



**Newsletter**  
**for**  
**April, May, June & July 2023**

**April Highlights:**

**Clay Electric Grant Awarded to BCEF**

After applying for a grant from Clay Electric in November 2022, BCEF received notice in February 2023 that we were awarded the highest award of \$20,000. The project will fund Book Sets for K-12th graders. This will enable classrooms to read and study the same books as a class, and will also enable the schools to offer Civic programs as a part of the Governor's initiative. The books will be stored in each school's library for classes to check out. Cheryl wrote the grant again this year and we appreciate our assistant superintendent, Karen Clarke's suggestion to support this project. The final report will be due in February 2024 and then, we can apply for another grant. Thank you Clay Electric for your continued support of BCEF's efforts.



## Tools for Schools

After our grand opening in March, the store was opened to individuals that came by for supplies. Thanks to Lila for taking care of these individual needs. Now, the goal is to do an inventory of what we have left and complete a list of what has been purchased during our first year. We have reached out to Walmart to say thanks for their support and are waiting for a confirmation that they will continue to support this effort in 2023-24. We will be exploring opportunities to find more sponsors for the next school year. Thanks again to Walmart for their support!!!

## Golden B & Principal Achievement Awards for the Class of 2023

On April 28th, the Bradford County Education Foundation sponsored and hosted the Golden B and Principal Achievement awards for the 2023 Senior Class at 9 am. in the BHS Auditorium. There were 19 recipients that received the Golden B award. Requirements to qualify included good attendance, behavior, and at least a 3.5 GPA and being in the top 10% of their class. Many of these students were dual enrolled and all of them had several extracurricular activities. These students received a golden B pin and letter, along with a Golden B book that featured pictures and a list of accomplishments for each student honored. There were 49 recipients of the Principal's Achievement award, who received a certificate and Principal Award pin. All awards were provided by the Education Foundation. Immediately following the event, BCEF also hosted a reception for the students and their families.



**Golden B Recipients**



**Principal's Achievement Awards Recipients**



## May Highlights:

### TOY/SRE Event

The Bradford County Education Foundation hosted the annual celebration of the TOY and SRE recipients on May 2nd, 2023 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at First Baptist Church. A special thank you to the First Baptist for donating the use of their facility, to the School Board Members who donated \$500 for the event and to Florida PrePaid who gave us \$200 for this event as a part of the grant we received this year. Thanks to the Sheriff's Department for setting up the tables and chairs for the event also. Thanks to Chrissy for a great job with the table decorations and displays, for getting the desserts and to all of our members that helped with setup and especially for those who help clean up afterwards.

BCEF recognized and furnished an award for the TOY and SRE recipients from each school. In addition, the overall Teacher of the Year, Stephen Brown, was given a \$500 check, along with the overall Service Related Employee, Arthur Burch, receiving a \$250 check from the Foundation.





## **BCEF sponsors an event for teachers earning their certificates.**

BCEF provided cake, nuts and water for a celebration program for two teachers for their accomplishment of earning their teaching certificates. Each teacher also received a plant and balloon from BCEF. We want to let our employees know that we appreciate their extra efforts to get their certificate and hopefully, encourage them to stay with our Bradford District Schools. A special thank you to Chrissy and Lila for making sure that everything was taken care of for this event!!



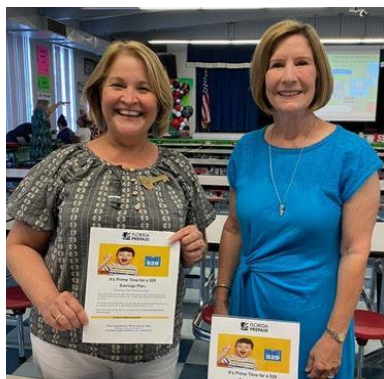
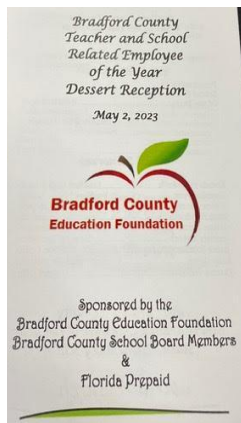
## Mother's Day Hydrangea Sale

BCEF sold 225 hydrangeas for Mother's Day for a total profit of \$1,800. A big THANK YOU to the North Florida Technical College's Truck Driving school for providing the truck and the drivers to pick up the flowers and deliver them to Starke. Thank you to everyone that made a purchase to support our efforts to support Bradford Schools, and to our members for making sure all of the tickets were sold and all of the deliveries were done.



