

Group puts kids on path to scholarships

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

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I am not ashamed of stretching my ears the other day to listen in on another table's lunchtime conversation at Devon's Torry Island Bistro. You see, what snagged my attention was something about getting students to grasp the idea that academics must not suffer at the expense of athletic achievement.

On that note, there is an organization called Take Stock in Children that helps low-income Glades students obtain four-year full-tuition college scholarships or two-year technical school scholarships if they maintain good grades, stay out of trouble and away from drugs and alcohol, and meet weekly with adult volunteer mentors.

This year, 18 seventh-grade Glades students with desire, motivation and potential have signed contracts agreeing to the terms which will set them on the path to earning scholarships.

Florida Crystals Corp. will sponsor seven students and the GEO Group will sponsor three. The program also receives support from the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties.

"This year's gifts are further examples of the long-standing partnerships Florida Crystals and GEO Group have with Take Stock in Children," Rosanne Sanchez, executive director, said in a prepared statement. "We are grateful not only for these resources, which will impact our work, but also for the enthusiasm these associates display through volunteering as mentors and leaders in our program.

"Along with their support, we are working diligently to recruit local mentors from Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay, which will be essential to our program's continued expansion in the region."

Please note Sanchez's emphasis on the need for volunteer mentors.

In addition to the scholarships and mentoring, Take Stock in Children helps students at or near the poverty level to succeed by providing advocates and case managers, tutoring and early intervention.

How often do we bemoan the condition of our young people?

Would you like to do something about it? Call Sanchez at (561) 582-3765 or visit www.takestockinchildren.org.