

Black Diamond Foundation, Inc  
Monday, December 6, 2010, 4:00 pm  
Black Diamond Ranch Club  
Lecanto, Florida

**Present:** Mike Bays, Jim Briley, Dave Burns, Bill Joens, Susan Pratt, Art Thomas, Bill Williams, Jim Wood, Linda Youell

Jay Joines, for Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance, and  
Black Diamond Foundation Pro-Am, 2011, and  
Transitions Championship for Healthy Sight, 2011  
Terry LaGree, for Covenant Children's Home

**Guests:** Mr. Doug Lobel, Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance  
Ms Lisa Lombardo, CF Foundation Director of Development and  
Ms Pamela Calero, Annual Fund and Alumni Development  
Coordinator, College of Central Florida  
Mr. Richard L Errett, and Pastor Martin Hoffman,  
Covenant Children's Home

**1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, December 6, 2010.**

**2. College of Central Florida**

Pamela Calero and Lisa Lombardo thanked Black Diamond Foundation for its support, which now totals more than \$75,000 – scholarship monies, funding a new classroom, sponsoring Taste of Citrus 2009, supporting Taste of Citrus 2010, and donations in memory of Joyce Burns that helped establish a turf management program. Ms Lombardo noted that Black Diamond Foundation was one of the first to join College of Central Florida as it sought support for the new Citrus Campus Instructional and Conference Center.

From its inception, Black Diamond Foundation has awarded scholarships to deserving, high achieving graduates of Citrus County public high schools. It recently changed from awarding scholarships to individual students, to awarding a lump sum of \$24,000 to College of Central Florida, for scholarships for Citrus County students studying at CCF. Under this new protocol, the scholarship funds stay in the local community, and the State of Florida provides a 100% match of Black Diamond Foundation's grant.

Black Diamond Foundation will be a charter member of the College's "Founders Society", which honors cumulative donations greater than \$100,000.

Black Diamond Club also is supporting College of Central Florida with an honorary membership.

## **2. Black Diamond Foundation Pro-Am, January 26, 2011**

Jay Joines reported that sponsorships for the tournament are coming in at a good pace. Jewel and Steve Lamb, Crystal Motor Cars, have committed as co-title sponsors, and Bay Area Heating & Cooling, Citrus Memorial Health System, Munroe Regional Medical have also committed at different sponsorship levels. Mike Bays will help Jay contact Seven Rivers Hospital, for a possible sponsorship.

## **3. Covenant Children's Home**

Terry LaGree introduced Dick Errett and Marty Hoffman, with Covenant Children's Home.

Covenant Children's Home is a faith-based, non-profit organization, providing long-term care in a family environment for children who have been displaced from their biological families and need a place to call home. It helps non-delinquent school-age boys and girls. It is accredited by the Florida Association of Christian Child Caring Agencies, and is a 501(c)(3) charity.

It has room for upwards of eight children in its home, and currently is helping four.

Covenant Children's Home sends its children to private and Christian schools, rather than the public school system, and requested assistance from Black Diamond Foundation for these tuition costs. Private school tuition ranges from \$2600 to \$6000 per year.

Chairman Joens thanked Terry, Dick and Marty for their presentation.

## **4. Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance**

This year, Black Diamond Foundation granted \$4000 to Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance. Doug Lobel and Jay Joines reported that the Feeding Alliance gave complete Thanksgiving hampers to more than 1500 Citrus County families, including 500 families nominated by "Homosassa We Care" food bank, and 88 homebound families. Various agencies, including the Salvation Army, shared information to eliminate duplication of service. Black Diamond Junior Volunteer Corps helped assemble the food boxes, prior to the distribution on Saturday, November 20, 2010.

Community support was amazing. For example, Publix promoted the event and stored the turkeys purchased by its customers for the Feeding Alliance; the Bishop's Storehouse of the Church of Latter Day Saints provided \$27,000 worth of non-perishable food. The Feeding Alliance ended with a surplus, and therefore was able to return the Foundation's \$4000 grant, so that it could be used elsewhere in the county.

Also, because of the success of the Thanksgiving program, the members of the Feeding Alliance will distribute food to qualifying families, prior to Christmas this year.

Doug Lobel and Jay Joines confirmed that Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance will request Foundation support in 2011.

Black Diamond Foundation noted that this is the first grant that has been returned!

## **5. Approval of Minutes, November 8, 2010**

Sue Pratt corrected the Minutes: Sharron Rosenberg was to gather more information about the “blessings in a backpack” program championed by Ruth Schlabach and her daughters, Julia and Catherine, at the Foundation’s October 2010 meeting.

The Minutes were approved as corrected.

