Joining The Team...

After dedicating twenty years to educating children in the community, through the arts, Beth Duda, bethduda10@gmail.com, is embarking on a new journey and joining the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading as a consultant for The Patterson Foundation. Using her experience as a mentor, performer, director and teacher, Beth will help the community make a positive difference in the lives of children.

As the lead consultant with The Patterson Foundation, Beth will guide TPF’s team of consultants who are working on the campaign by promoting community connectivity, providing coalition support and facilitating expert knowledge sharing opportunities.

To learn more about Beth’s passion for this initiative in her own words, read her blog by clicking here.

Moving The Needle

Pierrette Kelly & Dr. Sheila Halpin have joined the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR) in Manatee County.

Pierrette Kelly, who is working part-time as a committed volunteer Community Engagement Executive for the Campaign in Manatee County, will work with all segments of the community to achieve the goals set throughout the campaign by the community.

Dr. Sheila Halpin, Manatee County Public Schools Engagement Executive, has been hired by the School District of Manatee County to work with the 15 Title 1 elementary schools (and surrounding neighborhoods). Dr. Halpin is working out of the United Way of Manatee County offices in both the District and United Way) and will serve as the liaison between the school district and the community as both work together to improve children's reading skills.

To contact Pierrette Kelly or Dr. Sheila Halpin, or for general questions or comments regarding the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading in Manatee County, send an email to glrmanatee@uwmc.net.

Learning & Sharing

The Patterson Foundation recently presented a session at the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading’s Funder-to-Funder Huddle in San Francisco (a gathering of philanthropy leaders supporting the campaign) titled Creating Connective Tissue through Strategic Communications.

The message focused on how Grade-Level Reading coalitions and funders can accelerate the pace of progress using strategic communications to build “connective tissue” among internal audiences (CEO, staff, board, volunteers, donors and beneficiaries) and external audiences (citizens, nonprofits, government, media and business). As the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation discovered, PBS and other media partners are important allies in building public support and growing cross-sector engagement within communities and statewide.

Read the workshop overview and full workshop summary. Read a blog about the session by Debra Jacobs, President and CEO of The Patterson Foundation.

Did You Know?

A child's vocabulary as early as age 3 can predict 3rd grade reading achievement.

61% of low-income children have no children's books at home.

Poor children hear as many as 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers.

By age 5, a typical middle-class child recognized 22 letters of the alphabet, compared to 9 for a child from a low-income family.

"When our community cares about all children, it becomes stronger and better able to take on the challenges of our future."

~ Beth Duda

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For questions, please contact SchoLea: scholea@uwmc.net

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