



LeaderReader

JUNE 2021 EDITION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kimberly Berfield, '97



We have been challenged to adjust from one day to the next to provide our robust, educational, and quality cornerstone program this past year. We can all agree it's been quite an adventure.

To date, some of the successes we can celebrate include:

- Having adapted our cornerstone program to achieve a more robust experience as discussed over the past five years in a stay safe environment manner
- Integrating community culture and perspective into program days
- Applying outcome-driven surveys to our program days to ensure we are providing increased community knowledge, a stronger civic network, and perpetuating community service
- Applying a vigorous Request for Proposal process and evaluation methodology to ensure our Class has the opportunity to illustrate skills developed or broadened during their program
- Executing changes to our recruitment and selection process to eliminate unconscious bias, drive diversity representative of our community, and secure data to improve our recruitment, selection and organization
- Explore a signature event for completion this fall (more to come)
- Implementing a database transition to allow us to support our organization and alumni more effectively and offer a strong resource for our community to leverage

All of this is thanks to our Board of Trustees, you, and other alumni, who were willing to take this COVID-19 journey with us. I share this as we are getting ready to wrap up our final Class of 2021 program day in July.

Leadership Pinellas has proven that no matter what divides us, we have seen and experienced a reflection of teamwork above all which has been essential to refusing to allow ourselves or our organization to become divided during the rigorous character-building moment of this global pandemic.

It is thanks to the teamwork of Pam Van Sant, Julie Perrelli, Ricky Butler, Dave Danzig, Allison Miller, Mary Jo Plews, Leah Slavensky, Ted Morris, and Beth Tasis, who rose to the occasion, that we were able to offer Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services Program Days successfully. You will learn more about the Class's experience later thanks to Katie Gannon's program day recaps.

Additionally, because of the teamwork of Seema Ramroop, Sean King, Rebecca Watson, and Danilo Felix surrounding diversity, inclusion and equity, we have produced a revised 2022 Class Application and a homepage teaser to ensure our commitment continues. We will also keep exploring other ways to comprehensively represent our community further.

As we are all part of the Leadership Pinellas team, we have prevented consequences which could have undermined our 2021 Class and destabilized the 2022 Class recruitment and our organization by not permitting ourselves to go off course during this time.

You have received both your dues renewal and an interest indicator. As we begin to plan and recruit for the 2022 Class, please show your continued support of our organization's mission by renewing your status, volunteering through the interest indicator, and placing the following dates on your calendar and sharing them with others who can make us a stronger organization.

- **June 23, 2021:** Sponsor and Past Presidents Recognition Lunch
- **June 24, 2021:** South County Recruitment
- **July 09, 2021:** 2022 Class Application Deadline
- **August 27, 2021:** Welcome Reception for the Class of 2022 and Graduation for the Class of 2021

In August, we will hold the Class of 2022's Opening Retreat at the Safety Harbor Spa. On August 27 in the evening, we will hold a reception to de-mask ourselves and make introductions to the Class of 2022. We will also graduate the Class of 2021.

Remember we all have something unique to offer.

Loyally,
kb
Kimberly Berfield

UPCOMING EVENT

Leadership Pinellas Recruitment Event

Thursday, June 24, 2021
5:30–7 p.m.
The Mill
200 Central Ave., St. Petersburg

[RSVP Here!](#)

SEEKING APPLICATIONS

Leadership Pinellas is now seeking applications for the Class of 2022.
Applications are due Friday, July 9.

Apply Here!



CLASS PROJECT

Katie Gannon, '21

Leadership Pinellas Class of 2021 felt like superheroes arriving at FEAST Food Pantry in Palm Harbor for our class project in May. With matching T-shirts and unprecedented enthusiasm, the class was ready to fill the exponential need that arose after the Annual Postal Carriers food drive was cancelled. The pantry's 1,000 clients-per-month had ballooned to a shocking 2,500 per month due to COVID.

The class greeted every drive-through donor with enthusiastic applause and a personalized thank you as the categorized bins began to fill. And fill. And fill again! An endless stream of generous donors drove through in trucks overflowing with peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, cereal, canned fruit, and toiletries. Half the class marked and stocked donations inside. The hours quickly slipped by in a blur of crates and bags filled with thousands of pounds of food. FEAST Executive Director, Tamara Black '18, exclaimed that the #LP2021 energy transformed the entire day for existing volunteers and especially the donors.

With dirt-caked ankles and weary muscles, the class celebrated the successful food drive together at Bar Fly in downtown Palm Harbor.



The Class of 2021 – FEAST Food Pantry Food Drive



FEAST Food Pantry Donations

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DAY AND HUMAN SERVICES DAY

Katie Gannon '21
City of Oldsmar



#LP2021 was privileged to experience back-to-back, eye-opening program days in May and June. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Assistant Chief Deputy David Danzig '16 and Community Programs Manager Ricky Butler '15 instructed us on proper use of force and the non-traditional policing championed by Sheriff Bob Gualtieri. Classmates even tried the simulator and fired a Taser 7. The PCSO helicopter and K-9 demonstration were followed by a hands-on tour of trucks and equipment.

Following a Q&A with Public Defender Sara Mollo '20, Judge Philip Frederico, State Attorney Bruce Bartlett, and Kat Tracy '18 from the Clerk's Office, we observed closing arguments in a second-degree murder trial at the Pinellas County Justice Center and heard the harrowing story of Clemente Aguirre-Jarquin, Florida's 27th death row exoneree.

Human Services Day was especially humbling as #LP2021 experienced what it feels to be blind at Lighthouse of Pinellas, homeless at HEP, or navigating food insecurity at Hope Villages of America. Mary Jo Plews '20 of Healthy Start Coalition provided startling statistics on poor birth outcomes in Pinellas County. The class participated in a drum circle at The Arc of Tampa Bay and were joined by Beth Tasis '20 and Brian Siracusa '16, executive director/YLP director. Finally, the class tried lacing a shoe while wearing oven mitts, practicing extreme patience and perspective—true lessons in Leadership.



Members of the Class of 2021
get a tour of the PCSO helicopter



The ARC Tampa Bay



Alternative Policing Panel,
Criminal Justice Day



Lighthouse for the Blind

ALUMNI DUES

Pay Your Alumni Dues Now

If you haven't renewed your alumni dues, you can do so here.
Use the link to activate your alumni status today!

[Renew Your Membership](#)

Thank You to Our 2020-2021 Corporate Sponsors

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Thank You to Our 2020-2021 Alumni Boosters

Liza Carter '07
Coleen Chaney '18
Jim Coats '02
Scott Daniels '93
Sally Evans '15
Cyndee Haydon '08
Tom Jamison '17
Skip Katz '15
Kevin Kenney '18

Tim Lima '16
Danielle Parker '18
Seema Ramroop '17
Nermine Khouzam Rubin '09
Andrew Salzman '19
Eric Seidel '18
Jeannie Shapiro '00
Debbie White '95
Tiffany Whitney '11