

# Promises Kept



& The Promise of Things to Come



2008 Annual Report



# Promises Kept & the Promise of Things to Come

In August 2004, when we “opened our doors” as Florida’s first system of conversion charter schools, we made a commitment to the Lake Wales community – we promised to make the very best public education available for our children.

To fulfill this promise, we pledged to support our schools by filling classrooms with outstanding educators, new technology, innovative programs and to pursue the additional funding our schools deserved. We also promised to add a middle school to complete a seamless pre-K through 12 system for the Lake Wales Charter Schools.

Now, as we assess the progress that has been made during our first four school years – and as we continue to make even greater strides in our fifth year of operation – we are pleased to report that we have fulfilled these initial promises to the community.

Our schools are run by strong administrative teams who are surrounded by dedicated teachers and support staffs. Despite the stress created by tight budgets, our system is proud to have professional teams who enthusiastically tackle every challenge because they firmly believe in making a positive impact on every child in the Lake Wales Charter Schools. It is not unusual to find our teachers, administrators and support staff members working extra hours or going out into our community to provide extra services for our students and families. During the past year, we had four more teachers earn their credentials to become National Board Certified Teachers, and these “master” teachers now help mentor their colleagues. Our new superintendent, Jesse Jackson, joined our system in January 2008 and has brought a wealth of enthusiasm as well as knowledge and experience from his years working with the FSU charter schools.

Since we became a charter school system in the fall of 2004, we have continually encouraged our schools to seek innovative ways to help students learn. By freeing our schools from unnecessary restrictions, we believe that they can be more effective at their core mission – helping children learn. The results are fantastic!

By nearly every state measurement, our schools and our students perform at higher levels than they did before our conversion to a charter school system. Even as the State of Florida continues to “raise the bar,” our schools also raise the bar of our own expectations. For instance, all five of our original Lake Wales Charter Schools now have a higher percentage of students meeting the state’s “High Standards in Math” than those same schools did back in 2003-2004. Our schools also are doing a better job motivating and helping those students who traditionally struggle the most by implementing research-based methods of instruction.

Additional funding for our schools continues to be a challenge, especially in the current economic climate. Our leadership team has worked diligently to make budget cuts, program changes and other reductions that have the least negative impact on students and employees.

At the same time, our community continues to support the Lake Wales Charter Schools.

During calendar year 2008, nearly \$867,000 was donated to the Lake Wales Charter Schools

Foundation, including \$465,000 to help open Edward W. Bok Academy. This generosity provided Bok and our other

five schools with much-needed financial support for educational programs, computers, field trips, Kindergarten Support programs, a variety of vital equipment and supplies, and a wealth of other critical services to benefit students.

Local partnerships support our schools in many ways. Our staff and high school students now benefit from convenient course offerings through long-time partner Polk Community College’s new campus facility in downtown Lake Wales. Chamber members offer job shadowing opportunities, guest speakers and a tremendous back-to-school kick-off program that is unique to Lake Wales. One example of corporate support is CEMEX, which provides teacher training and environmental science field trips for hundreds of students in our community. An example of civic support is our Lake Wales Kiwanis Club’s Stuff the Bus campaign last summer, which distributed free school supplies for several hundred needy children. We are very fortunate to have a number of generous partners who have been willing to step forward and help us provide valuable “extras” for our students.

Back in 2004, we recognized that a seamless pre-K through 12 system had to include a middle school. When that initially failed to materialize, we began making plans for our own start-up charter school for grades 6 through 8. After some delays, we proudly opened Edward W. Bok Academy in August 2008, and it now resides on a beautiful 10-acre parcel on the shores of Crooked Lake. Bok’s newly renovated buildings feature the latest technology to assist our middle school teachers in their mission: to inspire a love of learning.

Bok Academy is another success that required tremendous community support. Warner University partnered with us on the property sale, and continues to be a terrific neighbor. We look forward to sharing facilities, and working with Warner’s education and music faculty and students. When our renovation project was temporarily delayed, First Baptist and First Presbyterian Church leaders graciously stepped forward to host our students for four months. Local neighbors warmly accepted increased traffic and the general “excitement” that accompanies 375 middle school students.

