

Black Diamond Foundation, Inc.
Monday, April 28, 2014, 4:00 pm
Black Diamond Ranch Club
Lecanto, Florida

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

Absent: Steve Barnes, Mike Bays

Guests: Amy Meek, President/CEO, United Way of Citrus County
Debra Stanley, Assistant Director, Adult Education and Evening Programs,
Withlacoochee Technical Institute (WTI)

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, April 28, 2014.

2. Presentations

United Way/Withlacoochee Technical Institute

As requested by the Foundation Board, Mrs. Meek and Mrs. Stanley returned to present an update with regard to the WTI GED “gap funding” program. Seven WTI students enrolled in the GED studies program are utilizing funds from a Black Diamond Foundation grant, and support programs sponsored by the United Way of Citrus County.

GED testing changed in 2014, becoming more rigorous. A higher level of math is now required to pass the exam. Mrs. Stanley noted that it’s now taking students 6-12 months of study to pass the exam and graduate. Throughout Florida, the exam pass rate is now 37-42%, versus 80% prior to 2014. None of the seven students utilizing 2014 “gap” funding have taken the GED exam yet.

Mrs. Meek noted that United Way and WTI have begun a new partnership with Citrus Abuse Shelter Association (CASA), supporting students in the GED program. She noted there are plenty of bright students enrolled in the GED program, but many are experiencing a great deal of dysfunction in their daily lives. Representatives from CASA and “The Centers” are coming in weekly to provide life skills instruction (e.g. healthy relationships, anger management, parenting, family counseling). The additional focus on “soft skills” - communication and people skills – is helping with job interviews and overall employability.

Mrs. Stanley closed by noting that WTI graduation would be held on May 20th, at the Curtis Peterson Auditorium in Lecanto. Eleven graduates scheduled to cross the stage are 2013 beneficiaries of Black Diamond Foundation/United Way “gap” funding. Three of those students are receiving College of Central Florida scholarships to continue their education.

Chairman Joens thanked Mrs. Meek and Mrs. Stanley for returning to update the Board.

3. Approval of Minutes, April 7, 2014

The Minutes of April 7, 2014, were approved as written.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jim Briley presented the monthly Financial Report. As of today's meeting, the Foundation has \$166,092.47 in unrestricted funds.

5. Community Grant Requests

Citrus County Education Foundation

Sue Pratt outlined the CCEF community grant request designed to assist Citrus County teachers. CCEF provides curriculum grants of up to \$1,000 to local teachers to support their innovative, literacy-based projects and enhance classroom instructional activities. Black Diamond Foundation has sponsored this program since 2006.

MOVED BY: SUE PRATT
SECONDED BY: DAVE BURNS

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$4,000 (Four thousand dollars) to the Citrus County Education Foundation, Inc. to support curriculum grants for Citrus County teachers during the 2014/2015 school year.

APPROVED.

Aspire Relationship Center, Inc.

Aspire Relationship Center's RIVER Project works within the Citrus County school district to share a program about healthy relationships with area teens. The RIVER Project is an interactive, risk-avoidance relationship education program that encourages youth to be intentional about choosing health and success in their relationship decisions. Its education program covers topics that include understanding the risks and consequences of early sexual activity, and teen dating violence prevention.

Research has shown that teen mothers are less likely to finish high school or attend college. They also have a higher probability of living in poverty and relying on public assistance. Teen birth rates are higher in Citrus County than both state and national averages.

Susan Pratt reported that ASPIRE has requested funds to continue its relationship training to Citrus County students during the 2014/2015 school year. A Foundation grant of \$6,000, accompanied by the \$10,000 grant approved by the Citrus County Education Foundation, will support relationship training outreach to ALL 9th Graders in Citrus County schools during the upcoming school year.

MOVED BY: SUE PRATT
SECONDED BY: SHARRON ROSENBERG

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$6,000 (Six thousand dollars) to Aspire Relationship Center, Inc. to fund relationship training for Citrus County 9th Grade students during the 2014/2015 school year.

APPROVED.

Nature Coast Ministries

After the Nature Coast Ministries presentation earlier in the month, Kent Rinker met with Tom Slagle to better identify the immediate support requirements for the Samaritan Free Dental Clinic.

Mr. Slagle reported that the Clinic has supplies on hand to sustain operations for two to three months. The Clinic's immediate need is to cover operating expenses (\$2,500 per month) throughout the summer. Mr. Slagle expects that local churches will be on line in the fall to help fund the Clinic's recurring operating expenses.

MOVED BY: KENT RINKER
SECONDED BY: SUE PRATT

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$10,000.00 (Ten thousand dollars) to Nature Coast Ministries to fund operating expenses at the Samaritan Free Dental Clinic.

APPROVED.

Citrus Youth Educational Symphonic Orchestra (CYESO)

Harold Seckinger, founder and President of the CYESO, wrote to update the Board on the status of the program. 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.

CYESO now has several musician/mentors in place. They are requesting funding, to accompany a recent grant from Duke Energy, help pay for additional music instructors.

MOVED BY: KENT RINKER
SECONDED BY: SUSAN SAVARD

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$2,000.00 (Two thousand dollars) to the Citrus Youth Educational Symphonic Orchestra, to provide music instruction for Citrus County youth.

APPROVED.

6. Old Business.

The Salvation Army in Citrus County

Since our last Board meeting, Bill Joens visited Rick Sampson at The Army's Citrus County facility. Chairman Joens reported that, based on our recent contribution to The Salvation Army's capital campaign, the facility Multipurpose Room would be re-named in honor of Black Diamond Foundation.

7. New Business.

“STEPS to CF” Scholarship Presentations

Next month, the College of Central Florida will award “STEPS to CF” Scholarships during ceremonies at Citrus County elementary schools. Black Diamond Foundation sponsors three scholarships. Sharron Rosenberg will present one scholarship at Central Ridge Elementary School on May 12th. Susan Savard will present two scholarships at Citrus Springs Elementary School on May 21st.

8. Articles for 2014 Club Newsletter – “Happenings”

Copy is due to Beverly Partain (bpartin@blackdiamondranch.com), by stated suspense.

Jun	CF Scholarship Thank-you Notes	Jill Ludowese	due May 15
Jul	WTI Trail Blazers	Charlotte McKim	due Jun 15
Aug	River Project	Sue Pratt	due Jul 15
Sep	Samaritan Dental Clinic	Kent Rinker	due Aug 15
Oct	Salvation Army	Jill Ludowese	due Sep 15
Nov	Pro-Am Update	Bill Joens	due Oct 15
Dec	Volunteering in Citrus County	Sharron Rosenberg	due Nov 15

9. Next Meetings and Adjournment

Black Diamond Foundation normally suspends regular Board meetings during the summer months. A query of the Board of Directors indicated a quorum would not be present until November 2014.

MOVED BY: KENT RINKER
SECONDED BY: CHARLOTTE MCKIM

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. suspend monthly Board of Directors meetings in Lecanto, Florida until November 3rd, 2014.

APPROVED .

After summer adjournment, the Board will meet again on Monday, November 3, and Monday, December 1, at 2:00 pm in the clubhouse boardroom

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm, Monday, April 28, 2014.

Jill Ludowese, Secretary
Black Diamond Foundation, Inc.
Wednesday, October 15, 2014