



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SCHOLARSHIPS. MENTORS. HOPE.

  @takestockpbc   @collegeforkidsfl

Dear Take Stock in Children Palm Beach County Family,

Welcome to the October edition of the Take Stock Tribune! Last month was a milestone month for Take Stock Palm Beach as we officially welcomed 46 new students into our program during Student Orientation at Forest Hill Community High School. Each student received their Take Stock certificate, marking the beginning of a transformative journey toward higher education and lifelong success.

Looking ahead, October brings new opportunities for connection and inspiration. From our Mentor & Mentee outing at PopStroke in West Palm Beach to our college tours across the state, this month will be filled with moments that help our students dream big and plan for the future. We're also thrilled to announce the launch of our College for Kids initiative. This innovative program builds on the Take Stock Palm Beach framework by introducing hands-on, trade-aligned learning that fuels college readiness while opening doors to high-demand careers.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Take Stock Palm Beach family. Stay tuned for more updates by following our emails, newsletter and social media pages. Wishing you all a great month.

Warmly,

The Take Stock Palm Beach Team



PROGRAM NEWS

Student Orientation



We recently welcomed 46 new students at our student orientation held at Forest Hill Community High School. The event brought together students, families, and our program team for an inspiring introduction to the Take Stock Palm Beach experience.

Each member of our program team led presentations covering key pillars of student success: how mentorship works, the importance of college readiness, and strategies for maintaining strong grades and staying on track in the program. Students gained practical guidance, information on when they meet their mentors, and learned about the support systems in place to help them thrive academically and personally.

This orientation marked the beginning of an exciting journey for our new scholars, setting the stage for success in high school and beyond while strengthening the community of learners, families, and mentors committed to their growth.

MENTOR NEWS

From Mentee to Mentor — A Full Circle of Impact



This month our Mentor Spotlight is one of our very own, from mentee to mentor, meet Rodney Bryant Bien-Aime! Rodney's story is a powerful testament to the ripple effect of mentorship. Once a Take Stock Palm Beach student, Rodney now serves as a mentor, driven by a deep desire to “freely give back what has been freely given.” His own mentor's unwavering presence left a lifelong imprint — not just fulfilling an obligation, but truly caring for Rodney's success.

Meeting his mentees for the first time was a surreal, full-circle moment. “I see myself in the boys in many ways,” Rodney shares. His goal is simple yet profound: to ensure every student he encounters

feels valued, appreciated, and poured into — especially in a world that often feels like it only takes.

Rodney encourages others to step into mentorship with heart and intention. “The impact a mentor can have is lifelong,” he says. “More youth are seeking guidance than we realize — even if they don’t always know how to ask.”

We’re honored to celebrate Rodney’s journey and the legacy he’s building through compassion, connection, and purpose.

ALUMNI NEWS

Introducing Alumni Ambassadors



Brandy Warthen, PBSC



Abileny Garcia, FAU

We’re excited to introduce our Alumni Ambassadors at PBSC and FAU! These dedicated graduates are here to share their college experiences, offer guidance, and support our students as they navigate their own academic journeys. Connect with them to learn more about campus life, resources, and what it takes to succeed as a college student. Here are some personal messages from Abileny Garcia Gonzalez and Brandy Warthen:

“My name is Brandy J. Warthen, and I am honored to serve as one of your new Alumni Ambassadors for the 2025–2026 school year. I am currently pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration at Palm Beach State College. I enjoy traveling, creating memorable moments with friends and family, exploring fashion, and contributing my time and service to the community. I have been a part of the Take Stock Palm Beach program since 2013, and I continue to encourage and inspire others to join this wonderful organization. It is a privilege to serve as your Alumni Ambassador, and together, let’s continue to inspire the next generation of today’s leaders.”

“My name is Abileny Gonzalez Garcia and I’m proud to serve as a TSIC Alumni Ambassador at FAU, where I am majoring in Medical Biology. My dream is to become a trauma surgeon in the United States Air Force, combining my passion for medicine with my commitment to service. Take Stock Palm Beach has been an important part of my journey, giving me the guidance and support to pursue opportunities I once only imagined. As an ambassador, I hope to inspire other students to believe in themselves, embrace their roots, and work hard toward their goals, no matter the obstacles.”

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Introducing the College For Kids Initiative: A Trade-Focused Path to College Readiness



We are excited to share the College for Kids initiative, a new program built on the Take Stock in Children framework, which fuels college readiness through hands-on, trade-aligned learning. College for Kids empowers students to discover their talents and interests, explore pathways to higher education and skilled trades, and build essential skills and credentials. It's designed to be practical, inclusive, and outcomes-driven, directly tying classroom experiences to real-world opportunities in high-demand fields.

The initiative directly aligns with Take Stock in Children's mission to empower youth, foster academic success, and create pathways to educational opportunities by building an ecosystem that reinforces college readiness and trade-focused success through shared responsibility and community pride.

How College for Kids works and aligns with Take Stock Palm Beach

- Taking stock of talents, interests, and trade-readiness
 - Students complete industry-aligned inventories and career explorations focused on skilled trades (e.g., construction, automotive, information tech, fabrication).
 - Mentors guide portfolio development that highlights hands-on competencies, certifications pursued, and project reflections.
 - Alignment with Take Stock Palm Beach: Establishes a clear starting point for each student, mapping interests to trade-focused pathways and college options.
- Seeing opportunities and pathways
 - Exposure to trade schools, apprenticeship programs, and college-to-career pipelines; campus tours and online visits emphasize vocational and transfer options.
 - Partnerships with local trade unions, community colleges, and industry employers provide firsthand insights and project opportunities.
 - Alignment with Take Stock Palm Beach: Expands awareness of viable postsecondary routes, emphasizing affordable, hands-on pathways into skilled professions.
- Increasing skills and credentials
 - Project-based learning tied to industry standards; portable credentials, hands-on certificates, and workplace-ready soft skills (time management, teamwork, safety).
 - Nurtures mentorship, peer support, and leadership within the program; students share learnings through brief presentations and showcases via our Future Ready Mentoring Series.
 - Alignment with Take Stock Palm Beach: Builds tangible competencies that translate to college coursework or entry into apprenticeships, with documented outcomes.

