



NEWS RELEASE

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Parady Student Learning Lounge offers life skills to Take Stock in Children students

THE VILLAGES – Creating and managing a budget, preparing for a job interview and overcoming adversity are common life skills that just about everyone needs at some point.

But how do you master these situations when they're not taught in the classroom or at home?

Students in the Take Stock in Children (TSIC) of Lake and Sumter program have been coached on those soft skills as well as how to manage stress and how to choose a college major at the Parady Student Learning Lounge, funded by Parady Financial Group.



On Wednesday, April 14, TSIC students participated in the workshop, “Five Money Lessons for High School Students.”

The student program is an offshoot of the Parady Learning Lounge which The Villages-based financial services company offers to clients to teach strategies for retirement.

“My husband Gregg and I started a non-profit in Pittsburgh in 2003, which operates today, to help families of students with disabilities as our son was a special needs student. Our journey led us to Florida and we wanted to continue to help students. We realized that there were soft skills that were not often being taught in the public schools,” said Christine Baldwin, a resident of the Village of Hillsborough.

Hillary Grandbois, Chief Operating Officer at Parady Financial group, (lower right) shared money tips with Take Stock in Children of Lake and Sumter students during a video webinar. TSIC College Success Coach Connie Kolisnyk (upper right) hosted the webinar which was the brainchild of Villages residents Gregg and Christine Baldwin (lower left).

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“Equal Opportunity in Education and Employment”

“We developed a program and pitched it to Greg Parady. We were clients of his and appreciated his philanthropy toward helping students. He became a great partner with us! We reached out to TSIC who loved the idea.”

The initial Parady Student Learning Lounge was held in January 2018 and the curriculum focused on dining etiquette. TSIC students have been invited to formal dinners every few months, each with a different topic such as which utensils to use at a formal dinner and other tableside lessons. Due to the pandemic, the Parady Student Learning Lounge sessions have been held virtually for the current school year.

“The Parady Student Learning Lounge goes to the heart of our mission at Parady Financial Group,” said Greg Parady. “We have a legacy of offering education-driven information to our clients. We were thrilled to partner with Chris and Gregg Baldwin and Take Stock in Children to give students important skills that will prepare them for life after high school.”

“We are grateful to Parady Financial Group and the Baldwins for offering this innovative and fun program to our TSIC students,” said Carman Cullen-Batt, Executive Director of the TSIC program in Lake and Sumter counties. “This opportunity empowers our students by exposing them to social skills and core values which will ultimately help them navigate the real world to become productive assets to society.”

About Take Stock in Children of Lake & Sumter Counties

Take Stock in Children of Lake & Sumter Counties’ mission is to break the cycle of poverty for low-income, academically qualified students by providing opportunities for a post-secondary education. We offer college scholarships to students, provide caring volunteer mentors, and instill hope for a better life. Our comprehensive services begin in high school, continue through high school, and include students’ transition into college and career. To learn more about becoming a mentor, sponsor or to join our community Advisory Council, please visit EdFoundationLake.com/TSICLakeSumter

About the Education Foundation of Lake County

Established in 1987, Education Foundation of Lake County is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and designated direct support organization for Lake County Schools. Our mission is to serve as the connection between our community and public education, evaluating needs and securing resources to enhance the quality of education. The Education Foundation of Lake County operates for the benefit of students and teachers in Lake County Public Schools.

Education Foundation of Lake County is ranked among the Top 50 Education Foundations in the United States by the Caruthers Institute. For more info, please visit EdFoundationLake.com.

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