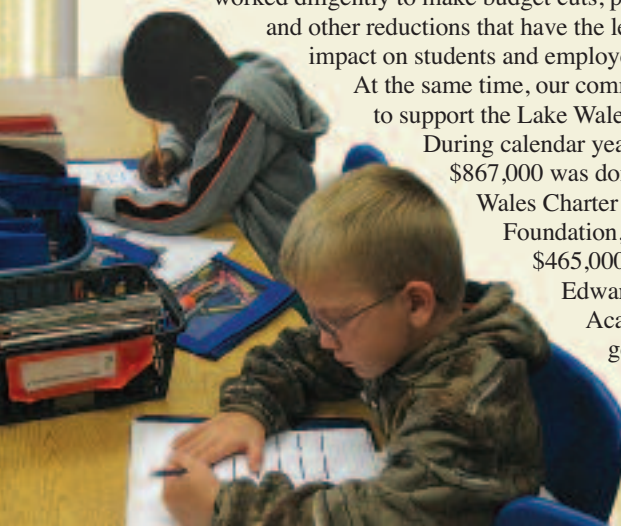
Of course, our work is not finished. Our schools are much stronger than they were four years ago, but each school team is firmly committed to even greater student achievement in the months and years ahead. Instructional programs are more innovative and more targeted to local needs. Our educators, however, are not content with the status quo; they continue to look for new and better ways to help our children reach their highest potentials. Our business and civic community has generously contributed financial and in-kind resources toward our efforts, but we will always need extra support if we want to maintain an excellent school system for the children of Lake Wales.

Our community should be very proud. Together, we made a promise to ourselves and our children, and we worked hard to meet that promise. Now, we can build on that success as we look forward to “the promise of things to come.”

David C. Ullman  
*Chair, Board of Trustees*

Cassandra Denmark, *Vice Chair*  
Robin Gibson                      Clint Horne  
Terrye Howell                      Joyce Otte  
Tammy Sheppard                      Paige Turner

Jesse L. Jackson, *Superintendent*



# Lake Wales Charter Schools, Inc. Financial Report

	June 30, 2007	June 30, 2008
Program revenues	\$1,877,036	\$1,461,498
General revenues:		
Federal sources	128,924	6,185
State and local sources	22,185,452	22,768,243
Contributions and other revenue	2,453,877	1,997,478
Total general revenues	24,768,253	24,771,906
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$26,645,289</b>	<b>\$26,233,404</b>
Expenses:		
Instruction	\$16,525,738	\$16,978,195
Pupil personnel services	870,690	936,035
Instructional media	454,468	488,176
Instruction & curriculum development	737,340	669,891
Instructional staff training	71,426	140,292
Board	117,399	87,617
General/school administration	2,952,603	2,996,100
Facilities acquisition and construction	-	25,746
Fiscal services	1,004,847	1,045,333
Central services	88,533	13,408
Pupil transportation	361,725	398,105
Operation of plant	1,854,623	1,793,431
Maintenance of plant	49,264	12,680
Community services	641,298	707,543
Debt service	-	39,461
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$25,729,954</b>	<b>\$26,332,013</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>\$915,335</b>	<b>\$(98,609)</b>
Change in Net Assets		
Net assets at beginning of year	\$1,115,191	\$2,030,526
Change in Net Assets	915,335	(98,609)
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>\$2,030,526</b>	<b>\$1,931,917</b>

This Annual Report was funded through private donations.

This statement of accountability has been condensed from financial statements audited by the independent firm of BKHM Certified Public Accountants and Consultants.



