



A Bold Initiative: The Stavros Society

The heart of our success story beats steady and strong with a commitment that began 30 years ago. You can find it in the vision and generosity of Dr. Gus Stavros and his wife Frances, who have enhanced the lives of countless Pinellas County students. You can see it in the innovative work that flows through transformative programs of the Pinellas Education Foundation. And we can recognize it, each and every day, in **you** – our donors.

Without your steadfast support, we could not have accomplished all that we have in our mission to create equity – the belief that every student deserves a high-quality education. We could not have touched the lives of the thousands of students who have participated in and been uplifted by our programs, expanding their opportunities in school, in careers and in life.

That is the bold spirit that moves us now to celebrate a milestone three decades in the making, as we proudly announce the establishment of the Stavros Society – bringing together donors to continue the legacy of Dr. Gus and Mrs. Frances Stavros' generosity.

Your desire to carry on this work is what keeps their remarkable contribution to our children's education – and community's future – burning brightly. It is why we invite you now to become charter members of a distinguished group that encapsulates all we do: the Stavros Society.



“The act of standing still is the beginning of the end.” – DR. GUS STAVROS

Our Impact

It is because of you – our donors and supporters – that we have become the transformative organization we are today. And now we are asking you to join us in making a new commitment to our cause through the Stavros Society.

We know that you share our passion for expanding educational and career opportunities for students and, in the process, enriching the community. You share our vision that every student be prepared for life after high school, whether the choice is to attend college, enter the workforce or obtain technical training.

In addition, you know the essential difference that the Pinellas Education Foundation makes. As an independent entity, we are capable of innovating



with great nimbleness and speed in support of the school district's priorities. We do this while bringing together important voices and influences from the business community to promote and create invaluable educational programs.

With the creation of the Stavros Society, we are asking you to make an investment as a key partner – making us even more effective in our mission. Together, we can continue to enhance the educational landscape for our students – just as Enterprise Village did when it first began 30 years ago. Now, we are looking forward to sharing this amazing journey with you to ensure that our life-changing work continues to flourish.

It will, indeed, with the the Stavros Society. With that in mind, we hope you will support our vision of the possibilities – and help us make a lasting difference for our students.

Our History

The dream took root three decades ago – a concept from Dr. Gus Stavros that would forever transform public education in Pinellas County.

At the time, there was no way to imagine the powerful impact of a new program named Enterprise Village, giving fifth-graders a unique, hands-on experience in business education. But the brainchild of Dr. Stavros – and then-Pinellas County Schools Associate Superintendent (and future Superintendent), Dr. Howard Hinesley – would open the door to a new educational era and benefit students for generations to come.

The creation of Enterprise Village – for which Dr. Stavros raised \$1 million through donations from local businesses and his own contributions – would soon lead him to establish the Pinellas Education Foundation in 1986. The rest is history.

Our Growth; Their Story

Nearly a decade later, Finance Park was born, building on the Enterprise Village model with a program designed to help eighth-graders develop financial decision-making skills. That was followed by the third leg of our mission to prepare students for rewarding careers and lives: Future Plans.

These three signature programs – eventually existing under the umbrella of the Stavros Institute – have become embedded in the fabric of learning throughout Pinellas County. Today, they are being replicated across the nation, enriching the financial and life-skills knowledge of students – all starting with the passion and foresight of Gus and Frances Stavros.



What would motivate the pair of New Jersey natives to do all they could to elevate education in their adopted home of Pinellas County? It was a shared passion for knowledge – whether studying at New York's prestigious Columbia University or in their many business and civic endeavors throughout the Tampa Bay area. Gus, who earned a Purple Heart in World War II, married Frances after the war. The couple moved to Pinellas County, where he founded Better Business Forms. In 1986, he helped create Enterprise Village and founded the Pinellas Education Foundation. It was the start of a new era of Pinellas education, and his work has enriched countless lives.

Frances served as a Navy WAVE (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) during the War, and later became a stewardess for Eastern Airlines. She received numerous honors, including the Calvin Hunsinger Award in 1988 for her contributions to vocational education and the Phi Delta Kappa Layman of the Year Award as the most outstanding supporter of public education. Frances passed away in 2017 at age 92, after 68 years of marriage.

Their stories are inextricably bound to our own story of the Pinellas Education Foundation – leading us to this exciting moment with the creation of the Stavros Society. It is a way to honor everything Gus and Frances have done and keep our important work moving forward.

It all began with a new and novel way to introduce elementary school students to the world of business. The fruits of that enterprise have been changing lives for the better ever since.

Your gift to the Stavros Society will support their vision that began 30 years ago – and keep their life's work to engage and educate students thriving long into the future.



**Pinellas Education
Foundation**