## Florida Prepaid Grant is Completed

Thanks to Lila and Brenda T. for turning in our final documents for the Florida Prepaid grant. We appreciate the additional support of \$250 from Florida Prepaid grant for our TOY/SRE program, along with \$1,000 for the major grant, and \$250 for the Kindergarten Roundup program for the 2023-2024 school year. Families that signed up for this program by the end of February 2023 received a \$50 Amazon card. We hope to participate in the grant again next year. Below are photos from the Kindergarten Roundup program. Thanks to Brenda T. Cheryl, Brenda D. and Eugenia for going to our three Elementary Schools on May 16, 2023.



Bradford Elementary



Starke Elementary



Lawtey Elementary

## Florida KidCare

BCEF has received a grant for \$2,000 again for the 2023-24 school year to promote the Florida KidCare program. Lila and Cheryl have completed the training required along with two school representatives. We got a head start with promoting the program by giving out information for both Florida Prepaid and Florida KidCare at the Kindergarten Round up event on May 6th. Our next outreach will be in August at all of the School's Open Houses. See "Upcoming Events" for more information on August events. Thanks to our members for doing double duty!!



Bradford Elementary



Starke Elementary



Lawtey Elementary

## June Highlights

### BCEF Receives a Grant from Capital City Bank

Cheryl wrote a request for a community grant in May asking for \$2402.86 from Capital City Bank for the music program at Bradford Elementary. The board has been interested in supporting the new music program that Donald Hardy began teaching in the fall of 2022 at Southside Elementary, which is now Bradford Elementary. The new school is scheduled to open in November of 2023.

BCEF received the full request, which will furnish the program with 25 ukuleles and 3 drums. Capital City Bank and BCEF will have a banner in the classroom recognizing them as sponsors.

Although this is not a part of BCEF, as a member of other organizations, Cheryl was able to write Capital City Bank grants for Altrusa International of Starke, who received \$1,000 for the new Cambridge program at Bradford High School and another grant from Altrusa International for \$4,000 for STEM supplies for Lawtey and Starke Elementary schools. She also was able to get another \$1,000 for Kiwanis that will support STEM/Science Fairs for the new school year was provided by Capital City Bank.

Thank you Capital City Bank, Altrusa International of Starke and Kiwanis of Starke for their support of our efforts to improve our schools in Bradford County!

See next page for: Photos from check presentations for Capital City Bank grants.





BCEF's presentation



Altrusa's presentation



Kiwanis presentation

## Bylaws for BCEF are updated

Thanks to Vorease, Matt, Brenda D, Paula and Cheryl for updating the BCEF Bylaws in May. We had a good meeting and made a few changes/updates that were approved at our June meeting.

## AT&T Grant is complete

Cheryl applied for this grant again earlier this year and we received \$5,000 for STEM projects. The grant was used for Bradford Middle School eighth graders, who are the only students left in grades K-8th that have not been exposed to the STEM experience, since the STEM program entered the elementary schools three years ago. The CADE Museum visited all of the 8th grade classrooms 3 times and provided various hands-on activities. Thanks to Eugenia for doing the final report that was due in June.

## **New Grant Opportunities through CFEF**

The Bradford County Education Foundation has some great opportunities for grants! In May, Cheryl worked with Assistant Superintendent, Karen Clarke, to put together an application for a Resiliency Cycle 2 grant that is now provided through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations. We received 13,950 that covered the Resiliency program and paid 50 teachers for completing the course. Karen and Cheryl are currently working on a Resiliency Cycle 3 grant that is due by August 15th, for \$500,000. Thanks to Julie Bokor, a new employee of CFEF, for coming over to the District Office to meet with us and give us some guidance on this application. We hope to have it completed by the end of July.



**Cheryl, Karen Clarke and Julie Bokor meet to plan the Resiliency Cycle 3 Grant**

In addition to these two grants, we have also applied for another grant for the World Wide Literacy grant. Bradford Schools participated in this program last year, but now it is offered through the Consortium. There are some delays on the awards right now, but CFEF says we will get some funding. More news to come!

## **Thank you, Representative Travis Cummings**

Representative Cummings assigned someone to help us with organizing our Tools for Schools last year. She gave us a few ideas and created some flyers for us. He is also an associate with the insurance company that Bradford Schools offers to their employees. Mr. Cummings has generously offered to donate \$500 for additional school supplies for our school store this year.