## LAKE WALES HIGH

Clark Berry, Principal  
Eugene Kendrick, Assistant Principal  
Chris Reams, Assistant Principal  
Daniele Shick, Assistant Principal

- Advanced Placement classes in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Language, Calculus 1&2, U.S. History, Literature, Environmental Science
- PCC dual enrollment option
- 4x4 schedule = up to 32 credits at graduation
- Broad range of arts, academics and athletics
- Many students participate in Music, Army JROTC, FFA programs
- Lake Wales Academic Foundation provides recognition for top students
- 70+ students enrolled in Calculus classes
- Teams, individual athletes continue to excel in every sport; sprinter Octavious Freeman is fastest girl in State of Florida
- Outstanding report from accreditation Quality Assurance Review Team
- New childcare academy prepares students for high-demand jobs
- Cafeteria expansion, agriculture program facility, other construction currently under way
- 2008 School Grade = C

### *Student Demographics*

Enrollment – 1,275  
Male – 50.9%  
Female – 49.1%  
Minority – 45.9%  
Economically Disadvantaged (free/reduced lunch) – 56.9%  
LEP (Limited English Proficient) – 3.2%

### *Home of the Highlanders*

One Highlander Way  
Lake Wales, Florida 33853  
(863) 678-4222

### *MISSION STATEMENT*

The mission of Lake Wales High School is to inspire and challenge all learners to reach their full potential in a safe, supportive environment where we teach the skills needed to succeed as responsible citizens in a changing society.

## EDWARD W. BOK ACADEMY

Donna Dunson, Principal  
Anuj Saran, Educational Operations

- Small middle school limited to 500 students in grades 6-8
- New classroom facility on shores of Crooked Lake
- Innovative curriculum using latest technology, hands-on learning
- Partnership with neighboring Warner University
- Robotics, aquatics, kayaking, mountain biking, YMCA partnership
- Nearly \$465,000 in private donations for facility, program

### *Student Demographics*

Enrollment – 375  
Male – 47.2%  
Female – 52.8%  
Minority – 36.9%  
Economically Disadvantaged (free/reduced lunch) – 60.2%  
LEP (Limited English Proficient) – 3.2%

### *Home of the Knights*

13901 Hwy. 27 South  
Lake Wales, Florida 33859  
(863) 638-1010

### *MISSION STATEMENT*

Edward W. Bok Academy will educate Renaissance thinkers for the digital age.

## DALE R. FAIR BABSON PARK ELEMENTARY

Ken Henson, Principal  
Elizabeth Tyler, Assistant Principal

- Culyer Strategies in Reading program
- Small school environment, with culture of great family & community support, strong PTA
- Pre-school for 3- & 4-year-olds
- 2008 5<sup>th</sup> grade E-Team area winner
- Five Star School designation from State of Florida
- Kindergarten Support program
- 2008 School Grade = B

### *Student Demographics*

Enrollment – 450  
Male – 51.2%  
Female – 48.8%  
Minority – 28.5%  
Economically Disadvantaged (free/reduced lunch) – 44%  
LEP (Limited English Proficient) – 7%

### *Home of the Gnats*

815 N. Scenic Highway  
Babson Park, Florida 33827  
(863) 678-4664

### *MISSION STATEMENT*

Making a difference today for a better world tomorrow.



## HILLCREST ELEMENTARY

Damien Moses, Principal  
Debbie Hunt, Assistant Principal

- Art classes for all K-5 students, including painting, drawing, ceramics, art history, graphic arts, dance, steel drums, strings, percussion, piano lab, chorus
- School-wide multicultural themes in all classes
- Gold Model Status for Positive Behavior Support schools (Polk's only Gold school)
- Kindergarten Support program
- 2008 School Grade = A

### *Student Demographics*

Enrollment – 575  
Male – 50.1%  
Female – 49.9%  
Minority – 48.9%  
Economically Disadvantaged  
(free/reduced lunch) – 73.9%  
LEP (Limited English Proficient) – 8.5%

### *Home of the Hawks*

1051 State Road 60  
Lake Wales, Florida 33853  
(863) 678-4216

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Hillcrest Hawks will learn, create, perform, communicate, cooperate, explore and soar to their highest potential in an encouraging, enriching environment. Hawks will leave the nest seeking the adventure of life-long learning.