[Visit our Website](#)

Legend of of the Month



At Take Stock Palm Beach, we're excited to launch our new Legend of the Month recognition! Each month, we celebrate a team member who goes above and beyond in their role, and this month, the honor goes to JJ, our Financial and Office Administrator.

JJ is the heart of our office—caring, passionate, and endlessly hardworking. She brightens every room she enters and is always ready to lend a hand or a listening ear. Whether it's tackling a complex issue or keeping everything running smoothly behind the scenes, JJ does it all with efficiency, honesty, and pride in her role. She truly embodies the spirit of Take Stock Palm Beach, and we're thrilled to recognize her as our very first Legend of the Month!

JJ gets to keep the office flamingo for the month and will have the honor of choosing the next Legend of the Month for November. Congratulations, JJ—you've earned it!

7th Annual Bridge the Gap 5K



Mark your calendars! The 7th Annual Bridge the Gap 5K presented by Florida Crystals will take place on Saturday, February 28, 2026, in Riviera Beach at the Ocean Walk Mall on Singer Island. This scenic race takes runners and walkers over the iconic Blue Heron Bridge, offering breathtaking water views along the way.

Participants will enjoy a lively morning of fitness and community, with fun vendor booths, music, pre-race coffee, bananas and bagels as well as a post-race breakfast all provided by Castaways Bar & Grill. Whether you're racing to beat your best time, walking with friends, or cheering from the sidelines, this event is the perfect way to come together and support Take Stock Palm

Beach.

Proceeds from the race will help provide life-changing college scholarships, volunteer mentors, and college readiness programs for local students. Join us for an unforgettable morning by the water—while making a lasting difference in the lives of our future leaders.

[Register Here!](#)

DREAM INVESTORS

BallenIsles Charities Foundation



This month we celebrate our partnership with BallenIsles Charities Foundation. Thanks to the generosity of the BallenIsles community, more than a hundred underserved students currently have the promise of a post-secondary education and a future with endless potential. Students like Melvin Watson, who graduated this past May from William T. Dwyer High School as our "Most Improved Student," and is now attending Palm Beach State College.

After the death of his mother, Melvin and his siblings moved in with their grandparents. He struggles with a stutter, which has been a challenge both socially and academically. But, with the support of his Take Stock mentor and College Readiness Coach, he faced adversity head-on and remained focused on his goals, showing tremendous growth and newfound confidence.

"I may have faced many challenges, but I always believed in my ability to grow and succeed," Melvin says. "With the help of my family and Take Stock Palm Beach, I am ready for this new chapter in my life."

Melvin's story is made possible by the generosity of donors like the BallenIsles Charities Foundation, which has been a valued partner in our mission since 2019.

WAYS TO SUPPORT



WE NEED MENTORS!

GUIDE, INSPIRE, EMPOWER: BECOME A MENTOR

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



You Commit to 1 School Year of School-Based Mentoring, 3x/p month either In Person or Virtual.



Be a Friend and Motivator. Help Guide Under-Resourced Students Toward Success.



As a Result, Your Mentee Receives a Guaranteed 2-Year College Scholarship!



Become a mentor with Take Stock in Children and make a lasting impact on the lives of underserved students in Palm Beach County. Just 1 hour a week can inspire and guide a young person towards a brighter future and provide them with the opportunity to pursue higher education.

No experience necessary. All backgrounds welcome.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?



www.TakeStockPalmBeach.org/Mentors

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

[Click Here to Access the Mentor HUB](#)

Help Sponsor a Student Today!



PLEASE HELP WAITLISTED STUDENTS

Meet Rashiya, an honor roll student with a heart full of determination and a smile that lights up a room. She spends her free time running track and helping her grandad mow the lawn, simple things that bring her joy and keep her grounded in a life that hasn't always been easy. Rashiya was adopted by her aunt, who selflessly took in her and six of her siblings to keep their family together. In a home filled with love but stretched by limited resources, Rashiya stands out as a quiet leader—always showing up, working hard, and pushing herself to achieve more.

With your support, she can build a strong foundation for success and become a leader in her community.

**CONSIDER A CORPORATE
MATCHING GIFT, HELP
SPONSOR RASHIYA TODAY.**

CONTACT US

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At Take Stock Palm Beach, we believe in the power of education to break the cycle of poverty. Right now, 15 promising students are eagerly waiting to join our program—but they need your help.

Our Waitlist Campaign highlights these students' inspiring stories and dreams. By sponsoring a student,

you'll not only provide them with educational opportunities but also help pave their way to a brighter future.

Each student requires funding to unlock their future. This provides vital program services, including mentorship and college readiness support.

Your generosity will change lives, ensuring these students receive the support and resources they need to succeed. Any contribution—big or small—moves us closer to our goal of transforming lives through education. Together, we can make a difference.

Click here to learn more and make your donation today:[Donate Here.](#)

Thank you for believing in the power of education and for being a part of our mission to create lasting change in our community.

P.S. Every dollar makes a difference. Let's work together to ensure no student is left waiting.

Click to Sponsor a Student

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 \$20M 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.

Donate



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