



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bob Childress, '11, Board President

In this season of gratitude, I would like to thank the men and women who make this organization great. Because the program stretches out over the year and the attention is primarily towards the program days as they occur, it is easy to overlook the tremendous number of hours it takes by all our volunteers to make things happen smoothly. From our Executive Director, Jennifer McGrail, and our Board of Directors who keep us all moving forward, to the committee members and volunteers who give of their time, talent, and treasure and make the class experience amazing, thank you for all you do. We really could not do this without you.



I am excited to tell you about the work that our recruitment committee is doing. We are changing the way we are looking at recruitment. What's now called SNAPSHOT – A Leadership Pinellas Recruitment Event Series, gives LP more opportunities for people to engage with us and to learn about us. SNAPSHOT- A Leadership Pinellas Recruitment Event Series, will include multiple events, not just the two annual events alumni are familiar with. The message being delivered will focus more on the why we do what we do, versus the what we do. We are also now providing an opportunity for you to invite people who have recently been relocated to work or live in Pinellas County. We recognize how challenging it can be to move your family to a new location and how long it can take to truly understand and feel part of that community. LP is the best way to connect people into all the amazing aspects of our county and connect them to other leaders who are making a difference. Sounds amazing, right? I would encourage you to think about people you know who may have recently relocated here or people you feel may benefit from our program. Then, head to www.ReferLP.com and connect us with them.

Talk about connecting, since the holidays are such a busy time of year to connect, we are planning an AFTER THE HOLIDAYS, HOLIDAY PARTY with you. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and to your email for updates and more information!

We are working hard to make your organization great and are always open to feedback. If you have anything that you believe we are missing or should consider, we welcome your thoughts. You can email us at contact@leadershippinellas.com.

Wishing you and your family an amazing holiday season!

Lead On!

Bob Childress '11, President
bchildress@restinsured.com



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/PROGRAM DAY CHAIR

By Jennifer McGrail, '99, Executive Director

The Class of 2020 experienced Health Day in November. The program kicked off in St. Petersburg at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital with breakfast. After that, the class was treated to a tour of the hospital's Sim Lab by Dr. Jen Arnold, of TLC fame. The simulations Johns Hopkins offers, assists not only the hospital's doctors and staff, but more importantly parents who need to be prepared with life-saving care when the time comes to bring their child home.

The class then went on to visit, the Clearwater Free Clinic. The Clinic gave the class an overview of what services they offer and what population they serve. Several were surprised to learn the CFC serves its clients with office visits, medications, lab work, x-rays and specialty referrals.

Morton Plant Hospital welcomed the class next. The staff there donned the famed blue bunny suits, which all class members got the chance to wear as well so they could tour the new surgical facilities at the hospital.



At Largo Medical Center, it was time for lunch. After indulging, the class was provided a few lessons on the latest behavioral/mental health conditions and treatments. Everyone witnessed first-hand what a patient with schizophrenia may experience. They also participated in a music therapy session. The Executive Director from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) ended the visit with how they assist patient locally and across the country.

For the last stop of the day, the class headed to Elmcroft of Pinecrest where they were toured and learned what opportunities are out there for seniors when it comes to living arrangements. From retirement living to assisted living, and memory care, the class got learn what these types of facilities can offer our friends and family members during their Golden Years.

Special thank you to committee chairs Tammy Robiconti '16 and Kimberly Berfield '97 along with committee members Amelia Campbell '14, Jon Ashford '19, Stephanie Mataya '19, Brian Curtiss '15, Alexa Bobelis '19, Jeannie Shapiro '00, and Bill Sedey '14 for organizing an exceptional day.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOUTH LEADERSHIP PINELLAS?

By Brian Siracusa, '14, YLP Committee Chairman

In the early morning of Wednesday, November 6, a group of high school students from all over the county convened on a bus for their first program day as part of Youth Leadership Pinellas (YLP). Clad with navy polos, they chatted amiably amongst themselves and as their bus exited the parking lot, they began their journeys towards discovering what their county had to offer.



For their first stop, the YLP class of 2020 went to RCS—an organization that feeds 130,000 people in Pinellas every year (roughly 250-300 people every day), in addition to providing shelter for the homeless population and safe houses for those in cases of domestic violence. To put things into perspective, the students participated in an activity which demonstrated what it is like to be food insecure. Assuming fictional life scenarios and salaries, they each attempted to procure their necessary 2,000 calories for the day, all while limited by the money, prices, and transportation options available to them. For many, this proved difficult, if not frustrating, and thus prompted the students to reflect on the fact that, as President and CEO Kirk Smith put it, they are each “living in paradise” compared to others in the community.

