Take Stock Tribune

Take Stock in Children <nstellway+takestockpalmbeach.org@ccsend.com>

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To: Updates <updates@gladesinitiative.org>

Banner Newsletter.png

Dear Community Partners,

Growing up in a small town in Vermont, my parents were immensely involved in the community. They never missed a baseball game, teacher appreciation days, or volunteering at school functions. As you grow older, you learn to appreciate those little moments that were actually big moments in molding you as a person. Earlier this year, I decided it was my turn to start giving back and helping those less fortunate. I came across Take Stock in Children, and as soon as I walked into the office to meet with Lidia and Nancy, I knew this was where I was supposed to be.

I am grateful for this opportunity because this organization is the definition of "teamwork makes the dream work." As the new Corporate Development Manager, my focus is to bring awareness and build relationships within the community because your support is of great value. My goal is to expand partnerships with the goal of sending more students to college.

Together we can help give our underserved youth a chance at a brighter future.

Best regards, **Kat Macksey**Corporate Development Manager

Program News

During the month of October, the Take Stock Johnson Scholars program hosted college tours where students visited the University of South Florida and Florida Polytechnic University. Students can visit Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, and the University of Central Florida in November. Our college tours are meticulously organized specifically for our students and provide opportunities for students to get a feel for college life.

Our Alumni Ambassador, Vanessa, has been working diligently to connect with Take Stock Palm Beach alumni and offering student support through one-on-one meetings. Vanessa serves as an additional layer of support for our students who are navigating college and is readily available to alumni via text message. Additionally, Vanessa provides other resources to alumni about additional scholarships, community resources, and deadline reminders for upcoming events.

Mentor News

In October, we held our 2nd Annual College Readiness Coach Q&A Panel for mentors, which showcased program requirements related to college readiness. Mentors interacted with our College Readiness Panel, comprised of our College Readiness Coaches and additional program staff. Mentors learned about college readiness meetings that are held monthly with students, as well as available resources provided to students, and were able to engage in an interactive discussion about college and career readiness. Mentors can access the Q&A on the Mentor HUB.

If you are interested in mentoring or are involved in an organization or business that is interested in hosting a recruitment event, please reach out to Kimberly at <u>KBriard@takestockpalmbeach.org</u>.

Mentors, don't forget to check the Mentor HUB for regular updates and info!

Click Here to Access the Mentor HUB

Alumni Spotlight

I met Neiry nearly six years ago at the orientation for TSIC; she was there with her mom. I told them right from the beginning that I planned to mentor Neiry all four years of high school unless something took me away from mentoring; they both looked at me and smiled. Neiry was very shy, but we built an incredible relationship and understanding of each other over time. We both looked forward to seeing each other every week during the school year, and over the summer, we kept in touch via text. Neiry had a few challenges during her four years of high school, but she found her way with the help and guidance of TSIC. We talked about ways to overcome what she was facing. We talked about goal setting and communication. By "we," I mean me and the team at Take Stock - we were all involved in Neiry's success - it takes a village!

One day we met up during her senior year, and she looked nervous. I asked her what was going on. She said, "I have been talking to an Army recruiter and I think I am going to join the Army" - I was in shock, but I remained supportive throughout our conversation. For years we discussed her getting a college degree in engineering, so I was taken aback when she said she wanted to join the Army. Next, she needed to tell her parents. We discussed it and found ways to communicate this to them. After the conversation with her mom and dad, her mom called me, and we talked it through. They both asked me to come to the recruiting office with them to meet with the recruiter, and I did. It was an honor to be asked to go with them and ask questions on their behalf to make sure Neiry was making the right decision.

We still message pretty frequently, and I am so proud of her. She has been in the Army for two years, is currently enrolled in college classes, and is getting ready to be deployed to Poland for a period of time.

Mentoring with Take Stock in Children has been one of the greatest highlights of my life in volunteering, and I feel so fortunate to be a part of such an incredible organization.

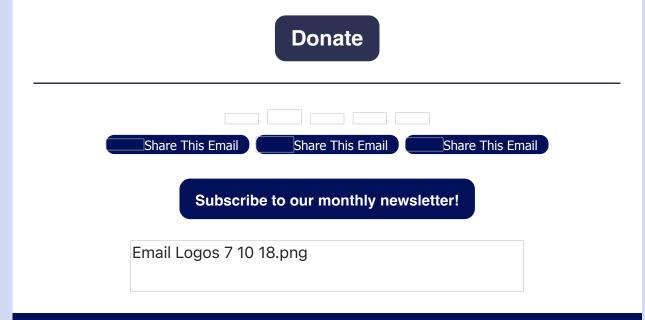
Danielle Basinski
Take Stock in Children Mentor

Enter for a Chance to Win

Ways to Support

We appreciate your time and interest in our organization. Take Stock in Children's program model is rated "best in class" by the Florida Legislature with 98% of our students graduating high school and 74% obtaining a post-secondary credential (compared to only 27% of their peer group). For low-income and minority students, education is the key to success and upward mobility. Take Stock in Children is the single-largest nonprofit purchaser of Florida Prepaid College Foundation Scholarships with assets totaling more than \$250M, and over \$19M awarded to Palm Beach County students. Our scholarship plans are purchased at half-price and matched \$ for \$ through our partnership with the Florida Prepaid Foundation, enabling us to serve twice as many students.

Join us, "take stock in a child today," and help us ensure that all students, no matter their background, have equitable access to quality education.



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