

Black Diamond Foundation, Inc.
Monday, January 6, 2014, 4:00 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

Guests: Amy Meek, President/CEO, United Way of Citrus County
Debra Stanley, Assistant Director, Adult Education and Evening Programs, Withlacoochee Technical Institute
Jennifer Blake, Guidance Counselor, Withlacoochee Technical Institute

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, January 6, 2014.

2. Presentations

United Way of Citrus County/Withlacoochee Technical Institute

Amy Meek, Debra Stanley, and Jennifer Blake gave a presentation outlining how the Foundation's GED "Gap Funding" grant was utilized at Withlacoochee Technical Institute (WTI) in partnership with the United Way of Citrus County.

In January 2013, Black Diamond Foundation approved a community grant of \$15,000 to help select students at WTI complete their GED studies by providing funding to help students with expenses that were becoming barriers to their success. Students participating in this program were selected, monitored, and mentored by the WTI staff.

Of the \$15,000 grant, \$13,012.44 was utilized to assist students striving to complete their GED studies during 2013 in the following areas:

- Basic living expenses: \$1,459.31
- Childcare: \$2,416.69
- Tutors/testing: \$2,809.35
- Transportation: \$6,261.09

A total of 19 Citrus County students who received "gap funding" assistance successfully completed GED testing by the end of 2013. Eight of these graduates are now enrolled in post-secondary studies. In addition to grant from Black Diamond Foundation, the United Way of Citrus County contributed an additional \$15,711 to this partnership effort. Some of those funds were used to provide scholarships for the WTI GED graduates to move on to post-secondary education opportunities.

Several Citrus County non-profits have come together to support this effort to empower local residents to complete their education and earn a living wage. They include Citrus Abuse Shelter Association, The Early Learning Coalition, Boys and Girls Club of Citrus County, and the We Care Food Pantry. The College of Central Florida is providing post-secondary education transition assistance and help with scholarships.

Over 600 students participate in the WTI GED program each year. There is a continued need for "Gap Funding" to help highly-motivated, accountable local residents succeed in attaining their education goals and obtain the skills required in the local work force. Of note, the WTI program needs more mentors to help students in academic and life transition.

Chairman Joens thanked Mrs. Meek, Ms. Stanley and Ms. Blake for their presentation.

3. Approval of Minutes, December 2, 2013

The Minutes of December 2, 2013, were approved with minor corrections.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jim Briley presented the monthly Financial Report. At the end of December 2013, the Foundation had \$235,008 in unrestricted funds. Jim noted that two Black Diamond members made unexpected gifts of common stock at the end of 2013, which pushed annual member donations to \$137,865, coming in above the \$120,000 level noted in 2012 and 2013.

The Board reviewed Honor Roll statistics from 2012 and 2013. Overall, both annual revenue and the number of contributors were up: \$205,000 and 189 contributors in 2013, from \$194,000 and 176 contributors in 2012. When the Board drilled down into the data it reflected that the number donors who gave \$1,000 or less increased in 2013, but their average gift declined by \$66. The actual number of donors who gave \$1,000 or more decreased in 2013, but average gifts increased by \$527.

5. Community Grant Requests

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County

As reported last month, the Pinellas County branch of Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) provides Citrus County children with mentors through sustained "Big/Little" matches. Costs to create/support each match runs around \$1,200. Black Diamond Foundation provided a community grant of \$12,000 to this organization in 2013. BBBS requested \$15,000 in 2014 to create additional matches for children on its waiting list.

MOVED BY: SHARRON ROSENBERG
SECONDED BY: SUSAN PRATT

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$15,000 (Fifteen thousand dollars) to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County to create and sustain "Big/Little" mentor matches for Citrus County children.

APPROVED.

Withlacoochee Technical Institute

WTI provides high quality academic and technical education for current and emerging careers in a local, competitive work force. With over 20 areas of concentrated study, as well as a robust GED study and testing program, WTI is helping Citrus County residents prepare to enter, or re-enter, the work force and earn a living wage. Since its inception in 2002, Black Diamond Foundation has donated nearly \$100,000 to scholarship programs at WTI.

MOVED BY: SHARRON ROSENBERG
SECONDED BY: KENT RINKER

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$20,000 (Twenty thousand dollars) to Withlacoochee Technical Institute's general scholarship fund for award to deserving Citrus County students who require financial assistance to initiate or complete their studies.

