

Chairman's Update



The 2017-2018 school year started with some interesting opportunities and challenges, not the least of which was Hurricane Irma causing significant damage throughout Nassau County. Take Stock In Children (TSIC) extends its sympathy to all who were impacted by this natural disaster. We would also like to thank our staff

and mentors for the support and flexibility they have offered our students during this trying time.

The Board of Directors has made a commitment to raise \$375,000 this year to ensure that approximately 30 new students have scholarships and we will be able to meet our salary and program obligations, which include effective student and mentor services. This will be a substantial increase over last year's College Readiness program goal since the current Florida state budget significantly reduces their grant to TSIC chapters to fund ongoing operations.

We hope for a great turnout for our new and improved Light Up a Life event which will be held this year on March 22, 2018 at the Ritz-Carlton. This annual event which funds our programs is even more important now, given the State budget reductions. To accomplish our fundraising goal, we are looking for volunteers who can assist with a wide range of tasks and activities. To add your name to our volunteer list please e-mail Kelli Bristow at kbristow@tsic.org.

We have been fortunate to recruit more than 156 mentors for this school year. While we have matched most of the students we still need additional mentors in some areas. If you would like to help one of our county's promising students by mentoring once a week, please fill out an application on line at www.takestocknassau.org or contact Dr. Andrea Cummings at 904 548-4464.

The Board of Directors is also dedicated to a high-quality program that serves our students through high school and in making their college and career choices. We have added a new position, College Readiness Coordinator (CRC), whose job is to help our students understand the choices available

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Celebrating The Graduating Class of 2017



Take Stock of Nassau County Inc. graduated 26 high school students from across Nassau County. Graduating students participated in a celebration event held April 17 at Yulee High School before walking

across the stage at their respective graduation ceremonies.

This year, seniors were presented with a Take Stock Medallion, Certificate of Completion, and a Florida Prepaid College Scholarship for completing the rigorous requirements of the Take Stock program. Each student maintained a 2.5 GPA or higher, attended school regularly, and met weekly with his or her mentor. Because of their hard work and perseverance, each will be attending colleges or universities in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

"This is a source of great pride to Take Stock Nassau and highlights our dedication to changing the lives of our students through this program," said Dr. Andrea Cummings, the executive director of Take Stock Nassau. "Our students are counting on us to make the difference in their lives to ensure they succeed academically and professionally."



2017-2018 Scholarship Campaign



Take Stock in Children of Nassau County has kicked off its 2017-2018 Scholarship Campaign, which runs through April 20, 2018. Our goal this year is to raise \$250,000 (See Chairman's Update) to purchase 30 scholarships for new students we hope to accept into the program next September.

As in the past, all donations will be 100%-matched by the Florida Prepaid Foundation's Stars program.

Donations can be made by check or on our website at www.takestocknassau.org.

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to them as they prepare for college life. A Take Stock scholarship is transferable and not necessarily limited to state of Florida colleges and universities. One of the Readiness Coordinator's roles is to promote awareness of all the opportunities available to our students. This position is being funded for two years by a very generous grant from one of our long-time donors.

Let me close by extending my thanks to many wonderful folks in Nassau County who already support TSIC by volunteering their time, making financial contributions, and spreading the word about our program. We need your help to meet this year's challenges. Our Scholarship Campaign begins this month. Additionally, if you know someone who is looking to give back to the community, please let them know about our organization.

My sincerest thanks,
Bob Henderson

Planned Giving Notes

Qualified Charitable Distributions

In December 2015, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 finally made permanent qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) as a charitable deduction from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).

The new Charitable IRA Rollover provision will enable individual taxpayers, aged 70 ½ and older, to donate up to \$100,000 per year from their IRAs directly to charitable nonprofits as a qualified charitable distribution. This will allow them to exclude the gift from their taxable income and eliminate any taxes on the distribution regardless of its size. QCDs can be used on IRAs of any size. Charities across the country, including Take Stock in Children, have donors who have successfully used this strategy for maximizing the value of their gifts and bequests.

For information on how to include Take Stock in your planned giving strategy, please contact Dr. Andrea Cummings, Executive Director, at (904) 548-4464 or at acummings@tsic.org.

Welcome New Staff Members



JOHNNIE GREEN, the new College Success Coach, is a Nassau County native, married to Evon Green. He attended Florida State College at Jacksonville and the University of North Florida, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. He has a Masters In Theology from Truth Bible College of Jacksonville.

He taught math, science, driver's education and physical education in high school. He felt strongly about helping students reach their educational goals in life. His passion for teaching kept him inside the classroom for 30 years. For 14 years, he served as an athletic director, heading up basketball, baseball and track. In his spare time, he mentored at West Nassau for 4-years with TSIC. In 1992, Mr. Green was voted by his colleagues as Teacher of the Year.

A pastor of St. James Baptist Church of Yulee, Mr. Green managed to divide his time between Concerned Citizens of Hilliard, and The Amos White Community Center of Yulee where he served as president of both organizations.

Mr. Green is a veteran of the United States Air Force, where he served in Vietnam.



SHERRY ECK is the new College Readiness Coordinator, a position funded through a private grant. She grew up in the Atlanta area, graduating from Georgia Southern University with a BS in Education and a Master of Education. She spent the last 11 years teaching math to middle and high school students in private, public, and magnet schools.

Sherry met her husband while studying at Georgia Institute of Technology. Together they have two amazing sons who graduated from Mercer University's engineering program and have begun successful careers of their own.

