



Happenings

BENTLEY VILLAGE FOUNDATION

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We gratefully thank participants, sponsors, and supporters of our 7th annual 2023 Dollars for Scholars event. The generosity exhibited by Bentley Village residents was truly heartening. Your extraordinary giving spirit surpasses the levels we've observed in communities across the globe.

Since its inception in 2016, the Bentley Village Foundation has awarded 99 "Bentley Wings" competitive scholarships with total awards over \$750,000. Some award recipients are the first in their families to attend college, and some were enabled to pursue advanced education that otherwise would not have been possible.

Dollars for Scholars, one of the annual Foundation fundraising events, featured a golf tournament, a raffle, an awards banquet, an online auction, and a silent auction for the golfers at the awards banquet.

Thanks to dedicated volunteers and Trustees who have worked tirelessly over the years, the Foundation continues to thrive and provide scholarships to Vi at Bentley Village employees and their dependents giving them the boost needed to better their lives.

On behalf of all, we thank you.
Rich & Nancy Nortz, Co-Chairs - 2023



2023 DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS REVENUES TOTAL - \$149,429



Dollars for Scholars sets a New Record! Thanks to our residents for their wonderful support of the Dollars for Scholars Fundraising Event, we raised almost \$150,000. Still limited to only 15 holes, creative planning and organization by the Committee and Golf Pro, Stan Geer, scored a real win again by having two golf scrambles played with both morning and afternoon golfers.

Thanks to the hole sponsor team, hole sponsorships increased by 20% this year. Our industrious auction team solicited great auction items raising almost \$13,000, up by 27%.

Over 2,000 raffle tickets were sold, and many residents decided to donate in lieu of buying raffle tickets.

THANK YOU from the “Bentley Wings” Competitive Scholarship Committee



Thank you for participating in the “Dollars for Scholars” event. Whether you engaged in golf, sponsored the event, supported a hole, participated in the raffle or silent auctions, your continued contributions to the scholarship fund have been crucial in shaping a brighter future for our scholars.

This year, the Foundation awarded a record 14 scholarships to deserving students. These scholarships open doors that many awardees never thought possible. Your support helps to turn their dreams into reality. Many of our scholars come from families who have immigrated to the US for a better life. Some did not speak English when they reached our shores. Some came from among the poorest communities in the world.

Your support is instrumental in continuing the “Bentley Wings” Scholarship program. You have funded the \$84,000 needed for this year’s new scholars plus the money to meet our obligations to previous scholarship awardees. Since the scholarships are renewable, we have 31 active scholars from scholarships awarded from 2017-2023 producing a future financial obligation of approximately \$650,000.

34 OF OUR “BENTLEY WINGS” SCHOLARS HAVE GRADUATED

Bentley Village Foundation awarded its first scholarships in 2016 and has awarded a total of 99 scholarships. Scholarships are available to any member of the Vi at Bentley Village workforce and/or their dependents and may be used for any accredited institution offering advanced education and/or vocational training.

Highlighting Elene Pierre 2023 Scholarship Awardee

Elene Pierre, daughter of Ann Pierre, Culinary Services, thanks all those who made her “Bentley Wings” Competitive Scholarship possible. She says, “Your help with my education has put me on a path that will lead me to academic success. I began to get discouraged because I thought, that although I worked hard in school, I did not receive any scholarships. But you took a chance on me and granted me a scholarship. Your actions have reminded me to continue to have Hope and my efforts will be rewarded. You have given me the motivation that I need to excel in school in these upcoming years. I will forever be grateful for what you have done. I may not know you on a personal level but I wanted to say that I will make you proud. Thank you and God bless you.”

Elene is the youngest of four children. Her parents moved to Immokalee from Haiti to create a better life for their family. As the youngest, she was born in the US. Her father passed away ten years ago, leaving her mother to raise her children as a single parent. Since her family is from Haiti, Elene is fluent in English and Creole and speaks some French.

Elene believes that her medical training will provide her the tools to better understand very young patients who cannot communicate their symptoms — critical skills for any neonatal nurse. Plus, she cites trust, patience, compassion, kindness, and honesty as essential to success in the medical field.

Elene is a freshman at Florida Gulf Coast University. Her goal is to be a neonatal nurse to be able to restore the health of ill babies. She also hopes to extend the limited medical care provided in her home town including the care of newborns.

To see the stories of other scholars, point your phone’s camera on the QR code and tap the banner that appears.



THANK YOU 2023 Dollars for Scholars Committee



Front row: Bill Bretz, Nancy Nortz, Rich Nortz, Kathy Smith, Sue Leonard Back Row: Natalie Knecht, Dolly Howard, Cyndy Carlson, Judy Lynch, Judy Halpin, Karen Rosenstein Missing from picture: Jenelle Maddox (Food and Beverage), Stan Geer (Golf Pro)

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Dolly Howard, chair

Online Silent Auction

Sue Leonard, Kathy Smith

Silent Auction

Judy Halpin, Chair

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Raffle

Karen Rosenstein

Registration

Karen Rosenstein, Stan Geer,
Judy Lynch

Putting Contest

Natalie Knecht, chair
Kass Mattimore, Carole Rambo

Photography

Rich Nortz

TRIBUTE TO FRANK FLOOD



The Bentley Village Foundation lost a valuable trustee on November 14. It was not just his generous financial support, Frank was a warm and caring person, giving his time and talents to those in the Bentley Village community who needed it. As a volunteer in the English as a Second Language program, Frank not only helped people improve their English skills, he provided information and support to improve their lives. A co-chair of Bentley Village Foundation's Scholarship Committee, he cared deeply about the young people who would benefit from the scholarships.

Frank's commitment to the community included support, enthusiasm, and leadership for the Bentley Singles Community and Bocce Ball events and participation in the Men's Golf Club.

It was always a pleasure to be with Frank. Many of us lost a great friend and he will truly be missed throughout the Bentley Village community.

THANK YOU!

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With the support of our volunteers and the dedication of our trustees, the Foundation has received Charity Navigator's top rating of four stars every year since its formation. You can be certain your donation is being used productively.

* Residents