## **6. Treasurer’s Report, November 30, 2010**

Jim Briley reported that the Foundation has approximately \$125,000 in unrestricted funds, including today’s refund from Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance. At the same time last year, the Foundation had about \$106,000. It is the Foundation’s wish to keep \$30,000 in reserve; therefore, the Foundation can consider grants in total of approximately \$95,000.

Jim distributed summaries of annual receipts and disbursements, from initiation to date. To assist the Foundation’s discussion about Grant Guidelines, Jim also distributed pie charts illustrating the Foundation’s grant categories, 2005 to 2010 and for 2010 alone. Over time, approximately one-third of the Foundation’s grants go to scholarships, and one-third to one-half goes to family assistance.

## **7. Old Business**

Susan Pratt reported on the RIVER Project, which Katie Chmura had presented to the Foundation in November: RIVER – Reaching Intentional Victory, Expecting Reality. RIVER is a youth risk prevention program offered through Life Choice Care Center, a pregnancy resource center in Inverness. The project received Federal funding through “Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities” (Title IV, Part A), but this funding has been cut back. The Project needs new financial support to continue. The majority of the expenses are for salary and materials.

Citrus County’s educational community value the RIVER Project; they believe it is worthwhile.

Foundation members were concerned about the sustainability of the project. If the project receives enough money to complete this school year, what are the long-term plans for funding? What other funding sources has RIVER approached? What is the project's budget?

**ACTION: Sue Pratt will gather more information and report in January 2011.**

Members discussed the request at the October 2010 meeting from Ruth Schlabach and her daughters, Julia and Catherine, for support for a weekend feeding program for needy students at Forest Ridge Elementary. It did not appear as if Forest Ridge Elementary were an official "Blessings in a Backpack" site, and Members believed the project did not have sufficient structure. Members noted that the Treasurer's Report reveals that the Foundation has expended about half its grants on support to children and families, which includes the Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance, and various food banks in Citrus County.

**ACTION: Bill Joens will inform Ruth Schlabach of the Foundation's decision not to provide funding.**

In each of the two previous years, the Foundation awarded \$1500 to the Early Learning Coalition, which receives \$15.67 Federal funds for every dollar raised in the community.

**MOVED BY: Jim Wood**  
**SECONDED BY: Dave Burns**

**That Black Diamond Foundation grant \$3500 (Thirty-five hundred dollars) to the Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast.**

**PASSED.**

Last year, Black Diamond Foundation granted \$2000 to Take Stock in Children, which is a prepaid college program, matched by the State. Students are required to sign a contract when they are accepted into Take Stock in Children.

**MOVED BY: Art Thomas**  
**SECONDED BY: Jim Wood**

**That Black Diamond Foundation grant \$3000 (Three thousand dollars) to Take Stock in Children, for Citrus County students.**

**PASSED.**

Art invited Foundation members to attend this year's TSC kick-off on February 20, 2011, 3:00 pm at Lecanto High School. Dave Burns, Sue Pratt, and Art Thomas likely will attend. Art Thomas will be the Foundation's liaison with TSC.

Sue Pratt reported that the VSP Vision Mobile will return to Citrus County as part of the Transitions Championship for Healthy Sight, in March 2011. The organizers are recruiting more optometrists and ophthalmologists, and are looking to develop more local partnerships.

**ACTION: Sue Pratt will initiate discussions with the local Lions Clubs.**

## **8. New Business**

Bill Williams reported on his discussions with Coressa Natteal, President of the George Washington Carver Community Center, who requested financial support from the Foundation.

The community center will be on the site of the George Washington Carver School, the first black school in Crystal River, 555 NE Third Avenue. It has received \$125,000 Federal grant to pour the foundation, but since 2009, the project has been at a standstill.

Members agreed that there appears to be limited support locally, and that the Foundation wasn't in a position to provide capital funding.

**ACTION: Bill Joens will inform Coressa Natteal of the Foundation's decision not to provide funding.**

In October, Citrus Memorial Health System opened its renovated Emergency Room, which increased the number of beds from 25 to 32. It is seeking funds to decorate the new space. CMHS recognizes donors on a Donor Wall in the hospital lobby. CMHS has donated \$2500 to the Foundation's 2011 Pro-Am.

**ACTION: Mike Bays will report on naming rights, levels of recognition, at the Foundation meeting on January 10, 2011.**

## **9. Next Meetings and Adjournment**

The Foundation will meet on Monday, January 10, 2011, 4:00 pm. One confirmed guest is Ms Diane Toto, representing We Care Food Pantry, Homosassa, Florida.

Future meetings are:

February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2 – all Mondays and all at 4:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm, Monday, December 6, 2010.