



# FOUNDATION NEWS

THE DEBARTOLO FAMILY FOUNDATION | FEBRUARY 2025

## 2024 WAS A YEAR OF GRATITUDE AND IMPACT



As we reflect on the past year, our hearts are filled with immense gratitude and pride for the difference we've made together. At the DeBartolo Family Foundation, our mission has always been to create brighter futures—whether through supporting education, fostering community initiatives, or lending a hand to those in need. None of this would be possible without your generosity and belief in this shared mission.

In 2024, we had the privilege of partnering with extraordinary nonprofits, schools, and individuals like you. Together, we've provided educational resources, celebrated local heroes, and strengthened our

community through countless acts of kindness. Your compassion and dedication have left an indelible mark, and we are endlessly grateful for your role in this journey.

Every achievement this year was made possible by your unwavering support. Whether through gifts, volunteer hours, or words of encouragement, you have helped us bring hope and opportunity to so many. Your commitment to making the world a better place is truly inspiring, and we cannot thank you enough for being an essential part of this work.

As we look forward to 2025, we are filled with excitement and anticipation for all that lies ahead. There are opportunities for us to do more, and together, we will lift each other up, and make a lasting difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Thank you for being an integral part of the DeBartolo Family Foundation family. Your kindness and generosity are the driving forces behind everything we do, and we are honored to have you by our side.

With our warmest wishes and deepest gratitude,

Chief Executive Officer,  
DeBartolo Family Foundation

Executive Vice President,  
DeBartolo Holdings, LLC

# EDUCATION INITIATIVES



## Adopt-A-School Program

**We Partnered with Pierce Middle School to Support Our Local Youth.**

Through our Adopt-A-School program, we proudly partnered with Pierce Middle School for the 2024-2025 school year. Our initiatives included providing teacher grants, holiday gifts for staff and students, funding field trips and experiences for students. These efforts helped support the school community, ensuring that students have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential. We will continue partnering with Pierce Middle School for the remainder of the school year.

## Teacher Back-To-School Grants

**In 2024, the DeBartolo Family Foundation recognized the challenges teachers face in providing quality education with limited resources.** Understanding that many educators often use their own funds to provide essential school supplies and instructional materials, we partnered with local schools and teachers to offer grants that helped lighten their out-of-pocket expenses. By offering this support, we aimed to make a lasting impact on the school system and create a more enriching environment for the youth of our community. Through these grants, we were able to invest in our teachers and, in turn, empower students to succeed.



## Valedictorian Scholarships

**Viannee J. Rosa-Arroyo Honored as Valedictorian of Brooks-DeBartolo Collegiate High School.**

We proudly awarded the DeBartolo Family Foundation Valedictorian College Scholarship to Viannee J. Rosa-Arroyo, the valedictorian of Brooks-DeBartolo Collegiate High School. Viannee graduated with an outstanding 9.5 GPA, earned her AA degree from Hillsborough Community College, and was actively involved in numerous honor societies and extracurriculars. She is attending the University of Florida where she is majoring in Computer Science. We look forward to watching her continued success in the years ahead!

# EDUCATION INITIATIVES

## DeBartolo Family Foundation Scholarships

In 2024, the DeBartolo Family Foundation had the honor of awarding scholarships to a remarkable group of young leaders who are poised to make a difference in their communities and beyond. These outstanding students, representing high schools across the Tampa Bay area, exemplify dedication, perseverance, and excellence. With each scholarship, we aim to alleviate the financial burden of higher education, allowing these bright minds to focus on achieving their dreams.

### WE ARE PROUD TO RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING RECIPIENTS OF THE CLASS OF 2024 SCHOLARSHIPS:

