000 cash on hand.

The Foundation Board members agreed that a formal presentation from CUB in early 2014 would help clarify their funding needs and operating procedures. The Board agreed to defer action pending formal presentation.

**ACTION:** Foundation Chairman, BILL JOENS, will send a letter to the Executive Director, CUB to request a personal presentation in early 2014.

### **Boys and Girls Club of Citrus County**

The Boys and Girls Club of Citrus County requested a community grant of \$20,000 for general operating funds. After reviewing the accompanying financials, the Board determined that Foundation funds would better serve the local community through other non-profit organizations.

**Action:** Foundation Chairman, BILL JOENS, will send a letter to the Executive Director, Boys and Girls Club of Citrus County with the Board's decision.

### **The Mission in Citrus**

The Mission in Citrus, Inc. was founded in 2008 to serve the homeless in Central Florida, to include Citrus County. One of The Mission's clients sent a letter to the Foundation requesting support. Since Black Diamond Foundation Board members were not familiar with this non-profit organization, Chairman Bill Joens asked for a volunteer

to research the mission, organization structure, and activities of The Mission in Citrus and provide feedback at the next scheduled meeting.

Action: Sharron Rosenberg will research the non-profit Mission in Citrus, and provide feedback to the Board of Directors in December.

### **Kody Snodgrass Memorial Foundation**

The Kody Snodgrass Memorial Foundation trains and provides bloodhounds to law enforcement/first responder agencies throughout the United States. They have placed 140 working dogs thus far, to include 52 with Sherriff Departments in Florida. Although a worthy cause, Board research could not identify how a community grant to this organization would benefit the residents of Citrus County, as outlined in the Foundation mission statement.

ACTION: Foundation Chairman, BILL JOENS, will send a letter stating the Board's decision to the Chairman, Board of Directors, Kody Snodgrass Memorial Foundation, Inc.

### **Lecanto Primary School**

A supporter of Lecanto Primary School forwarded a flyer to the Foundation outlining fall fundraising activities. The school's Fall Festival and Silent Auction were held in October, before the Board reconvened in November. It was noted that the Foundation supports all Citrus County schools through its matching fund contributions to the Citrus County Education Foundation.

ACTION: Foundation Chairman, BILL JOENS, will send a letter to the requester outlining how the Foundation supports Citrus County schools through the Citrus County Education Foundation.

## **6. Old Business.**

### **Black Diamond Foundation Video**

Vice Chairman Dave Burns reported that the video project started last spring is now complete.

### **Fairman Charitable Trust Donation**

Former Chairman, Black Diamond Foundation, Jay Joines, reported that the Arthur B. Fairman Charitable Trust provided a \$1,000 community project grant to Black Diamond Foundation to support hunger programs in Citrus County.

### **CF Foundation STEPS Scholarship Dinner**

Vice Chairman Dave Burns reported the College of Central Florida's CF Foundation honored Black Diamond Foundation and other donors that have endowed scholarships at its annual awards dinner. Since 2012, Black Diamond Foundation has endowed a STEPS scholarship at both Central Ridge and Citrus Springs Elementary Schools.

## **7. New Business**

### **Birdies for Tampa Bay Charities**

The PGA Tour's Valspar Championship will continue the Birdies for Tampa Bay Charities bonus pool in 2014. They will provide a 10% match for the first \$1,000,000 of pledges/donations received. Jay Joines has pledge cards.

### **Citrus County Education Foundation (CCEF) Curriculum Grants**

Sue Pratt will present the new teacher curriculum grants provided by Black Diamond Foundation at the CCEF annual awards ceremony on November 5<sup>th</sup>. CCEF was thrilled to have sufficient funding, for the first time, to fund all 56 of this year's qualifying grant requests. The four winning requests funded with Foundation grants include:

- CREST School (for students with disabilities) - "Literacy for the Family through Sharing Backpack Technologies."
- Crystal River High School Spanish Department - "From Vocabulary Acquisition to Clarity of Content."
- Withlacoochee Technical Institute English as a Second Language Department - "ESOL, Adult Education and Career Pathways."
- Citrus Springs Elementary School Fifth Grades - "3, 2, 1, BLAST OFF!"

### **Obligation of 2013 Restricted Funds**

Treasurer Jim Briley noted that the Board needed to approve funding for specific non-profit organizations as designated by Foundation donors in 2013. These community grants include \$1,000 each to Citrus County Blessings, Nature Coast Ministries, and the Citrus County Family Resource Center.

MOVED BY: SUE PRATT  
SECONDED BY: CHARLOTTE MCKIM

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$1,000 (One thousand dollars) to Citrus County Blessings to provide healthy food for children in need throughout Citrus County.

APPROVED.

MOVED BY: MIKE BAYS  
SECONDED BY: SUSAN SAVARD

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$1,000 (One thousand dollars) to Nature Coast Ministries for use in its community dental clinic.

APPROVED.

MOVED BY: SHARRON ROSENBERG  
SECONDED BY: MIKE BAYS

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$1,000 (One thousand dollars) to the Citrus County Family Resource Center to assist local families in need.

APPROVED.

**8. Articles for 2013 Club Newsletter – “Happenings”**

Copy is due to Lara Holliday ([lholliday@blackdiamondranch.com](mailto:lholliday@blackdiamondranch.com)), by stated suspense.

Dec CCEF Sue Pratt due Nov 15

**9. Next Meetings and Adjournment**

The Foundation will meet next at 10:30 am on Monday, December 2, in the clubhouse boardroom.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm, Monday, November 4, 2013.

*Jill Ludowese*, Secretary  
Black Diamond Foundation, Inc.

Thursday, November 21, 2013