



PLANTING FUTURES

2022 IMPACT REPORT

IN REMEMBRANCE OF

DR. GUS A. STAVROS

Pinellas Education Foundation Founding Chair

Dr. Gus A. Stavros has forever changed the lives of countless students in Pinellas County and beyond with his generosity and dedication. His leadership forged the Pinellas Education Foundation into the thriving, nationally acclaimed organization it is today, and his passion for education continues to be the driving force behind each and every one of our initiatives.

For more than 35 years, Dr. Stavros was engaged with the Pinellas Education Foundation, serving as founding chair of the Board of Directors. He also raised \$1.1 million through local business donations and his own money to start Enterprise Village in 1989, and he served on the State University System Board of Governors, which is one of the most prestigious state government appointments. He and his wife, Frances, were also patrons of various arts organizations, Lutheran ministries, and charitable organizations. They were known for their generosity, and Dr. Stavros once said his aim was to give away most of his money eventually and die poor.

Born in New Jersey to Greek immigrant parents, Dr. Stavros earned a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart serving on the European front during World War II. After attending Columbia University and getting married in 1948, he and Frances eventually moved to Pinellas County a decade later. Frances passed away in 2017 at the age of 92.

Dr. Stavros was 97 when he passed away on October 18th this year. He left an indelible mark on the world through his extraordinary efforts, and his vision lives on and will continue to impact young lives in Pinellas County Schools, the entire Tampa Bay community and around the world. We are honored to carry on his legacy.



Nothing is more important than education. I learned that a long time ago because my parents, who had little education, convinced me to go as far as I can.

Dr. Gus A. Stavros
Pinellas Education Foundation Founding Chair

Learn more about Dr. Gus A. Stavros by scanning the QR code or clicking here.



Bringing Innovative Solutions to Education in Pinellas County

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS AND THEIR COMMITMENT TO CULTIVATE STUDENT SUCCESS IN PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS.

Dr. Stacy Baier, CEO
Pinellas Education Foundation

I love kids; they're the future. I love the arts, and I owe everything I have to education. This program makes a material difference in these students' lives, and that makes me happy.

Dr. Jeffrey Walker
Founder, Walker's Rising Stars



TENDING THE GARDEN IT STARTS WITH OUR DONORS



Helios Education Foundation invests in the Pinellas Education Foundation because education represents a gateway to opportunities. Our partnership provides students in Pinellas County Schools valuable tools and resources through Elevating Excellence College and Career Centers that are preparing them for success in postsecondary education.

Paul J. Luna
President and CEO, Helios Education Foundation

Walker's Rising Stars

Dr. Jeffrey Walker, who founded Walker's Rising Stars 19 years ago, recently gifted \$2 million so the program can continue in perpetuity. As a lover of the arts, Dr. Walker wanted to give back in this way as he attributes all of his accomplishments to education and believes students are the future.

Now a nationally renowned arts award program, Walker's Rising Stars guides high school juniors and seniors as they refine their audition and portfolio skills to compete for college scholarships in six categories: Culinary Arts, Dance, Instrumental, Theater, Visual Arts and Vocal Performance. More than \$800,000 in scholarships have been awarded to talented students since the program's creation. Scholarship winners have gone on to star in and direct Broadway shows and appear on network television, including the Tonight Show and the Grammy Awards.

Learn more about Dr. Walker and Walker's Rising Stars by scanning the QR code or clicking here.



Duke Energy Florida is proud to support organizations, like the Pinellas Education Foundation, that work tirelessly to eliminate barriers and create opportunities for all students to thrive and reach their full potential. When we invest in programs like Pinellas Education Foundation's STEM Explorer Program, we help to ensure that all students have the opportunity to gain the hands-on, essential skills needed to pursue energy and engineering careers. They will become the next generation of leaders and problem solvers.

Melissa Seixas
State President, Duke Energy Florida

PLANNING FOR GROWTH INITIATIVES FOR CHANGE

We exist to drive change in the lives and outcomes of every Pinellas County student, providing the resources they need to achieve their greatest potential and prepare them for the futures they choose.

Learn More by scanning the QR code or clicking here.



Multiple Pathways

To empower and equip students to forge their own paths after graduation, we strive to provide students with college and career readiness support to ensure their success.

Academic Achievement

Excellent teachers and principals are the roots and foundation of student success. We work closely with Pinellas County Schools to support exceptional educators and provide innovative solutions that address gaps in student achievement.

Enhancement Programs

Supporting teachers and cultivating essential business and life skills for students is rooted in our enhancement programs. From teacher recognition, classroom funding, and supply drives to hands-on financial literacy programs and competitions for young entrepreneurs, our goal is to give our teachers and students every opportunity to shine.



Ms. Alvarez and the Elevating Excellence College and Career Center taught me a lot of things I did not know about college, like the importance of the FAFSA and in-state university opportunities.

Ja'tanaisha Thompson
First-generation college student
University of Florida

SO STUDENTS CAN FLOURISH CULTIVATING SUCCESS

Elevating Excellence

Elevating Excellence provides individual college and career counseling and preparation guidance to students and their families, especially low-income and first-generation college students. We've partnered with Pinellas County Schools to bring College and Career Work to all 17 Pinellas high schools, where teams work with school counselors to walk students through every step of the college preparation process: career and major exploration, college search and evaluation, application and essay submission, SAT/ACT preparation, college fair and admission events, and financial planning.

Learn more about Elevating Excellence by scanning the QR code or clicking here.



STRENGTHENING THE ROOTS EMPOWERING TEACHERS FOR EXCELLENCE

Pinellas Early Literacy Initiative

The Pinellas Early Literacy Initiative is a collaboration with Pinellas County Schools to boost reading proficiency in children from Pre-K through second grade by providing specialized training, tools, and resources to their teachers. Literacy achievement largely predicts academic success in every subject area. The goal is to lay a strong foundation for all students early on to give them the best chance of thriving throughout their education.

Learn more about the Pinellas Early Literacy Initiative by scanning the QR code or clicking here.



I love that the Pinellas Early Literacy Initiative (PELI) is all about high scholar achievement. It promotes engagement between the scholar and teacher and continues to build up the confidence of our scholars truly need to be successful readers. As a teacher, PELI has reignited my love for phonics and literacy. It continues to push me to become a better teacher and grow my knowledge in all things reading.

Jacqueline Kasimati
First Grade Teacher, Fairmount Park Elementary

THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US TO PLANT A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR EVERY PINELLAS COUNTY STUDENT.