**Nana Yaa Agyei Baah**, Alonso High School

**Julian Barakat**, Wiregrass Ranch High School

**Roniya Blackett**, Jule F. Sumner High School

**Kaylienne Brandis**, Dunedin High School

**Elianne Brito**, Plant High School

**Corinne Burruss**, Brooks DeBartolo Collegiate High School

**Aelxys Carley**, Land O' Lakes High School

**Kyla Carter**, Jule F. Sumner High School

**Keisha Coote**, Brandon High School

**Leah Demezier**, Strawberry Crest High School

**Shawn Dowe**, East Bay High School

**Destinee Francis**, East Bay High School

**Keith Fridenberger**, East Bay High School

**Brittany Gadzinski**, Bloomingdale High School

**Anai Hernandez**, Durant High School

**Elisa Huff**, Homeschool

**Carter Klakring**, Brooks DeBartolo Collegiate High School

**Gabriel Kurtz**, Robinson High School

**Oscar Lopez**, Fort Meade High School

**Neveah McCoy**, East Bay High School

**Angelia Muniz**, Jule F. Sumner High School

**Camilo Nanfa**, Plant High School

**Trunk Nguyen**, Wesley Chapel High School

**Jayda Parrish**, Auburndale Senior High School

**Akira Penix**, Pasco High School

**Alejandro Reinoso**, Harrison School for the Arts

**Yoly Rodriguez**, Polk Virtual High School

**Omaris Ruiz Rivera**, East Bay High School

**Aisha Shaffer**, Brooks DeBartolo Collegiate High School

**Derrick Thomas Jr.**, Brooks DeBartolo Collegiate High School

**Jared Trask**, Brooks DeBartolo Collegiate High School

**Kamila Valdes**, Thomas Jefferson High School

**Damaris Valentin**, Jefferson High School

**Deyeris Vega Rosario**, Plant High School

**Ryley Waller**, Steinbrenner High School

**Dariana Watson**, Blake High School

**Chanel Williams**, Lakewood High School

**Savannah Young**, Armwood High School

# SPIRIT OF HUMANITY (SOH) AWARDS



## DeBartolo Family Foundation Honors A Kid's Place with Spirit of Humanity Award

This past spring, we had the honor of presenting A Kid's Place of Tampa Bay with the Spirit of Humanity Award, along with a \$25,000 donation. A Kid's Place provides a safe and nurturing environment for foster children, meeting their daily needs while giving them opportunities to experience joy and normalcy. Our donation supported activities like trips to local museums, zoo visits, and the replacement of a much-needed vehicle to transport children to school and appointments.

Samantha Mellen, Development Director at A Kid's Place, shared, "We are grateful for the DeBartolo Family Foundation's support, which will help us create lasting memories and experiences for the children we serve."



## Spirit of Humanity Award Presented to Frameworks of Tampa Bay

Over the summer, we were thrilled to present Frameworks of Tampa Bay with a \$25,000 Spirit of Humanity Award. Frameworks, founded in 2019, focuses on providing social and emotional learning (SEL) programs to children and teens in the Tampa Bay area. Their work equips youth with the tools to manage emotions, build positive relationships, and make responsible decisions—helping them thrive both academically and personally.

Elizabeth A. Reedy, CEO of Frameworks, expressed, "We are honored to receive the Spirit of Humanity Award from the DeBartolo Family Foundation. This generous gift strengthens our collective impact and allows us to continue making a positive difference in our community."



## Empowering Women: Celebrating Hillsborough House of Hope's Spirit of Humanity Award

In December, the DeBartolo Family Foundation was delighted to recognize Hillsborough House of Hope as the recipient of the Spirit of Humanity Award. This incredible organization is dedicated to empowering women in transition, providing shelter, support, and life skills to women overcoming incarceration, substance abuse, and domestic violence. The \$25,000 donation will support their ongoing mission.

Michele Plosker, President of the Hillsborough House of Hope Board of Directors, shared, "The impact this Award will have on us is truly a blessing. We will be able to further provide the women we serve life skills that they need to transition back into society, become productive citizens, and reunite with their children and families."

# HOLIDAY JOY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## Bringing Holiday Cheer to Our Community

The holiday season is a special time for the DeBartolo Family Foundation to support those in need and spread joy throughout our community.

One of the highlights this year was the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Christmas Luncheon, where we had the privilege of supporting 15 families and 55 children from the Family Enrichment Center's Kinship Care Program. The goal of the Kinship Care program at FEC is to provide support by helping kinship caregivers access services, expand family support systems, reduce stress and promote family stability.



IN ADDITION TO THE LUNCHEON, THE FOUNDATION WAS THRILLED TO PARTICIPATE IN SEVERAL OTHER HOLIDAY GIVING INITIATIVES:

**Madi's Movement – Making Magic Holiday Celebration**

**Create for Kids – Christmas gifts for children battling cancer**

**No More Foundation – Gathering Joy event**

**Jones Family Foundation – 7th Annual Christmas Celebration for the Boys & Girls Club**

**Brandon Success Center – Gift cards for families in need**

**Pierce Middle School – Gifts for students in need, and gift cards for teachers and staff**

**Brooks DeBartolo Collegiate High School – Gift cards for teachers and staff**



Through these efforts, we aimed to make the season brighter for children, families, and educators across our community. Each donation and event served as a reminder of the power of compassion and generosity, especially during the holidays.

This year, we partnered with and supported over 150 organizations, including:

- Brandon Success Center
- Children's Cancer Center
- Children's Dream Fund
- Cove Behavioral Health
- Crisis Center of Tampa Bay
- EPIC Empath Partners in Care
- Equality Florida Institute
- Feeding Tampa Bay
- Frankie's Friends
- Hopecam
- Kids and Canines
- Live Like Bella Foundation
- OnBikes
- Operation Code Vet
- Redefiners World Languages
- St. Joseph's Children's Hospital Foundation
- Starting Right, Now
- Voices for Children
- Wheelchairs 4 Kids



Fairmount Park Elementary's 5000 Role Model Program of Excellence

Celebrate Birthdays Tampa Bay



Your generosity allows us to expand our reach and impact more lives each year. Thank you for being part of our journey.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Help us offer hope and a helping hand to those who need it most. Visit our website to make a donation to the DeBartolo Family Foundation.

[DeBartoloFamilyFoundation.org](http://DeBartoloFamilyFoundation.org)

