



Adopt-A-School Newsletter

Sponsored by: The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, Tuscaloosa City & County School Systems

Chamber Website | Adopters | Sustainers

August 27, 2008

Inside this issue

- [A Magical Breakfast for Adopt-A-School](#)
- [Partnership Recognitions at Adopt-A-School Breakfast](#)
- [Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa Adopt-A-School Tennis Tournament](#)
- [Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa Adopt-A-School Golf Tournament](#)
- [And They're Off.....To a Great NEW Partnership](#)
- [West Alabama Supports International Literacy Day](#)
- [Tuscaloosa Chapter of Credit Unions Offers High Quality Financial Education to High School Students through NEFE](#)
- [ADOPT-A-SCHOOL SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT.....](#)
- [SAVE THE DATES...](#)
- [PLEASE REMEMBER...](#)

Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa

Adopt-A-School Tennis Tournament

September 18, 2008
Indian Hills Country Club
[Team Registration Form](#)
[Sponsorship Form](#)

Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa Adopt-A-School Golf Tournament

September 25, 2008
Tuscaloosa Country Club
Shotguns at 8 AM & 1 PM
[Team Registration Form](#)
[Sponsorship Form](#)

Annual Plan

Due October 1, 2008

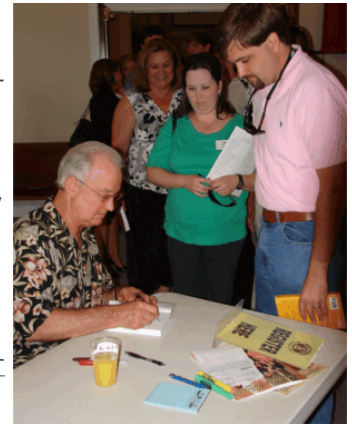
Corporate Sponsor



2008-09 Board Level Sustainers

A Magical Breakfast for Adopt-A-School

"Incredible" "Wow" "So motivational and relevant" "Best breakfast speaker yet"....these are just a few of the comments from participants regarding keynote address speaker, Pat Williams. Mr. Williams, Sr. Vice-President of the Orlando Magic spoke to over 350 attendees at the annual Adopt-A-School Breakfast Seminar. He has written over 50 books and is considered one of America's top motivational, inspirational and humorous speakers. His presentation on the "Seven Sides of Leadership" provided the audience with inspiration and motivation to develop the leadership qualities internally, as well as tips for developing leadership qualities in children and young adults. Everyone received a copy of Pat Williams' book, [Read for Your Life](#). The books were provided by Cynthia Almond, PC; Robertson Banking Company and Spruell & Powell, LLC.



Celebrating the completion of twenty-three years of supporting area schools, the annual Adopt-A-School Breakfast Seminar officially kicked off the 2008-2009 Adopt-A-School Year. Representatives from all fifty-four area schools, central office administrators and many businesses and community organizations gathered at University Church of Christ for the annual event. A variety of artful centerpieces created by area students decorated the tables. Dining/Classic Fare Catering prepared a delicious breakfast buffet to start the morning. The seminar provided a unique opportunity for Tuscaloosa City School personnel, Tuscaloosa County School personnel and the representatives from the business community to meet and prepare for the upcoming school year.





Alabama's #1 Volume Toyota dealer!

After the opening session, school and business coordinators had the opportunity attend partnership planning meetings and new coordinators attended a training program concerning the coordinator responsibilities and plans for the 2008-09 school year.

[Top](#)

Partnership Recognitions at Adopt-A-School Breakfast

During the Adopt-A-School Breakfast Seminar, several new adopters were welcomed to the program and recognized at the opening session of the breakfast. Hilton Garden Inn adopted Skyland Elementary School in February, 2008 and the partnership enjoyed lots of activities during the spring term.

Seven new schools welcomed students this year. Three schools in the Tuscaloosa County School System and four schools in the Tuscaloosa City School System opened their doors in August and all seven schools have new adopters in place. All of the schools and their new partners were recognized at the breakfast. The new schools and their adopters are:

- o Duncanville Middle School/James Bailey TaeKwonDo, South*
- o Lake View Elementary School/First Financial Bank*
- o Northport Elementary School/The Credit Union of Alabama FCU*
- o Rock Quarry Middle School/Alabama Credit Union/Merrill Lynch*
- o South View Elementary School/The Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa*
- o South View Middle School/University Medical Center and School of Medicine*
- o University Place Middle School/Barnes & Noble*



Additionally, three new adopters for existing schools were recognized. The new adopters and their partners are:

- o Huntington Place Elementary School/Pritchett-Moore, Inc.*
- o Northridge High School/Capstone Bank*
- o University Place Elementary School/Barnes & Noble*

Several partnerships were recognized for their long standing participation in the Adopt-A-School Program. Two partnerships and one business received the "Twenty Years of Excellence Awards" acknowledging twenty years of partnership. Arts & Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa/Westwood Elementary School and DCH Regional Medical Center/Hillcrest High School have all been partners since 1988. Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa, Inc. has served as a partner for a couple of different schools since 1988.



