



Champions for Children

Since 1990



Foundation News

Message from a Board Member

E. Wayne Gent

member at large



I'm honored to be a member of the Board of Directors here at the Education Foundation of St. Lucie County. Their efforts on the part of public education here in St. Lucie Schools is exceptional and unparalleled. Tough budget cuts call for innovative and efficient ways to continue to enhance our A-rated District, and the Education Foundation is primed and up for the task. We are seeking grant funding from several sources for use in our successful programs. Our active Board participates in committees which are on course to exceed our goals for championing our students and teachers.

A few years back, I was named a lifetime achievement award winner at the annual [Hall of Champions](#) luncheon hosted by the Foundation. We are once again honoring our local champs including Pete Tesch the 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner, Chef Kyle Greene and Terry Morgan - Distinguished Alumni from St. Lucie

Schools, and Shannon Glendinning & Sarah Kirk - Outstanding Community Leaders. Each of these individuals, nominated by their peers and reviewed by our Board, are making a strong, positive impact in our community. I hope you will join us as we celebrate them at the luncheon in their honor on April 1.

Thank you for your time with my message here today. I encourage you to reach out to me if you'd like to learn more about the Foundation. It's an honor and pleasure to serve.

Sincerely,

E. Wayne Gent

6th Annual Hall of Champions Luncheon,

April 1, 12:00 - 1:30

Join us as we welcome 5 new Champions into the Great Hall this Spring! Chef Kyle Greene, Terry Morgan, Sarah Kirk, Shannon Glendinning and Pete Tesch will all be received as Champions at the St. Lucie Trail Golf Club on April 1. Tickets are available on our website and are limited. Purchase yours today. Special thanks to our program sponsors at **Remnant Construction, St. Lucie County EDC, Big Apple Pizza Fort Pierce, and Truist Bank**. We appreciate your choice to recognize and reward the outstanding accomplishments of these great St. Lucie Countians!

[Purchase tickets today](#)



Teacher's First

Our crazy popular [Teacher's First](#) program has gained momentum over the past year with winners from schools throughout the District receiving \$30 gift cards to their area Big Apple Pizza restaurants. Thanks to [Big Apple Fort Pierce](#) and [Big Apple Bayshore](#), thousands of dollars in free meals have gone back to our deserving teachers. We had a surplus of tickets to the St. Lucie County Fair thanks to their incredible generosity, and were able to award five teachers pairs of tickets to attend. We are looking forward to welcoming new program participants - [Crazy Pita Rotisserie & Grill](#) - to the mix! Starting this month, 2 lucky teachers will receive \$25 gift cards to enjoy their delicious fare. If you or your business would like to get in on the rewarding of our invaluable teachers, send us an email. We'll give you all the details. Keep an eye out on social media for Crazy Pita's "Be Kind" day coming up this March 29. There will be kind details coming soon.

Thanks again to our current sponsors. You are all true



Champions for Teachers!

We had the best time at Night of the Stars 2026 and wanted to take another quick moment to recognize and congratulate all of our winners. From L to R, Devon Hagans - Distinguished Minority Educator, Larryton McNealy, Jr. - School Related Employee, Brianne Yates - Outstanding First Year Teacher, Latricia Stubbs-James - Principal of the Year, Jorge Goz - S.R.O., Lauren Gieseler - A.P. of the Year, Jasmine Shepherd - Teacher of the Year.



Message from the President Thom Jones

It's an exciting time of year at the Education Foundation. Not only are we proud to be partnered with an A-rated District continuing to enhance its programs, but we are also about to honor several outstanding community members at our [6th Annual Hall of Champions Luncheon](#)! This event is close to our hearts because it's one where we can shine the light on alumni and community members for their contributions to our County and education. I hope you'll join us as we celebrate these individuals on April 1.

Part of our vision is to celebrate success and nothing says success more than the Night of the Stars. In its 46th showing, the 2026 N.O.T.S. was another show stopping event. Teachers, School Related Employees, Staff and School Resource Officers were honored this past February at one of our favorite events of the year.

We had a productive few days at our state Capital alongside our partners at the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations and are pleased to report that our request for matching grant funds for our teacher grant program was approved. We are especially appreciative to our local legislators, Representative Dana Trabulsy, Representative Toby Overdorf, Senator Erin Grall and Senator Gayle Harrell for their continued leadership and commitment to education here in St. Lucie County.

A lot going on as you can see! I thank you for your support and hope to see you at an upcoming event in the very near future. Until then, stay healthy and well.

