

the Putnam Pioneer

A Putnam City Schools Foundation publication

Summer 2017

PCHS Class of 1987 gives back to Putnam City through the Foundation



Members of Putnam City High School's Class of 1987, including (from left) Julie Oseland, John Frank, Annette Warkentin, Tina Wade, Paula Abrams, Lavane Vowell and Rob McDonald, present Putnam City Schools Foundation President Jennifer Seal (fifth from left) a check for \$3,000.30, in honor of the group's 30-year reunion.

The Class of '87 publicly challenged graduates of the same year from Putnam City North and Putnam City West High Schools to match or beat their donation amount.

"Brainstorming on how to enrich the education of current and future students, the committee brought to the table the Putnam City Schools Foundation and the idea of helping students district wide," said Rob McDonald.

Mission Moment: *More than a number*

This year the Putnam City Schools Foundation proudly supported a number of enriching opportunities for our children—from iPads for Wiley Post Elementary School to makerspace materials at Putnam City West.

While numbers can't tell the whole story of what this foundation accomplishes, they do offer a staggering overview of how our donors have supported our students. Consider these numbers that summarize the foundation's 2016-2017 efforts:

- Fully funded the STEM Lab program in 12 elementary schools
- Recognized early-career educators through the Superstar Awards

- Supported 100+ parents in their efforts to learn English
- Awarded more than \$5,000 in scholarships to students and teachers
- Honored our best educators through Teacher of the Year Awards
- Helped more than 600 families become their child's first teacher through Early Birds
- Provided 47 eye exams/pairs of glasses to children

These children, our children, are better able to learn, to grow, and to thrive thanks to the gifts made by our donors. Hats off to each of you who have made a child feel like more than a number.

In this issue:

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- New leadership for CareShare
- Golf 2017 set for Sept. 25
- Bequest Campaign
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CareShare starting the year with new leadership and a tribute to its creator

CareShare has been a critical program in Putnam City for 34 years, thanks to one of our most beloved former counselors, Penny Poe.

She is the dynamic woman responsible for our CareShare project, which includes the Christmas gift adoption program and a coat and shoe project.

Today these programs are run almost entirely by volunteers, which makes them that much more special. The people believe in the work, and all have a heart for Putnam City's most vulnerable children.

As many of you know, both Gayle Higgs, who ran the coat and shoe piece for three years, and Sherri Boyd, who oversaw the Christmas project for 10 years, stepped down as leaders this summer. Their collective efforts helped thousands of children, and we at the foundation are so grateful to them both!

It's not easy finding new leaders who have the trifecta of awesomeness – which is time to execute the project, willingness to do it, and a heart for Putnam City – but we believe we have done it.

Our new leader of CareShare Christmas is Dondra Floresca. Dondra is a lifetime Putnam City patron, having graduated from Putnam City West High School. She then stayed around so her daughter could graduate from Putnam City North High School.

Dondra used to work for the Putnam City Schools Foundation, and volunteered alongside Higgs and Boyd in their CareShare efforts. She and Boyd are longtime



Dondra Floresca

friends, having served in PTA together. Dondra looks forward with excitement to Christmas.

"Every year, I'm amazed at how many lives we touch through CareShare," Floresca said. "It's not just the families we help, but also the people who adopt those families."

The program's biggest challenge is the growing number of children in need. They helped over 1,100 families last year alone.

To make it easier to differentiate the two vital portions of CareShare, and to honor its founder, we have renamed the coat and shoe portion of CareShare as "Penny's Closet."

This effort will be led by Barbara Minton, former Putnam City teacher, and longtime volunteer for the district's Cancer Classic run.

Barbara's children went through Putnam City, and she worked as both a secretary at Northridge Elementary School and then as a business and computer teacher at Putnam City High School before spending the last two years there as a career advisor.

Barbara is thrilled to work on Penny's Closet. She and Poe have



Barbara Minton

been friends for over 25 years.

"(Poe) is one of those special individuals who thrive on helping others," Minton said. "God has blessed her with many different gifts, which she never hesitates to share with everyone she meets. Thus, to be given the opportunity to carry on her creation is an honor."

Please show your support and appreciation to these women for stepping up to lead these programs by making a donation in their honor today at www.pcf4kids.org (click on the CareShare button), or reach out to them: bgminton1@gmail.com for Barbara and floresca@cox.net for Dondra.

Tasks for both programs of CareShare include fundraising, shopping, and stocking and filling orders. There are needs for all schedules and capacities, so please let us find a way to get you involved. It will bring so much more back to you than you can put in.

First annual Indoor Recess brought out competitive spirits

More than 80 fun-loving Putnam City friends came out to Waters Edge Winery recently for a night of trivia and games benefitting the foundation.

Groups of six to eight played for the glory and all brought their competitive streaks, but Team Jack Booty Thugs emerged with the victory after five tough rounds. The victors took home the top prize of a wine tasting for 20 at Tres Suenos Winery in Luther.

Others came away with prizes like a Sonic drink every day for a year, a Rustic Cuff bracelet set, and Beats headphones.

Guests included new faces and even some of our smartest retired teachers! We appreciate all those who donated prizes, time and efforts to the event.

Thank you to all who came out and played with us. We'll do this one again next year, so start thinking of your team name now!



