

Pitt charity donates \$1M to CCE expansion

Donation will support new Foundations School

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During his life, Pauline Pitt's husband Bill was a philanthropist with a particular interest in education. As president and CEO of the William Pitt Foundation, Pauline Pitt is responsible for carrying out his philanthropic wishes.

The Center for Creative Education was wishing to expand its reach to underserved children with its new Foundations School.

The CCE needed money. The foundation needed to give money away.

It was a perfect storm of philanthropy.

To that end, the William H. Pitt Foundation has gifted \$1 million to the CCE to support capital construction, programming expansion and scholarship at its Foundations School.

Foundations offers classes from kindergarten to fifth grade and aims transform both teaching and learning through creativity and the arts.

"FCCE's hands-on approach provides support to the most vulnerable students across the county," Pitt said.

"Our board saw an opportunity to help change our county's reading statistics by supporting CCE's unique approach — an arts-based curriculum to combat the education crisis. We love what they are doing, and their results are undeniable."

In gratitude for the gift, the 1,300-square-foot entry solarium at The Foundations School will be named after The William H. Pitt Foundation.

"We started the Foundations School in January 2021, intending to combat

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Pauline Pitt stands behind Jackie Breckenridge, second from left, Kate Gubelmann, second from right, and children Pelham, from left, Esmeralda, Namiko and Kahlani. CAPEHART

Donation

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the literacy crisis plaguing our communities and using an arts-based curriculum to teach academic subjects,” said Robert L. Hamon, president and CEO of CCE. “This generous gift from the William H. Pitt Foundation enables us to change lives right here in our community.”

Tuition and fees at the school are assessed on a sliding scale; families are asked to pay only what they can afford. Because 99% of students qualify for need-based scholarships, tuition accounts for a very small percentage of the school’s operating revenue.

The shortfall is made up by individ-

uals, state and local government, corporations, and foundations.

In August 2021, only 33% of third graders entering The Foundations School were reading at or above grade level. By the end of the school year, 67% of those students were reading at or above grade level.

CCE is now moving into Phase 2 of its \$20 million capital campaign to build out the new campus. They are about to break ground on the Susan and Dom Telesco Arts and Science Center, a 22,000-square-foot building that will house a theater, an art gallery, STEM labs, art studios and more. The space also will serve as a community resource.

For more information about CCE and to support The Foundations School and Phase 2 of CCE’s capital campaign, visit cceflorida.org.