Stop number two saw the group migrating to the Arc Tampa Bay—an organization that works to “support and empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.” Here, students participated in a handful of exercises with a few of the roughly 300 people the Arc serves on a daily basis. One of these exercises was a drum circle, held twice a week, with the purpose of being therapeutic. The other was a game show meant to “focus on ability, not disability.” Students also went through sensitivity training, attempting to speak with marshmallows in their mouths and to tie shoes with oven mitts. Jack Lanigan summed up the experience by saying saying that he realized “how blessed I am each day.”

Lunch was graciously provided by the Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP) and upon its completion, students went on a tour of the organization's 8 acre campus. As part of its goal to empower people and to break the cycle of homelessness, HEP covers food, wellness (dental, physical, and mental), hair care, emergency housing, permanent family housing, veteran housing, transportation, before and after school learning, and—via

the thrift store— clothing and furniture. The organization hopes to be the last shelter anyone has to go through, and thus, in an effort to focus on self-sufficiency, provides one-on-one treatment to help people find the root cause of their homelessness. In total, HEP has helped somewhere near 1,200 people.

For its penultimate stop, YLP went to the YMCA. There, the students learned about how the 175-year-old organization, with 2,300 memberships, works to assist the community in mind, spirit, and body. The Y, as it is colloquially known, offers a variety of programs, including free swim lessons, fitness classes, Parent's Night Out, and Camp COAST—a program for special needs children—just to name a few. At the tail end of their visit, students even got a chance to participate in a Zumba class, experiencing firsthand one of the many ways that the YMCA helps its members physically as part of the second aspect in the aforementioned mind, spirit, and body assistance.

Last, but not least, was Clothes to Kids—an organization that helps give clothes to 46,000 kids in the Pinellas Country School System. Following an overview of the organization's operating processes and history, students helped hang clothes—including jackets, shirts, pants, and shorts—to supplement the various articles of clothing that Clothes to Kids already had displayed on its neatly organized racks. After looking proudly upon the work they had done, the students loaded onto the bus for the last time.

Closing out the day, the class returned to HQ for a bit of reflection. Topics of community and stability were reoccurring themes, but YLP member Joshua DeWese encapsulated the day best saying, "Through human services day, we were placed in the shoes of those less fortunate."



SNAPSHOT: A LEADERSHIP PINELLAS RECRUITMENT EVENT SERIES

By Allison Ferber Miller '19, Board Member

Alumni, be on the lookout for SNAPSHOT: A Leadership Pinellas Recruitment Event Series! You read President Bob Childress' introduction of the program in his President's Message. Now, here's the why. LP is working to recruit even more class member prospects throughout the year county-wide. We want to show potential participants not just "what" we do, but again... the "why."

Our first event is up on Facebook and mentioned below. Look for 2 more events throughout the year, one other in North County and one in South County. Please join us at our first ever SNAPSHOT and bring a buddy who might be interested in applying to LP!



12 . 5 . 2019 | 5:30PM - 7:30PM

SNAPSHOT

LEADERSHIP PINELLAS RECRUITMENT EVENT

CROWN EUROCARS, 8302 US HWY 19 NORTH, PINELLAS PARK, FL 33781

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE & HAPPENINGS

Congratulations Eric Carver, LP '15, for accepting a position at Chattanooga State Community College as Dean of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology! Pinellas County and Leadership Pinellas are better because of his leadership, and we're forever grateful. Good luck, Eric!

Leadership Pinellas mourns the passing of Jim Conlin, Class of 2016. Jim was a well-respected member of our community, huge supporter of the arts and successful businessman. He passed on October 23, 2019. He was 64 years old.

UPCOMING EVENTS - HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

1st Annual **Leadership Pinellas**

“Pinellas Trail Bike Ride Social”



WHEN: Saturday, January 25, 2020

9am to 12pm (This is a Free Event, but RSVP is Required)

WHERE: Pinellas Trail; Meet at Crystal Beach Post Office;

420 Crystal Beach Ave., Palm Harbor 34683; Park across from P.O.

DETAILS: Please join your LP alumni on our first Pinellas Trail social bike ride. The ride will be approximately 10 miles, and traverse one of the more scenic areas of the Pinellas Trail through northern Pinellas County. We will ride north to Tarpon Springs, traveling through North Anclote River Nature Park, then stop for coffee and a healthy breakfast at Eco Bean in Tarpon. After coffee and conversation, we will return along the trail, stopping at Wall Springs Park to view the new observation tower. Ride is open to all LP alumni, friends, family and guests! Ride level—EASY. Spandex not required. Please bring water and wear event appropriate attire. Ride Leader: Matthew Campbell ('15)



RSVP TO LEADERSHIP PINELLAS (CONTACT@LEADERSHIPINELLAS.COM)