Thom Jones



Thom recently attended the Legislative Session as a guest of Rep. Dana Trabulsy. Here he is on the floor of the State Capital.

SAVE THE CLOCK TOWER DATE



St. Lucie Telegraph



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PUBLISHED ANNUALLY

6pm to 9pm

THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE



In 1984, the Florida Legislature passed a law allowing school districts the opportunity to create local education foundations to raise private funds for programs to support students, teachers, and public schools in their respective districts. In 1990, the St. Lucie County Education Foundation was organized as a direct support organization of the St. Lucie County School Board.

"Come celebrate success with the Education Foundation this fall!"

Out of 67 school districts, there are currently 60 local education foundations across the state and 55 are members of the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations.

More than 1,100 community leaders serve on local education foundation boards with 73% of these volunteers from the private sector.

Today, our Education Foundation shares its increasing business and community interest, involvement and investment in our public schools as a strategy for increasing student achievement.

As a 501(c)(3) public, non-profit corporation, we are guided by specific bylaws and governed by an Executive Board of Directors. The St. Lucie County Education Foundation's purpose is to support the teachers and students of the St. Lucie Public School District through

programs that are not funded by tax revenue. To do so, we increase the capacity and resources of the District by partnering with key stakeholders. We serve as a conduit for private sector investment and community involvement within our schools. Further, we serve as a link between local education and regional, state and national donors.

We leverage these relationships for the benefit of local education, including our teachers, students, and classrooms. The Foundation has arranged funds for use by teachers to fund creative classroom projects that provide a unique and result-oriented learning experience for students.

We are a vehicle for individuals and organizations to make a positive difference in education through volunteer efforts, contributions, and celebrations of teachers and students.

Providing every child with a high-quality education is among our most important responsibilities as a community. Educational attainment is perhaps the most powerful factor in determining whether children will reach their full potential as healthy, self-sufficient adults.

An Evening for Education

BACK TO THE FUTURE

NOVEMBER 7, 2026

Pelican Yacht Club • 1120 Seaway Dr, Fort Pierce, FL 34949

Visit us at www.EFSLC.org for more information

Join us this November 7 as we go back in time to the Future circa 1990 when it all began at your Ed. Foundation. We can't wait to share our Back to the Future themed Evening for Education back at the Pelican Yacht Club this Fall. Shine up the DeLorean or come snap some pics with ours. Get your dancing shoes shined up while our DJ spins the tunes from the day. As always, a delicious plated dinner, signature cocktail, silent and live auction, and all the great times an Evening for Education offers are on deck. Keep an eye on our website as we add more to our time machine. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Program Spotlight

Jackie Wolfe

The [Internet Essentials](#) program continues this April 15 when we again host the event at the District Offices Board of Directors Auditorium. Program participants are saving hundreds of dollars each year with free or reduced cost internet provided by our partners at Comcast and in partnership with St. Lucie County. Families with students enrolled in St. Lucie Schools are eligible and may get pre-qualified by calling 772.429.3660. This is an RSVP only event. Save your spot today!



FREE/ LOWER-COST INTERNET SERVICES RSVP ONLY EVENT

APRIL 15 | 5PM

St. Lucie Public Schools District Office
9461 Brandywine Lane,
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986



PRE-REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT BY CALLING (772) 429-3660 AND RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY. SIGN-UP EVENT IS VIA PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY.

This offer is available to all families with a child currently enrolled in the public school system where Comcast services are provided.

Once a household qualifies for the free or reduced-cost internet service, payments will continue as long as a household student is enrolled in a St. Lucie County public school!

NEW SIGN-UPS FOR FREE INTERNET

- This service is for 100/20 Mbps internet speeds. You should choose this option only if you wish to sign up for the free service.