APPROVED.

United Way of Citrus County Partnership

The partnership between Black Diamond Foundation and the United Way of Citrus County to identify and assist WTI students striving to complete GED studies was deemed successful in that it empowered 19 students to graduate and move on to employment or post-secondary education initiatives.

The majority of the Board agreed that continuing to provide "Gap Funding" for WTI students working to complete GED testing was a worthy initiative. Since \$2,000 of the original 2013 grant had not yet been used, the Board agreed to allow the United Way of Citrus County to fully exhaust those funds for WTI program needs during 2014.

During the United Way/WTI presentation at the outset of the meeting, three points were clarified. First, that Foundation funds allocated to the United Way would not be assessed an administrative fee. Second, that funds provided would be used specifically for the GED "Gap Funding" program at WTI. Any unused funds would be returned to the Foundation at the end of the calendar year. Third, Mrs. Meek and/or WTI guidance counselors would provide feedback at the end of the spring and fall semesters as to how the funds were used, as well as impact/results.

MOVED BY: KENT RINKER
SECONDED BY: BOB CAMPBELL

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$13,000 (Thirteen thousand dollars) to the United Way of Citrus County to partner in funding the WTI GED support program during 2014. Additionally, that the \$2,000 (Two thousand dollars) remaining from the 2013 grant be rolled over and utilized to support this program in 2014.

APPROVED.

6. Old Business.

Samaritan Free Dental and Medical Clinic

Kent Rinker met with Joe Papp, Nature Coast Ministries, at the Samaritan Free Dental and Medical Clinic in Homosassa. Joe stated the clinic will open at the end of January 2014. There are over 100 patients signed up to use the clinic, and 21 professionals who have volunteered to provide dental services. Citrus Memorial is planning to give the clinic \$75 for every patient they see. Joe stated in a recent Bay News 9 article that funds will be needed to purchase dental supplies. Kent asked Joe to come back and provide an update to the Board of Directors later in the spring.

New Member Outreach

Kent Rinker and Susan Savard have obtained a list of members who have joined the Club over the last two years. Susan is also working to obtain a list of Black Diamond Ranch property owners from the POA. Once both lists are in hand, Kent and Susan will provide the recommended "way ahead" for an outreach plan.

7. New Business

Disabled American Veterans Transportation Network Needs

The local Disabled American Veterans chapter routinely provides transportation for Citrus County veterans to travel to the VA Hospital in Gainesville. According to a 20 December article in the Citrus County Chronicle, the group is in need of \$20,000 to purchase a new van for this purpose.

ACTION: Jill Ludowese will contact Joe Stephens at the Citrus County Veterans Services office, and determine how Black Diamond Foundation can assist in the effort to replace the existing van.

We Care Food Pantry

Diane Toto, President, We Care Food Pantry in Homosassa, sent a letter requesting a meeting to discuss applying for a community grant from Black Diamond Foundation.

ACTION: Bill Joens, Kent Rinker, and Susan Savard will visit the We Care Food Pantry over the next month to learn more about their operation and current initiatives.

Withlacoochee Technical Institute Targeted Scholarships

In past years, Black Diamond Foundation has provided grants to WTI for their general scholarship fund, as well as additional scholarship funding targeted to support students in the law enforcement program. Although the Foundation approved a grant for the general scholarship fund previously during this meeting, WTI has not yet communicated a need for any targeted scholarship funding.

ACTION: Jill Ludowese and Charlotte McKim will meet with Denise Willis, Director, WTI, before the next board meeting and determine specific WTI needs.

8. Articles for 2014 Club Newsletter – “Happenings”

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

Feb	STEPS/CCF	Dave Burns	due Jan 15
Mar	BDJVC	Sue Pratt	due Feb 15
Apr	The Path Vegetable Garden	Steve Barnes	due Mar 15
May	Take Stock in Children	Jill Ludowese	due Apr 15

9. Next Meetings and Adjournment

The Foundation will meet next at 4:00 pm on Monday, February 3, 2014 in the clubhouse boardroom. Additional meeting dates in 2014 are: March 3, April 7, May 5, Nov 3, and Dec 1.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm, Monday, January 6, 2014.

Jill Ludowese, Secretary
Black Diamond Foundation, Inc.

Monday, January 20, 2014