Putnam City Schools Foundation

21st Annual Golf Tournament

Monday Sept. 25, 2017 at Quail Creek Golf & Country Club
1 p.m. shotgun start - registration begins at 11:30 a.m.

Four-player scramble
Team Awards

Free practice balls
Lunch and dinner provided

Individual Prizes for:
Hole-in-One
Closest to the Pin
Longest Drive

Team of Four - \$1,000 (price increases Sept. 1)
Individual Player - \$250

Hole Sponsorship - \$500
Several Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Visit pcf4kids.org and click on **GOLF** to register!

Contact the Putnam City Schools Foundation at 405-495-5200, ext. 1205 for more information.

State of the Foundation 2017

A look at where we've been and where we're headed

Having just completed my first year as President of the Putnam City Schools Foundation, I can breathe a sigh of relief. The doors are still open – metaphorically speaking – and we have been able to be very generous to our students and teachers.

In last year's State of the Foundation report, I mentioned my three main goals for 2016-17, which were to:

- *Build brand identity with those closest to us, the teachers and staff*
- *Increase our visibility on all social media outlets*
- *Increase fundraising from all revenue streams.*

I am happy to report that through our social media efforts, a few contests, stewardship efforts, and an increased use of email, we have increased our brand identity and visibility in the community.

This is evidenced by the growth in the amount of dollars raised from our staff giving stream, the Friends of the Foundation, which exceeded \$25,000 for Fiscal Year 2017.

The number of followers we have on Twitter increased from 11 to 92, on Facebook from 766 to 1,022, and Instagram from 0 to 100.

We've given away over \$12,000 in YES! Grants to teachers for things like training expenses, Link Crew supplies, and transportation to contests.

While the organization's income fell short of initial projections, expenses were far less than expected, which compensated for the lost income.



Each event, every revenue stream, and all expenses have been evaluated in preparing a more accurate budget for FY2018. For instance, the golf tournament raised less money than anticipated, but the Wall of Fame Celebration raised more.

Although its goals are not primarily revenue-driven, the Indoor Recess event will provide a boost to summer income for the foundation.

Not as glamorous, but still important, the foundation has worked diligently to professionalize our organization.

Our board leadership has been through the Center for Nonprofits'

Standards of Excellence training, and I have taken several other trainings to improve the structure of the organization.

New policies and procedures have come out of this training, as well as the comprehensive review we undertook through The Oklahoma Group, which is a student-led non-profit think tank out of the University of Oklahoma.

These changes will serve to increase our respectability among potential donors, and provide the foundational integrity upon which we can take the organization to another level.

In the new year, the Putnam City Schools Foundation will focus on building our planned giving efforts, which began in earnest this year.

Our board will be working on a vision statement, as well as preparing for our next strategic planning retreat.

We will also continue our focus on growth in the aforementioned areas of fund development, brand identity, and social media awareness.

We so appreciate the community support of the Putnam City Schools Foundation. If you'd like to help us work on any of the goals for 2017-18, please reach out to us.

Maybe you could serve on a committee, or share the story of why you made a place for us in your will. We look forward to seeing continued growth on behalf of our children, and thanks to our donors!

Contact Us!

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Jennifer Seal, NBCT
Foundation President
jseal@putnamcityschools.org

Vote on your favorite Putnam Pooch Aug. 1-3. Winner announced Aug. 4!



If you follow us on social media, you've probably noticed the recent cuteness overload in the form of the photo submissions for our first annual Putnam Pooches photo contest.

Adorable dog pics have been flooding in and we need your help to choose a winner. Visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/pcf4kids from Aug. 1-3 and view the Putnam Pooches photo album.

Don't forget to like your favorites! The photo with the most likes will win a gift basket from local grooming establishment, **Affectionate Grooming.**

PCSF Bequest Campaign

One of the easiest ways you can make a lasting impact on the children of Putnam City is to make a bequest in your will. Not only can it help alleviate some tax liabilities for your family, it will provide you a chance to build a legacy.

It is very simple, and need only include the following language:

1. Bequest of a specific dollar amount

"I hereby give, devise and bequeath [dollars] to Putnam City Schools Foundation, a non-profit organization located at 5401 N.W. 40th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73122, Federal Tax ID: 73-1309115, for Putnam City Schools Foundation's general use and purposes."

2. Bequest of specific personal property

"I hereby give, devise and bequeath [description of property] to Putnam City Schools Foundation, a non-profit organization located at 5401 N.W. 40th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73122, Federal Tax ID: 73-1309115, for Putnam City Schools Foundation's general use and purposes."

3. Bequest of specific real estate

"I hereby give, devise and bequeath all of the right, title and interest in and to the real estate located at

[address or description of property] to Putnam City Schools Foundation, a non-profit organization located at 5401 N.W. 40th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73122, Federal Tax ID: 73-1309115, for Putnam City Schools Foundation's general use and purposes."

4. Bequest of percentage of an estate

"I hereby give, devise and bequeath [percentage of your estate] to Putnam City Schools Foundation, a non-profit organization located at 5401 N.W. 40th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73122, Federal Tax ID: 73-1309115, for Putnam City Schools Foundation's general use and purposes."

If you are considering this, but need help getting the process started, please visit our website at www.pcf4kids.org/planned-giving, or give us a call and we will connect you with professionals whom we trust to keep your wishes top of mind.

If you've already made such a gesture, allow us to share your story and inspire others to the same type of giving.

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