



Florida Retired Educators Foundation



Creating our
Future Educators

Supporting our
Current Educators



Helping our
Retired Educators



What is FREF?

The Florida Retired Educators Foundation (FREF) was formed in February 1984. It is an autonomous branch of the Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA). We are a non-profit 501(c)3. Any and all contributions are tax deductible.

Our Mission

Awarding scholarships to students majoring in education, grants for current educators' classroom projects, and fiscal assistance to retired educators in crisis.

Our Purpose

- ◆ To bring into the profession young people who are likely to become educators
- ◆ To provide an annual grant to one or more practicing educators who wishes to fund a special project for students
- ◆ To provide assistance to retired educators in financial crisis
- ◆ To publish works related to the educational field

The FREF Board

For FREF, the State of Florida is divided into ten districts. There is one elected trustee representing each of these districts. Members of the Board elect their own officers who include a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. The Chair appoints a Treasurer from among the members of FREA. The FREA President, and Treasurer serve as ex-officio members.

Florida Retired Educators Foundation

Karla Brogdon—Chair	Trustee, District 4—Margaret Williams
Robert Stephens Vice-Chair	Trustee, District 5—Stephanie Manwell
Melanie Waite—Secretary	Trustee, District 6—Robert Stephens
Gayle Hodges—Treasurer (FREF & FREA)	Trustee, District 7—Karla Brogdon
Nancy Hosie—FREA President	Trustee, District 8—Gayle Hodges
Trustee, District 1—Melanie Waite	Trustee, District 9—Vacant
Trustee, District 2—Gil Gamache	Trustee, District 10—Judith Mager
Trustee, District 3—Carson Ealy, Jr.	

Where We Are vs. Where We Want To Be

Currently

- 12 new scholarship recipients of \$1000 per year, renewable for a total of four years. Approximately \$40,000 per year.
- 1 to 2 practicing educator grants for \$1000 each per year (\$2000 total).

Future Goal

- 12 new full-tuition scholarships (\$7000) per year. 28 renewal scholarships (\$7000) each. Approximately \$280,000 per year.
- 4 practicing educator grants for \$1000 or 2 for \$2000 per year (\$4000 total).

Income	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	3-Year Total
Contributions	11,749	9,787	13,089	
Unit Donations	11,527	9,019	7,536	34,625
Individual Donations	222	768	5,553	
Memorials	2,585	2,948	1,847	
In Memory	2,250	2,123	1,517	7,380
In Honor	335	825	330	
Practicing Educator Grant	1,000	1,000	158	2,158
District Workshop	8,822	7,211	6,390	22,423
Convention	15,238	17,415	10,085	
Extravaganza	12,140	15,675	9,985	42,738
Other	3,098	1,740	100	
Endowment Fund	10,000	\$10,000	_____	20,000
Repayment	0	339	2,911	3,250
Interest	1	1	1	3
Total Income	49,395	48,701	34,481	132,577
Operating Expenses	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	3-Year Total
Board Meetings	11,982	10,766	2,076	24,824
Fund Raising	3,612	3,145	3,704	10,461
Miscellaneous (detailed list available upon demand)	7,942	5,336	17,719	30,997
Scholarships	0	10,000	13,000	23,000
District Trustees	738	501	286	1,525
Total Operating Expenses	\$24,274	29,748	36,785	90,807

Why We Do What We Do

***In 2019 There were over 2440 Teacher Vacancies in Florida. The number is expected to increase by 10% in 2020.**

****College loans can cost up to or more than, \$50,000. Students question having financial security as a teacher.**

*****Up to 300,000 children will have a substitute teacher this year.**

Despite the discouraging statistics above:

**WE STILL
NEED
TEACHERS!**

**The Florida
Retired
Educators**

Foundation encourages students through financial support and cheerleading to pursue educational careers.



*Scott Maxwell Orlando Sentinel, Aug. 13, 2019

**Linda Darling-Hammon Forbes, Nov. 17, 2019

***Paula Dockery Tampa Bay Times Aug. 31, 2019



Faith N: First Year Scholarship Winner 2019-2020

I have always known that I wanted to be an educator. When I was a little girl, I would take my stuffed animals and set them around the dining room table and play school. I would make lessons for them and even go as far to discipline them when they misbehaved in my class. As I grew older, I may have lost the plushed toys, yet the passion to teach only grew stronger every day. I was exposed to the world of teaching from a young age. My grandmother and mom both worked in the school system. While other kids my age were only at school for eight hours a day, I was there for ten.

However, in the after hours I saw just how the faculty was more than just coworkers with one another: they were a family. This was so strong it stuck in my seven year old mind. I eventually got experience in my own classroom. In seventh grade I was allowed to teach my own class at Vacation Bible School at my church. I had to make specialized lesson plans for kids ranging from toddlers to middle schoolers, provide examples of each craft for every day, manage the classroom, and make sure no bodily harm was caused by a pair of scissors. While any other twelve year old might have felt overwhelmed, I was in my element. The hugs and love I received from these children after being with them for only a week showed me just how much of a difference I can make in their lives. I was blessed with great teachers throughout my entire childhood, now I want to pass that along.