## JANIE HOWARD WILSON ELEMENTARY

Beverly Lynne, Principal  
Steven Whitaker, Assistant Principal

- Natural science lab at adjacent Grassy Lake Preserve
- 2 fully equipped science labs for all students
- Green Team leads recycling program to reduce school's eco-footprint
- Strings and chorus programs
- Five Star School designation from State of Florida
- Kindergarten Support program
- 2008 School Grade = C

### *Student Demographics*

Enrollment – 545  
Male – 54.7%  
Female – 45.3%  
Minority – 35.6%  
Economically Disadvantaged  
(free/reduced lunch) – 85%  
LEP (Limited English Proficient) – 9.7%

### *Home of the Silver Streaks*

306 Florida Avenue  
Lake Wales, Florida 33853  
(863) 678-4211

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Janie Howard Wilson Elementary is to provide a safe and caring environment where all students can be prepared academically and socially for our future society. "Learning for all – whatever it takes."

## POLK AVENUE ELEMENTARY

Gail Quam, Principal  
Chauncey Mitchell, Assistant Principal

- Spanish language/heritage instruction for all students
- Conservation awareness program with solar panels, energy-tracking, garden projects, rain barrels
- K-5 technology program
- Full science lab
- Only Polk school in Progress Energy's SunSmart Schools program
- Kindergarten Support program
- 2008 School Grade = B

### *Student Demographics*

Enrollment – 540  
Male – 56%  
Female – 44%  
Minority – 60.4%  
Economically Disadvantaged  
(free/reduced lunch) – 87.3%  
LEP (Limited English Proficient) – 19.4%

### *Home of the Cardinals*

110 East Polk Avenue  
Lake Wales, Florida 33853  
(863) 678-4244

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Polk Avenue is committed to each child reaching his/her potential through a challenging integrated program that provides a global perspective in a warm and caring environment.

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A two-page guide explaining how the State of Florida calculated the 2008 school grades is available at  
<http://schoolgrades.fl DOE.org/pdf/0708/SGGuide2008.pdf>

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# LAKE WALES CHARTER SCHOOLS FOUNDATION DONOR HONOR ROLL

We express our deepest appreciation to the donors listed below. Their generosity to the Lake Wales Charter Schools Foundation has helped enhance the quality of education for all students in the Lake Wales Charter Schools. (This list reflects those gifts received between Dec. 2, 2007 and Dec. 31, 2008. We regret any omissions or errors.)

## Valedictorian

(\$50,000 or more)  
Anonymous

## Salutatorian

(\$25,000-\$49,999)  
Horace Herndon  
Mountain Lake  
Community Service Inc.

## Summa Cum Laude

(\$10,000-\$24,999)  
Patricia Herndon  
Ron & Rebekah "Becky"  
Johnson  
John & Bettina Moore  
Myers Groves Inc.  
The Philanthropic Collaborative

## Dean's List (\$5,000-\$9,999)

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## Scholars (to \$999)

AAUW Lake Wales  
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Tami & Robert Charlton  
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Laura Conner  
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Verna Echols  
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Petty Taylor  
Jane Terry  
Alfred "Chip" Thullberg Jr.  
Kay Weaver  
Eleanor "Bunny" Wetzel  
Harriett & Adair Wheaton  
Andrea Whiteley  
Woman's Club  
of Babson Park

The Lake Wales Charter Schools Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) direct-support organization whose purpose is to provide financial support for the Lake Wales Charter Schools. During 2008, community volunteers who helped guide the Foundation included: Chair Robin Gibson; Vice Chair David Ullman; Treasurer Brian Fisher; Secretary Sue Medders; and Pat Brewer, D. Patrick Cain, Carol Collins, Doug Elmore, Horace F. Herndon, MaryLee Hollis, Clinton Horne, D. Andrew Hunt, Rebekah Johnson, Jerry R. Miller, Joyce Otte, Violeta B. Salud, Lawrence C. Updike and Keith H. Wadsworth.



**LAKE WALES**  
CHARTER SCHOOLS

151 Central Ave. East  
Lake Wales FL 33853  
863.679.6560

[www.lwcharterschools.com](http://www.lwcharterschools.com)