They moved to Fernandina with her husband's job at Rayonier in 2012. "The two of us and our rescue dog, Sadie, are all happy to call Nassau County home. We love exploring the beaches and waters of Amelia Island with our two-year-old grandson."

Sherry has always been passionate about education and is excited to bring that passion to Take Stock in Children of Nassau. Her hope is to make a difference in the lives of Nassau County students.

SIP&SHOP

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Enjoy light refreshments
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FALL COLLECTION

Saturday, November 4
1-5pm

J. McLaughlin

90 Amelia Village Circle
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15% of sales will benefit
Take Stock In Children of Nassau County

Mentor Corner: *Shelley Hirsch*

When asked what made her become a mentor, Shelley said, "I truly loved the concept and principles – and the mission – of mentoring students." Shelley Hirsch began in mentoring in 2002, while living in Duval County, Florida. She had previously worked in the private educational setting in New York for a residential school and was an appointed New York State Department of Education advocate representative for some students there.



When she moved to Nassau County in 2005, there was no option to transfer as a volunteer mentoring from one county to another. She found Nassau County's Take Stock in Children program, completed the steps specific to our county requirements for mentoring, and was assigned her first student here. This is her thirteenth year of mentoring.

"For me, there are two best parts about being a mentor," she said. "First, the mentor-mentee relationship is a two-way street. I like being able to help a student navigate through the emotional and genetic confusion of adolescence. Things like their relationship(s) with their parents, their siblings, their peers, their teachers, first crushes, and the like. But then, as the student matures, I also enjoy helping a student prepare for some of life lessons such as goal setting, making wise decisions, and coping with mistakes."

The second best part about being a mentor is the good feelings that it brings to her. "It truly is a wonderful experience watching a child grow and learn. Being a mentor strengthens me, keeps me balanced, and keeps me on track to making

good decisions and being accountable. I would highly recommend everyone become involved as a mentor to our youth today. The adage is true: our kids are our future.

She added, "I believe that it is very important that our young population today know that we adults have all been through very similar experiences to what they are going through. Teenagers tend to think we are "old" people who cannot know what they are feeling, but we do. Teenagers sometimes feel that they are invincible. I try to keep them balanced in their thoughts and actions. I offer them the empowerment to realize who they are and how they want to be in their life."

Looking to the Future: (2017-2018) Executive Director Goals

Dr. Andrea Cummings



My first year as Executive Director has been rewarding and challenging. I am pleased by what we have accomplished together and excited about how much more we can do. Working with the Board of Directors, we have developed goals and objectives for the coming school year.

These goals are intended to build on and expand the success we have had. The two major goals are to increase awareness of our Take Stock program and to extend our presence in west Nassau. A brief presentation of goals and some of the objectives supporting them follows.

Goal 1: Increase community outreach efforts.

It is our mission to bring the resources of TSIC Nassau to every child in Nassau County who is interested in pursuing a college degree and who qualifies for our program.

- Work with our chair of development to establish effective fundraising activities.
- Develop a public relations plan.
- Increase the capabilities of our website to better serve the TSIC family (students, parents mentors, coaches and staff).
- Expand our use of social media.

Goal 2: Assist the Board of Directors in developing strategies to increase visibility, volunteers, and mentor recruitment in West Nassau County.

An increasing number of students from west Nassau are joining the program. The number of mentors and volunteers from the west side of the county should be increased to better meet the needs of these students.

- Attend regular events for the Non-Profit Center, United Way, Greater Nassau Chamber, and CEO Confidential.
- Collaborate with the Nominating Committee to recruit new members from West Nassau County.
- Take part in senior award ceremonies from all high schools.
- Engage business and church leaders in West Nassau County to fill the void in mentors for the area.

I look forward to a great year working with our TSIC family (students, parents, mentors, coaches) to achieve these goals.

Alumni Spotlight: *Trista Reeves*

As the fall semester of my junior year at Florida State University is now in full swing and I begin looking for internships and thinking about post-graduate jobs, I couldn't think of a better time to reflect on how much Take Stock in Children means to me. From the moment I became a Take Stock scholar in eighth grade, I was surrounded by the most supportive people who helped mold me into an empowered young woman ready to take on the world. After graduating from HMSHS in 2015, I began a new journey at Florida State University where I have been continuously grateful for my scholarship and the future it is helping me create. Each semester I realize just how blessed I am to have the opportunity to study at a great institution and pursue a career I am passionate about, all thanks to the generous hearts who give to, support and run the Take Stock program. While the monetary value of the scholarship is essential in helping me gain a college degree, the relationships and the people have been the most invaluable part of my Take Stock experience. I cannot wait to one day give back to this wonderful organization that has given so much to me.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

76346 William Burgess Blvd.
Yulee, FL 32097



Save The Date!



For more information, call:
904-548-4464
www.takestocknassau.org

Enjoy: Wine, Cash Bar, Silent Auction, Dinner and the live music of the Queen of Hearts a national band

| Date | Location | Tickets |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Thursday March 22 nd | Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island | \$150 |
| 6:30 pm-9:30 pm | Talbot Ballroom | |

Take Stock in Children of Nassau County, with the support of Rayonier Advanced Materials, will host a new student retreat on November 4, 2017 at Wildlight Elementary School (Cafeteria). Thirty-four new students who were recently inducted into the program are required to attend this mandatory event. <http://www.takestocknassau.org/apps/calendar/>

- Time: 9:00 a.m. Registration at 8:45 a.m.
- Date: November 4th 2017
- Location: Wildlight Elementary School (Cafeteria)
- Please wear your TSLC T-Shirts

For a complete calendar of events visit
<http://www.takestocknassau.org/apps/calendar/>

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