This scholarship gives me the opportunity to carry out my dreams. A college degree is needed to teach, however, you need money to pay for college and money is something I do not have. I have strived throughout the entirety of my schooling to always put forth my best work hoping that it would help me in the future. Winning this scholarship shows me that my hard work has paid off. COVID-19 threatens to take away graduation and for many including myself, the loss of a graduation ceremony means the loss of a sense of accomplishment. However, this scholarship shows me just how hard I have worked and that I should be proud of what I have done. It tells me that the Florida Retired Educators Foundation believes that I can make a difference and succeed in the life of an educator. This scholarship gives me the funds to get my degree without having to add additional stress and worry. This scholarship means everything to me and I am entirely grateful to be chosen for this award.

Faith N.

Hello ☺
I'm writing to give an update, these past 5 years FREA has supported my educational journey and I am incredibly grateful. Earlier this May I graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in Early Childhood Education with minors in Art and women's and gender studies. I also graduated with cum Laude honors, but mostly proud to have completed. I want to thank you and FREA for continually supporting me as I would not have reached this huge ~~exp~~ accomplishment without your generosity. *Casey L.*



Marie Grein Practicing Educator Grant

FREF provides \$1,000.00 grants yearly to classrooms who have a dream they want to turn into reality. Applicants are required to write an essay describing the project and how it will benefit the students. The FREF Trustees choose the winner for that year.

Dear Ms. Grein,

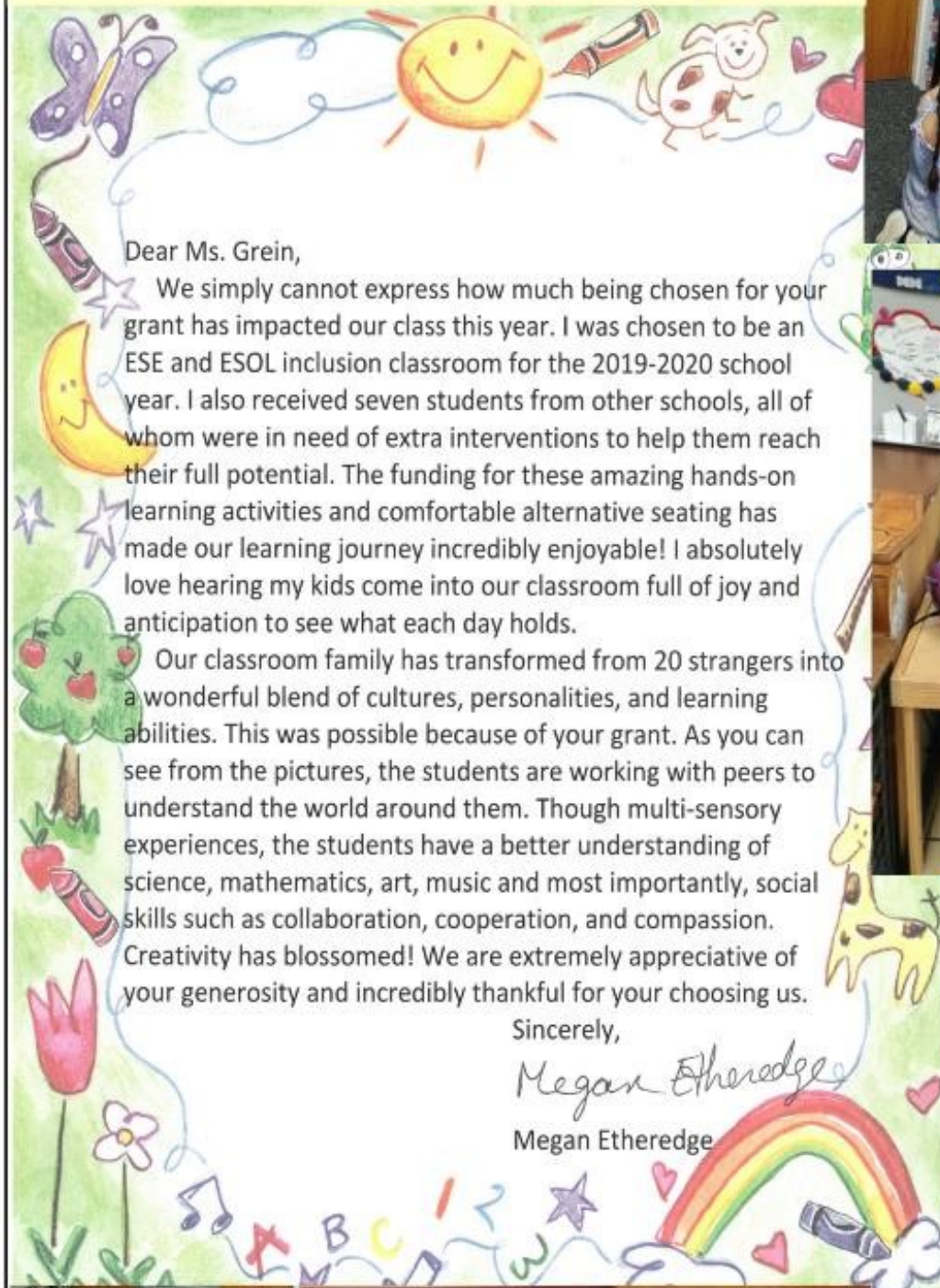
We simply cannot express how much being chosen for your grant has impacted our class this year. I was chosen to be an ESE and ESOL inclusion classroom for the 2019-2020 school year. I also received seven students from other schools, all of whom were in need of extra interventions to help them reach their full potential. The funding for these amazing hands-on learning activities and comfortable alternative seating has made our learning journey incredibly enjoyable! I absolutely love hearing my kids come into our classroom full of joy and anticipation to see what each day holds.