Thirty-eight partnerships have now celebrated 10 years or more of participation in the program. In recognition of the ten year milestone, the "Decade of Excellence Award" was given to Mercedes-Benz U.S. International,

Support our Schools



Click Here
To find out
how to become
an
**Adopt-A-School
Sustainer**

Inc/Vance Elementary.

[Top](#)

Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa Adopt-A-School Tennis Tournament

The first Adopt-A-School Tennis Tournament took place in the fall of 1994 and was part of the annual golf tournament. As the tennis community has grown and developed in the Tuscaloosa area, the interest and participation in the Adopt-A-School Tournament has grown as well. Over the past fifteen years, the Adopt-A-School Tennis Tournament has outgrown its original venue at Tuscaloosa Country Club and is currently held at Indian Hills Country Club.



As a result of the increased participation and the change in venue, this fall the Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa Adopt-A-School Tennis Tournament will on a date other than the Golf Tournament date. On September 18th area ladies tennis players will compete in a doubles tournament and proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Adopt-A-School Program. The ladies doubles tournament participants will compete in 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0+ divisions. The cost is \$45 per player and all schools with players representing them are eligible to win cash prizes. Click here for a [registration form](#) or you may pick up one at Indian Hills Country Club.

Plan to join Co-Chairs, Rachel Hollingshead and Ann Shealy in supporting the Adopt-A-School program through participation in the tennis tournament. [Court and prize sponsorships](#) for the tournament are also available. For more information call 391-0563 or email loo@tuscaloosachamber.com.

[Top](#)

Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa Adopt-A-School Golf Tournament

For the eighteenth consecutive year, golfers will rally in September in support of the Adopt-A-School Program. Mark your calendars and plan to participate in the Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa Adopt-A-School Golf Tournament on Thursday, September 25th.



The four man scramble golf tournament will be held at Tuscaloosa Country Club. Both 8:00AM and 1:00 PM shotgun starts will be available and registration fees include green fees, cart and lunch. Click here for a [registration form](#).

The tournament is the annual fundraising event to benefit the coordination and administration of the Adopt-A-School program. Proceeds from the tournament benefit every public school in our community and the golf tournament provides critical funding for the coordination and administration of the Adopt-A-School program for the Tuscaloosa City and Tuscaloosa County School Systems.

Join Eagle Sponsors Ellis Architect, Harrison Construction Company, JVC America, Learning Experiences, McGiffert & Associates, NHS Management,

Phifer Incorporated, Planit Solutions, Tuscaloosa Toyota and The University of Alabama in supporting the Adopt-A-School program. A variety of [sponsorships](#) are still available, Will Humber of First National Bank of Central Alabama is chairing the golf tournament.

For more information, contact Loo Whitfield, loo@tuscaloosachamber.com or 391-0563.

[Top](#)

And They're Off.....To a Great NEW Partnership

Huntington Place Elementary and Pritchett-Moore, Inc. make a great team! The dynamic duo is off to a great start with Adopt-A-School. Lin Moore, Chairman of Pritchett-Moore, Inc. started off the school year with a live interview on WVUA7 regarding Pritchett-Moore's decision to become involved with Adopt-A-School.



After introductions and a summer planning meeting, school coordinators Kim Osborne and Tracy Rummel and business coordinator Kay Day hit the ground running with the new partnership activities. On August 6th Pritchett-Moore provided teachers and faculty a delicious barbeque luncheon catered by Pottery Grill. August 15th marked the afternoon to kick off the "Reading Takes You Out of this World" campaign and several Realtors from Prudential Pritchett-Moore participated in a "Moon Pie Eating Contest" which was won by Tammy Talley.



Several ongoing awards and projects are planned for the 2008-09 school year. Huntington Place Elementary Students will be rewarded on a weekly basis with "Kudo Bars" for the Character Motivation Award. A child will be chosen weekly from each classroom who has displayed the characteristics of the character word for the week. Also, special

Reading Awards will be given throughout the year, as well as, rewards for students and teachers who have perfect attendance each semester.

Additionally, Huntington Place Elementary and Pritchett-Moore plan to team together for the Nucor Steel Adopt-A-School Golf Tournament and volunteers from Pritchett-Moore, Inc. and teachers from Huntington Place Elementary will man the BBQ Drive Thru on October 16th. Huntington Place Elementary and Pritchett-Moore, Inc. = A Great Team!

[Top](#)

West Alabama Supports International Literacy Day

In recognition of the annual International Literacy Day on Monday, September 8th, The Literacy Council of West Alabama and The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama will host local events, as follows.

A "Reading Buddies" Volunteer Training Session will be held from 10 AM to 11:30 AM at the Tuscaloosa Public Library on Jack Warner Parkway. Participants will learn



how to get the most from students during their volunteer reading time. Training for the session will be provided by staff from Shelton State Community College and Tuscaloosa Public Library. Register online at www.tuscaloosachamber.com or contact Loo Whitfield at 391.0563 or loo@tuscaloosachamber.com.

