

Celebrating Criminal Justice Education

The next Criminal Justice Academy begins September 17

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Curious about the criminal justice system? Then this course is designed for you.

The Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission, in partnership with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, announces the latest session of the Citizens' Criminal Justice Academy.

Citizens' Criminal Justice Academy offers a unique, behind-the-scenes look at how Palm Beach County's criminal justice system works. From law enforcement and the court system to corrections and community programs, participants will engage directly with professionals in the field.

Participants will focus on a different topic each week. Classes include juvenile justice, traffic investigations, narcotics



ROSALIND MURRAY / COURTESY PHOTOS
Major Terry Moore catches up with students from Glades Central Community High School.



The class is introduced to therapy dogs from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

and cybercrime. There will be a taser demonstration, a tour of the jail and a visit by law enforcement dogs.

At the end of the program, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion recognizing their participation and commitment to understanding the criminal justice system.

The Academy special session will run from September 17, through December 17, meeting each Wednesday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., excluding the week of Thanksgiving.

All sessions will be held at PBSO Headquarters, 3228 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach. Dinner will be served each evening. Participants age 14 and older are welcome to attend.

For more information or to register, visit pbc.gov/criminaljustice or call 561-355-2332. ■

Heroes for Education

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Lace up for a good cause!

The Education Foundation of Palm Beach County invites the community to join the 11th Annual Heroes for Education 5K Run/Walk.

The event will unite runners, walkers, families, educators, and supporters to celebrate wellness while raising vital funds for the Foundation's programs, grants, and initiatives directly impacting students and teachers across Palm Beach County.

The festive morning promises fun for all ages, with races including the Kids 100-Yard Dash, Kids 1-Mile Fun Run, and the popular School Mascot Dash where mascots race to raise funds for their schools.

Attendees can also enjoy entertainment and refreshments in a family-friendly atmosphere.

"We are thrilled to bring together our



EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY / COURTESY PHOTOS

education heroes at the 11th Annual Heroes for Education 5K," says James Gavrilos, President and CEO of the Education Foundation. "The event is the perfect opportunity to get active and support our mission to enrich the



educational experience for students. We are deeply grateful to every participant, sponsor and volunteer whose dedication helps us race toward a brighter future for education."

Awards will be presented in categories, from the fastest runners to the largest participating school teams, along with the Heroes Awards that spotlight outstanding efforts.

The Annual Heroes for Education 5K Run/Walk will be held on October 5 at John Prince Park in Lake Worth.

Registration begins at 6 a.m., with races scheduled as follows:

- 7:15 a.m. – Kids 1-Mile Fun Run
- 7:45 a.m. – 5K Walk/Run
- 8:45 a.m. – Kids 100-Yard Dash
- 9:00 a.m. – School Mascot Dash
- 9:15 a.m. – Awards Ceremony

For more, visit runsignup.com/HeroesforEducationRunWalk. ■

Gifting Smiles, Spreading Hope

Generous gift will bring joy and dignity to children facing hardships

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The iTHINK Community Foundation, the philanthropic arm of iTHINK Financial, donates \$10,000 to Little Birthday Angels, a nonprofit organization dedicated to celebrating the birthdays of homeless children.

This generous contribution will support Little Birthday Angels' programs, like the "Birthday Bags of Hope" initiative, which provides homeless children with personalized birthday gifts along with essential items. Each birthday bag includes necessary items like toiletries, socks, a Bible and gifts.

"Every homeless child deserves to feel special on their day," says Stephen Johnson, AVP of Administration and Market-

ing at iTHINK Financial. "Our donation to Little Birthday Angels is a reflection of our ongoing commitment to support local children and families in need, ensuring that even those who may be facing hardships can experience joy and celebration on their special day."

The iTHINK Community Foundation, a non-profit organization, supports children and families in need through initiatives such as School Ready Days, scholarships, community events, and the Jingle Bells at the Branches holiday program. This partnership with Little Birthday Angels underscores the Foundation's commitment to improving the lives of children in the communities it serves. ■



IThINK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION / COURTESY PHOTO
Angel Pietsch, Christina Saltos, Jody Kisler and Stephen Johnson celebrate the iThink Community Foundation donation to Little Birthday Angels.

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