

Black Diamond Foundation, Inc.
Monday, March 2, 2015, 4:00 pm
Black Diamond Ranch Club
Lecanto, Florida

Present: Steve Barnes, Mike Bays, Dave Burns, Bill Joens, Foster Lamm, Charlotte McKim, Joan Plunkett, Susan Pratt, Jon Radabaugh, Kent Rinker, Sharron Rosenberg, Susan Savard

Absent: Jill Ludowese

Guests: Kari Peters, Executive Director, Aspire Relationship Center
Katie Neely, Program Manager, Aspire Relationship Center
Darlene Carlson, Regional Executive Director, Hernando, Citrus and Sumter Counties, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Tampa Bay
Sherri Chancey, Director of Partnerships, Hernando, Citrus and Sumter Counties, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Tampa Bay

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, March 2, 2015.

2. Presentations

Aspire Relationship Center/The RIVER Project

Kari Peters and Katie Neely gave a power point presentation about Aspire and The RIVER Project, and distributed written materials. The program currently serves 2,500 students in public and private schools throughout Citrus County, as well as the Renaissance Center. This number, however, does not include all the students in middle schools and high schools in the County.

The RIVER Project 8-week curriculum presents one topic regarding individual health and healthy relationships to students per week. Each class session is 90 minutes long. The curriculum for the high school and middle school programs are listed on line at *aspirerelationshipcenter.com*. One of the new features of the program is a student evaluation. The comments have been very positive.

The cost to bring the 8-week RIVER Project curriculum to Citrus County students is \$50 per student. This year, Aspire is requesting a community grant from Black Diamond Foundation in an amount between \$6,000 and \$10,000 to continue their work in the local community.

Chairman Bill Joens thanked Ms. Peters and Ms. Neely for their presentation.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters (BB/BS) of Tampa Bay

Darlene Carlson and Sherri Chancey presented the current status of the BB/BS program within Citrus County. BB/BS of Tampa Bay now serves seven counties, and has a new CEO, Steven Koch. Darlene and Sherri are enthusiastic about his leadership and ability to improve the program in our area.

BB/BS now has a school-based program that is very popular, and there is currently a waiting list for adult sponsors. There has been an aggressive growth pattern for BB/BS in the recent year. The cost to match a “Big” and “Little” is \$1,250. This includes background checks and interviews, but the majority of the cost is for Liability Insurance.

BB/BS is requesting \$15,000 from the Black Diamond Foundation this year to expand the number of “Big/Little” matches in Citrus County, and support local children who are now on a waiting list. We are reminded that all funds raised in Citrus County to support the BB/BS program, stay in Citrus County.

Chairman Bill Joens thanked Ms. Carlson and Ms. Chancey for their presentation.

3. Approval of Minutes, February 2, 2015

The Minutes of February 2, 2015, were approved as written.

4. Treasurer’s Report

Susan Savard presented the Monthly Financial Report. As of today’s meeting, the Foundation has \$209,555.88 in unrestricted funds.

Susan noted that Black Diamond Foundation currently has funds in two accounts: one at Sun Trust Bank and one at Cadence Bank. She discussed the dual accounts with Jim Briley, the previous Foundation Treasurer. The concern was that, for a short period of time, Foundation account totals in Cadence Bank were above the FDIC guarantees. Since account totals are now within FDIC limits, the Board elected to have the Treasurer transfer all the funds in the Sun Trust Bank Money Market Account to Cadence Bank.

5. Community Grant Requests

Aspire Relationship Center/The RIVER Project

The RIVER Project is a relationship education program meant to supplement and expand what is already taught in 7th, 8th and 9th grade health-type classes. It is not a “values or morals” curriculum, but is one that equips and empowers students to stay clear-headed and intentional on their way to their future, staying away from the drama of drug and alcohol use, unhealthy relationships, and sex too soon.

The RIVER Project is classified as Sexual Risk Avoidance, and focuses on the importance of relationship education and skill building in order to reduce dating violence, unplanned pregnancy, STD transmission, bullying, and poverty.

As noted earlier in the meeting, Aspire is requesting a community grant to continue their high school program, and expand their ability to provide this curriculum to more middle school students throughout Citrus County.

MOVED BY: DAVE BURNS
SECONDED BY: FOSTER LAMM

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$10,000 (Ten thousand dollars) to Aspire Relationship Center in order to provide relationship education training to Citrus County high school and middle school students in 2015/2016.

APPROVED.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Tampa Bay

BB/BS makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers (“Bigs”) and children (“Littles”), ages 6 through 18, in communities across the country. The program develops positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people.

BB/BS of Tampa Bay is requesting a community grant to sustain existing “Big/Little” matches in Citrus County, and expand the program to meet the needs of local children on the BB/BS waiting list.

MOVED BY: SHARRON ROSENBERG
SECONDED BY: KENT RINKER

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$15,000 (Fifteen thousand dollars) to Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Tampa Bay in order to fund Big/Little matches for low income Citrus County children.

APPROVED.

Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County

Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County is a nonprofit organization that seeks to bring people together to build homes, neighborhoods and hope. They work to eliminate substandard housing for people of all backgrounds, races and religions by providing simple, decent, affordable housing to those who have a need, ability to pay, and willingness to partner.

“Habitat” is sponsoring a fund raiser at Citrus Hills on April 9th. Black Diamond Foundation received a request for event sponsorship, which will benefit construction efforts in Citrus County.

MOVED BY: KENT RINKER
SECONDED BY: BILL JOENS

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$1,000 (One thousand dollars) to Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County to help fund local construction projects that benefit low income County residents.

APPROVED.

6. Old Business

Citrus Youth Educational Symphonic Orchestra (CYESO)

The CYESO Board sent a letter thanking Black Diamond Foundation for our 2014 donation. They report the program has been a huge success, making a real difference for students interested in classical music. CYESO now has paid music teachers, who are receiving mileage reimbursement for travel to Citrus County to work with local youth.

7. New Business

United Way of Citrus County Homework Diner Program

Dave Burns reported that the United Way of Citrus County is highlighting a new initiative to provide an innovative tutoring program to low income elementary school students to help improve their math skills. The pilot program, Homework Diner, has been in place at Crystal River Elementary School since October 2014. Results are promising. Amy Meek, CEO, United Way of Citrus County, is willing to make a presentation to Black Diamond Foundation in April to describe the pilot program, and discuss partnering opportunities for the 2015/2016 school year.

Chairman Joens will extend an invitation to Mrs. Meek to make a presentation to the Board of Directors on either April 6th or 27th.

Black Diamond Club Rider Cup Flag Sales

The Foundation will again work to raise funds by selling golf cart flags for those participating in the Club's Rider Cup event on March 11th and 12th. Joan Plunkett volunteered to lead the sales effort. Bill Joens will provide all needed supplies.

8. Articles for Club Newsletter – “Happenings”

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

Apr	Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Steve Barnes	due Mar 15
May	Early Learning Coalition	Bill Joens	due Apr 15
Jun	Watts Interview	Charlotte McKim	due May 15
Jul	CCF Scholarship Recipient Notes	Jill Ludowese	due Jun 15
Aug	BDF History	TBD	due Jul 15

9. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The Board will meet next on Monday, April 6, 2015 at 4:00 pm in the clubhouse boardroom. Additional meeting dates for 2015 are: April 27, November 2, and December 7.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm, Monday, March 2, 2015.

Joan Plunkett, Acting Secretary
Black Diamond Foundation, Inc.

Monday, March 16, 2015