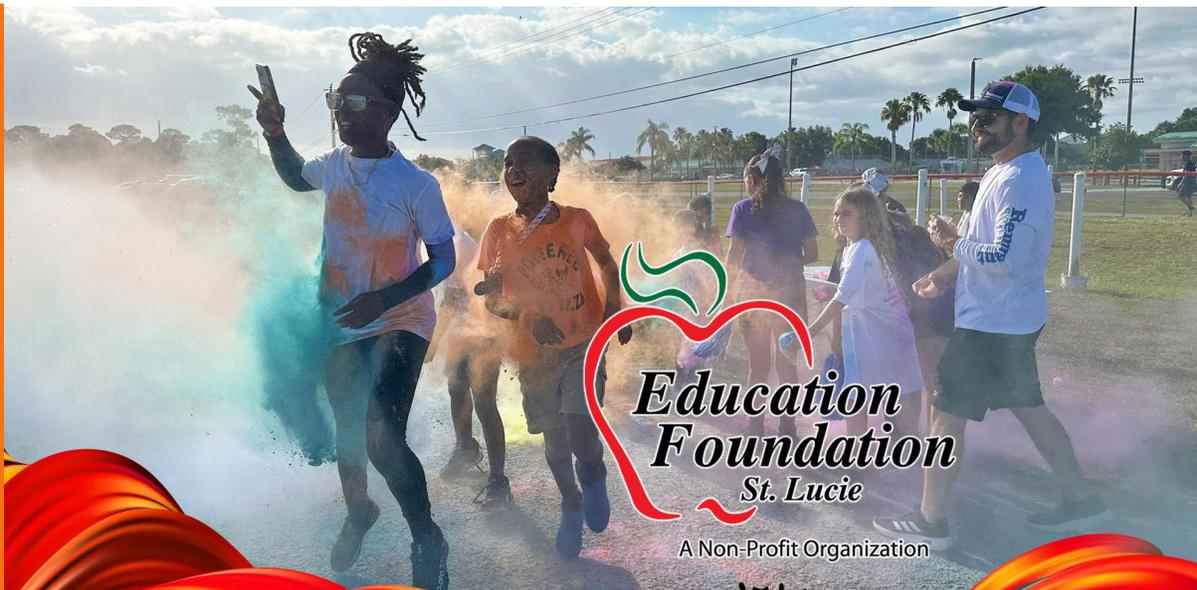
SIGN-UPS FOR CURRENT COMCAST CUSTOMERS

- Choose this option if you are a current Comcast customer, have a child enrolled in the St. Lucie Public Schools system, and you wish to qualify for a \$30/month credit to your current monthly internet service bill.



Events Spotlight

Deb Pizzimenti



**Education
Foundation**
St. Lucie

A Non-Profit Organization

2K Community

Color Fun Run



Saturday, April 25 - 8:00AM
Clover Park (Mets Stadium)
31 Piazza Drive, Port St Lucie, FL 34986

Meet at the Kids Zone facing University Boulevard before the Safety Festival

Join us in raising funds for our teacher grants and programs that help to elevate education here in St. Lucie County.

ONLY \$30 PER FAMILY!

Children & parents have access to the Kids Zone, a safe space to enjoy free activities sponsored by the Education Foundation. **Children must be accompanied by a parent.**

The Education Foundation and our corporate sponsors are proud to recognize excellence in public education. We have been Champions for Children since 1990 providing Teacher Grants, Student Scholarships, Employee Recognition Awards and support for teacher professional development.



**Scan the QR Code
or visit us at
www.efslc.org**

On your marks, get set, FUN RUN! Join us at the Safety Festival where we once again kick off the event with the 2K Community Color Fun Run. It's only \$30 for your family of up to 6 to participate in the run where color is the name of the run game. Stay and enjoy the bounce houses and other Kid Zone activities the Safety Festival is known for each year. Your business may be prominently featured throughout with your sponsorship of this family-friendly event. Get in touch today! We'll share all the details.

We can't wait to see you all this April 18 at the St. Lucie County Earth Day Festival at Oxbow Eco-center. We say this a lot, but this is truly one of our

favorite events of the year with so many of you stopping by, sharing projects with our St. Lucie youngsters, and enjoying the natural environment Oxbow offers to us all. Make sure it's on your calendar. You don't want to miss it.



Lots happening at your Education Foundation St. Lucie County! You can always find our awesome pics on our social media channels. From top left then clockwise, Rachael Bonlarron from Comcast shares details on the Internet Essentials program with a parent in February. The Center for Innovation is coming together at Legacy High School. Our program Manager Jackie Wolfe met with Craig Utt from Crazy Pita and is collaborating on a new Teacher's First reward for our A-rated teachers. Thom, Jackie and County Environmental Education & Outreach Manager Jennifer Tomes aka Water Woman, read to students at Manatee Elementary during Florida Literacy Week; and Board Vice Chair Brandon Nobile along with his lovely wife Shanna met up with MIDFLORIDA's Louis Ondrovic at the Night of the Stars ceremony.



Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}

{{Organization Address}}

{{Organization Phone}}

{{Organization Website}}



A Non-Profit Organization



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