



### A Word from the President

Greetings Rochelle Alumni, Association Members, and Friends!

So much has changed since our December 2019 Newsletter. Our major fundraiser and the surrounding events were all cancelled because of the restrictions and concerns brought on by COVID –19.

Most of the year, we have been meeting virtually by conference calls and as we did in the past, we have been passing information by word of mouth. In spite of it all and due to your loyal support, the state of the alumni is stronger than it has ever been! There is a saying, *“To know where your heart is, just look at where you put your money”*. There is proof that there is tremendous love for the **Washington Park High School/Hallowed Halls of Rochelle** because this year, even though we have faced a pandemic, our gross earnings to date are almost \$28,000 and are awarding \$28,000 in scholarships to 14 high school graduates.

During 2020, we took on some major projects with full support of alumni members and friends; and as we enjoy golden years, our Cubs (Gen-Xers and Millennials) are growing in number and stepping in to keep the legacy alive. Thank you for your continued and unwavering support of the Blue and White and the major role it has played in the history of the City of Lakeland.

Best Regards,  
Beverly Boatwright, President

### PROJECT WE CARE

While the COVID-19 pandemic cancelled all of our June events, cancelled physical meetings, and forced us into virtual ones, it aroused our humanitarian and protective senses. These senses manifested themselves in the creation and execution of *Project We Care*. This project consisted of the making of needed PPE equipment ---masks for distribution where needed.

With funds, we now needed shoppers, seamstresses, delivery people, and mailers. Stepping up to fulfill these tasks were:

Jacqueline Speed, who shopped for fabric and supplies and made deliveries to the seamstresses; and our fearless leader, Beverly Boatwright who took care of the packaging and mailings.

The masks were sewn by seamstresses **Eula Goodman, Kathy Dearth, and Jackie Suarez**. Others contributing to our supply of masks were **Thaddeus Speed, Jean Banner, Margaret Palmore, Rose Salary and Vanessa Kindle Horton**. Altogether, our ad hoc committee produced over 500 masks, enough to send:

200+ masks- to NY for citizens & businesses, 100 masks- to Moffitt Cancer Center  
and to RHS donors (c/o J. Conoly-Simmons)

200+ masks for Lakeland senior citizens, community & alumni members 75 masks- Polk Co. Homeless Coalition

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Gloria Coleman
- Veronica Rucker

# 2020 Scholarship Awardees

NAME	HIGH SCHOOL	GPA	COLLEGE MAJOR	COLLEGE ATTENDING
Kayla Sconiers	Harrison School of Arts	4.2	Music Performance	University of Rochester
Tre'Lyssa Bivins	Harrison School of the Arts	4.41	Nursing	University of South Florida
Emari Craft	Kathleen High School	4.39	Mass Communications	University of Central Florida
Shontel Dove	George Jenkins High School	4.25	Marketing	University of South Florida
Kelci Downing	Polk State-Gateway High School	3.40	Education	Florida Atlantic University
Amari George	Polk Collegiate High School	4.33	Biomedical Sciences	University of Central Florida
Gabrielle Henry	Polk State-Gateway High School	4.0	Sports Management	Clark University
Kerwin Jaropillo	George Jenkins High School	4.64	Biomedical Sciences	University of South Florida
Jessica Lake	George Jenkins High School	3.71	Clinical Psychology	Florida Atlantic University
Yas'Myne Rudolph	Polk State-Gateway High School	3.3	Psychology	George Mason University
Chandler Barrett	McKeel Academy of Technology	3.8	Marketing	Florida Gulf Coast
Patrick Taylor, II	Lakeland High School	3.06	Business Admin	Eastern Nazarene College
Czerise Villiers	Lake Gibson High School	4.36	Marketing	Florida Atlantic University
Samiyah Wilson	Polk State-Gateway High School	4.36	Legal Studies	University of Florida

## 2020-Scholarship Review Committee:

Kachell George, Chairperson

Members: Jaqueline Speed—Angela Walker—Valerie Niblack—Monica Holiday

The Awards Ceremony is tentatively scheduled to be held at the City of Lakeland Commission Meeting on June 15 at 3:00 PM. and will also be webcast live on [www.lakelandgov.net](http://www.lakelandgov.net).

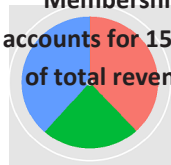
## COMMUNITY FRIENDS, ALUMNUS, AND

### SUPPORTERS:

*Your membership dollars support the association in maintaining the legacy and history of Washington Park/Rochelle High School and its importance to the African American heritage of Lakeland.*

Become a  
member

Membership  
accounts for 15.20%  
of total revenue



**A 1-year membership fee: \$50    Lifetime membership fee: \$500**

#### How to Pay:

**Option 1:** You may mail your checks at:

WP/Rochelle Alumni Association, Inc.

P O Box 90452 - Lakeland, FL 33804-0452

**Option 2:** You may pay online at:

[wp-rochellealumni.com](http://wp-rochellealumni.com)

Click on the **Donate** button—enter your information.

#### PROJECT WE CARE CONTINUED

Although the project officially closed on April 30<sup>th</sup>, the tremendous effort and dedication to *Project Care* is reminiscent of our educational journey through Washington Park/Rochelle. There, we were inundated with experiences to develop the heart, hands, and mind. Traits of the black panther also emerged in the sense of being protectors. *Project Care* embraced all of these qualities.



We will soon begin our strategic planning for the 2021 alumni celebration. If you are a willing participant, please email me.

[beverlyboatwright5@msn.com](mailto:beverlyboatwright5@msn.com)

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Kathleen & Lakeland HS Class of '72

Website: [wp-rochellealumni.org](http://wp-rochellealumni.org) Email: [wprochellealumni@gmail.com](mailto:wprochellealumni@gmail.com)

Mail donations to:

P O Box 90452 Lakeland, FL 33804-0452



**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
**DETROIT TIGERS SPRING TRAINING FUND RAISER**

The Washington Park/Rochelle High School Alumni Association is constantly looking for ways to procure funds to accomplish its vision of “Embracing higher education by providing funds toward scholarships to students with the belief that an educated society produces vibrant, productive, and engaged citizens”. With this vision in mind, the Alumni Association President, Beverly Boatwright made an agreement to collaborate with New Life Ministries, to split the eighteen-game spring training schedule working a concession stand and equally divide the earned monies.

So, we took on the challenge of co-operators of the Willie Horton 360 Organization Concession Stand. Working the concession stand was hard work, very long days standing on your feet, but we had incredible teamwork and learned to appreciate the term multi-tasking. Everyone on the team became experts in bagging popcorn, preparing nachos, bagging hotdogs, stocking coolers, working the cash register, and remembering the first rule of customer service which is, ‘The customer is always right’.

Because of the Corona Virus, we only worked five of the scheduled 12 games, but the experience was unforgettable. The Alumni Association’s earnings from the Concession stand fund raiser was \$3688.98 which was split 50/50 with New Life Outreach Ministry, Lakeland. Thank you to the “TEAM” for your hard and dedicated work for the cause.

Beverly Boatwright	Terry Coney	Ronald Coleman
Willie Borders	Monica Holiday	Emma Brooks
Anne Jones	Naomi Williams	Jay Williams
Shirley Johnson	Bernard Shoemake	Alice Speed
Sonya Royster	Leon McDougal	Jackie Speed