A luncheon program at 11:30 AM at the Hotel Capstone will feature keynote speaker Jill "J.R." Labbe, deputy editorial page editor and senior columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Labbe is a passionate, proactive leader in literacy initiatives in Texas. Tickets are \$15. Register by calling 758.7588 or visit www.tuscaloosachamber.com.



Additionally, Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of purchases made on this day to The Literacy Council of West Alabama when customers request it at the time of checkout. The community is strongly encouraged to come out and do so.



For more information, contact Robin Jenkins at 391.0561.

[Top](#)

Tuscaloosa Chapter of Credit Unions Offers High Quality Financial Education to High School Students through NEFE

The National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) High School Financial Planning Program is an award winning, free, non-commercial financial education program used in schools throughout the nation. The Tuscaloosa Chapter of Credit Unions is proud to bring this high quality program free of charge to students in the Tuscaloosa City and Tuscaloosa County School Systems.

The program is designed for high school students. Through seven basic units, students learn how to handle and manage money. The course is divided into seven core competencies. During the program the students will:

- Create their own financial plan
- Create their own budget
- Propose a personal saving and investing plan
- Select strategies to use in handling credit and managing their debt
- Demonstrate how to use various financial services
- Create a personal insurance plan
- Examine how their choice of career and lifestyle will affect their financial plan



The NEFE High School Financial Planning Program was developed by teachers and financial professionals experienced in moving students from knowledge to the kinds of positive action that will help them begin their financial lives on the right foot.

The Tuscaloosa Chapter of Credit Unions is offering this program to all area high schools. They have a trained group of credit union professionals who will

teach the classes. All materials are free, and each student will receive a workbook. The program can be modified to fit any classroom schedule and all or any part of the course can be presented to the class. Each unit can be taught in about an hour and 1-2 units may be presented during a class session.

If you would like more information, or would like to request the NEFE High School Planning Program for your school, please contact Michele Harris at Alabama Credit Union at 348-3369 or Susan Butler at Tuscaloosa Teachers Credit Union at 759-1505. To learn more about this and other NEFE programs, visit www.nefe.org.

[Top](#)

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT.....

Retirement Council of Alabama Offers Program for Educators

Pathway Financial Resources has been a sponsor of the Adopt-A-School program for many years. Recently, we formed the Retirement Council of Alabama to bring specific information and benefits to educators in Alabama, and we are pleased to introduce you to our organization.

Unlike other financial service firms, we provide resources and help find solutions that are specifically designed around the Retirement System of Alabama that has served educators in Alabama very well for over 50 years. We offer a variety of resources to help increase knowledge and confidence on the path to a successful financial future.

Without being in the financial field on a full-time basis, most educators do not have the time to acquire the level of expertise or necessary tools to make informed financial decisions when it comes to specific plans for their retirement. We, at the Retirement Council of Alabama have already assisted hundreds of educators across our state to make informed decisions that result in minimizing taxes and maximizing retirement income.

We have found there are ten questions that seem to come up over and over again as we visit with educators. We call this the "Top Ten Questions Educators Ask About TRS and DROP." If you are an educator that is serious about planning for your retirement, we suggest you see if you can answer these ten questions. If you are unable to answer all ten, we would be happy to meet with you to assist you in getting the answers. They are as follows:

1. When will you make your most important financial decision as an educator?
2. Is a lump sum available to the beneficiary regardless of when a retiree dies?
3. Can the beneficiary be changed without affecting retiree's income if the beneficiary dies first?
4. Can the beneficiary be changed without affecting the retiree's income in the event of divorce?
5. Can multiple beneficiaries be named?
6. Are new beneficiary benefits effective immediately?
7. Is cash available to surviving retirees if their beneficiary dies first?
8. Are you able to count accrued sick days as eligibility for DROP?
9. Are the proceeds from DROP taxable at withdrawal?

10. Does the option you select at the start of the DROP program affect the size of your DROP pool at withdrawal?

We encourage all educators to call our office at 752-1533 to set an appointment to discuss your individual needs and concerns. Feel free to go to our website at www.retirementcouncilofalabama.com for more information on how we can assist you.

Local Representatives: Jimmy Duren, Jack McCown and David Elmore

Securities offered through American General Securities Incorporated (AGI) member FINRA/SIPC, 2800 North Central Avenue Suite 2100, Phoenix, AZ 85004

[Top](#)

SAVE THE DATES...



**Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa
Adopt-A-School Tennis Tournament**
Ladies Doubles
Thursday, September 18, 2008
Indian Hills Country Club



**Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa
Adopt-A-School Golf Tournament**
Four-Man Scramble
Thursday, September 25, 2008
AM & PM Flights
Tuscaloosa Country Club

[Top](#)

PLEASE REMEMBER...

We Have the Best Community Calendar Around

Please do check out our online calendar at www.tuscaloosachamber.com to see what's going on in the area and remember to utilize the interactive feature to add your own listing.

Hit Your "Forward" Button to Share Adopt-A-School News

Please simply hit your forward button and share this issue with all staff and team members in your school, business and organization. Thanks a lot!

[Top](#)