## **In Memory of Gus Kopelousos**

A special thank you to the daughters of Gus Kopelousos for thinking of BCEF at this time of grief over the loss of their father. Gus was a long-time business person in Bradford County, and their mother, who passed away suddenly at an early age, was a teacher in Bradford schools. They named three places for donations, and BCEF was selected. To date we have received donations from John Miller, Community State Bank, Bill and Denise Adams, Marty and Mary Florentino, Thomas Florentino, Joseph Mobley, and Jake Felder. To date, we have received \$1765,30 in donations.



## More Thank you's

This year, we have some major changes happening with BCEF and it is time to express our appreciation for some members and their dedicated service.



First, we are thankful for Eugenia Whitehead who has served for 14 years as our Matching Grant person. Every year, we receive matching funds from CFEF and our Foundation matches this amount. The total of this grant has grown some over the years, and is currently around \$32,000+. Eugenia has worked with the District office to decide on the various projects we support each year. Some of these projects include: furnishing certificates to every elementary school student for their Book Fair to buy 1-2 books. We have also supported STEM education with CADE Museum, tutoring services after school, and many other kinds of support for various programs from grades K through 12. She also does a mid-year report and a final report every June for this project. The Consortium has been very supportive and helpful with these applications and Eugenia has done a terrific job with taking care of this for our Foundation year after year.

We are thankful that Chrissy Thompson has volunteered to fill this vacancy. The Consortium has let us know that they “have our back” and they will help us through this transition. Eugenia has also agreed to share some guidance as we move forward and Cheryl has been participating in the training for years.

We have another member, Dimple Overstreet, who has served as our Treasurer for at least 8 years, who has also stepped down. Dimple has been elected as the Altrusa District Three Governor, which covers 4 states, so she has her hands full for the next 2 years!! She has done an excellent job of keeping our books in order and getting things done over all of these year,s and we certainly appreciate her dedication and hard work!!

We are thankful that Matt Dyal has volunteered to take over as treasurer, and he was unanimously approved by the board members to take over the position in May for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Thanks to Dimple for giving him all of the books and additional information to help make the transition go smoothly.

## Welcome New BCEF Members

In June, we welcomed two new members, Justin Durrance and Leisa Sims. We look forward to both of you working with us to make Bradford schools the best that they can be.

## **Upcoming Events:**

### **Welcome Back for Staff**

The Welcome Back event will take place on August 3rd, in the BHS Auditorium from 8:30-9:30 a.m. BCEF will repeat their successful Cold Coffee and Water hand out after the presentations in the auditorium. We need as many BCEF members who are available, to hand out the coffee and water as the staff leaves. Thanks to Chrissy for taking care of the coffee and water. We will have BCEF labels for the water. Maybe do a couple of drawings for employees that are on the payroll deduction for BCEF??

### **Back to School Open House**

All of the schools will be holding Open House before school starts. As a part of our Florida KidCare grant, we will be setting up a table at each event and handing out information and some treats. The place, date and time for each event are:

Friday, August 4th - 4:30-7:00 p.m. - Bradford Middle School

Monday, August 7th - 4:00-6:00 p.m. - Bradford High School

Tuesday, August 8th - 4:00-5:30 p.m. at Bradford, Lawtey and Starke Elementary Schools

Volunteers are needed.

### **Leave a Legacy**

On Thursday, August 24th, BCEF will host the 5th Annual Leave a Legacy event at the Madison Street Baptist Church gym. A special thanks to Madison Street Church for allowing us to use their facility and for helping with table and chairs set up, running the sound and video and leading our prayer and pledge.

Our past recipients include:

Year One - Laurie Mullins and David Hurse

Year Two - Adelle Mitchell, Norma Jean Redding and In Memory of Jessie Moore

Year Three - Olivia Scott and Jim Lewis and In Memory of Jim Ward and Inez Diggs

Year Four - Linda Alday and Don Hardy

This year, we will honor John and Anne Miller and Margaret DeSue.

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and we will serve a meal. Instead of our live auction this year, we will host a Dessert Dash for desserts. Tickets are available for \$30 each from BCEF members or you can drop by Capital City Bank and see Matt Dyal to purchase tickets. Tatum Davis will serve as our host again this year.





Cheryl has applied for another grant for the Bradford County Education Foundation for an AT&T grant through the CFEF, to support a STEAM program for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders at BMS. This grant will provide a visit to the CADE Museum and two in-class visits to explore STEAM. BCEF has provided this program for our 5<sup>th</sup> graders at each elementary school for the last 2 years through our CFEF matching grant, and we are happy to have been awarded this grant for \$5,000 for this additional support for more STEAM experiences. The check has been received and the CADE Museum has been scheduled. Thanks to Karen Clarke, our Assistant Superintendent for her help with scheduling the visits!!