Our classroom family has transformed from 20 strangers into a wonderful blend of cultures, personalities, and learning abilities. This was possible because of your grant. As you can see from the pictures, the students are working with peers to understand the world around them. Though multi-sensory experiences, the students have a better understanding of science, mathematics, art, music and most importantly, social skills such as collaboration, cooperation, and compassion. Creativity has blossomed! We are extremely appreciative of your generosity and incredibly thankful for your choosing us.

Sincerely,

Megan Etheredge

Megan Etheredge



...Helping Our Retired Educators

November 19, 2017

Dear Ms. French, FREF Chair,

I want to thank you and the Foundation for accepting and reviewing my application for disaster assistance.

When I heard the announcement at our District Meeting held in Ft. Pierce that if we as

Educators had a need due to the hurricane, submit an application for assistance. I was surprised to know that our Foundation would assist other retired educators. But, was also so thankful that we did. I am in receipt of the {\$\$\$} the Foundation gave and am very grateful for the help. I am still gathering the funds to have the roof repaired, but with the help of God, I will be able to reach my goal.

Again, I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart...

All my best, Virginia J., Indian River Retired Educator

Indian River County and Hurricane Irma

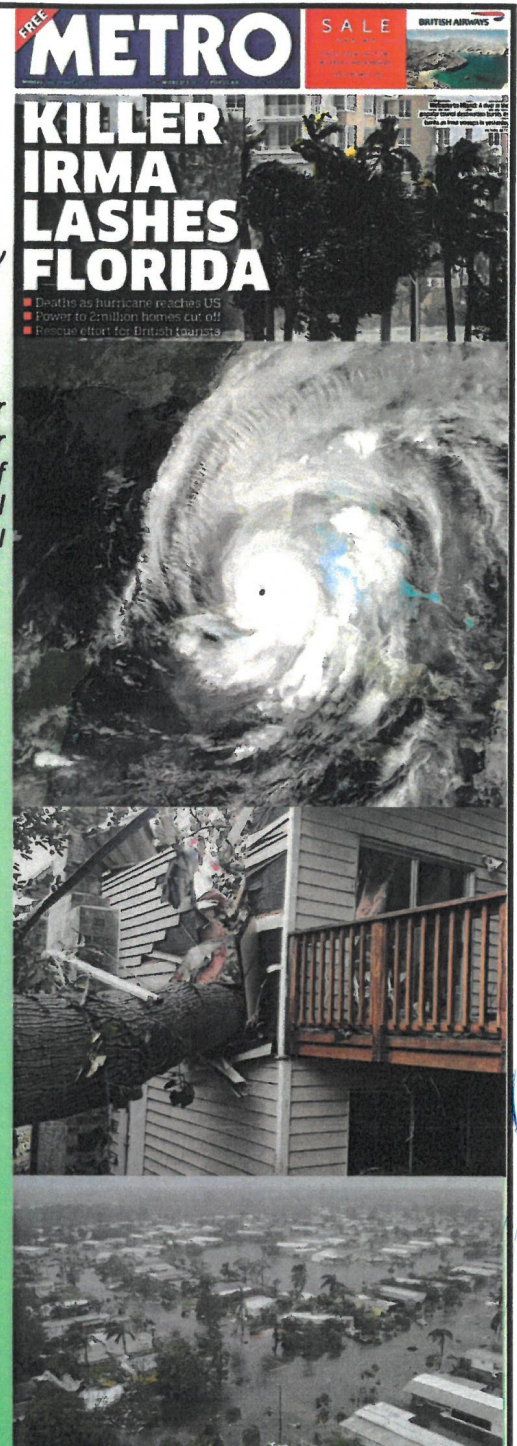
Wind gusts in Indian River County peaked at 67 mph (108 km/h) at a WeatherFlow station near Grant-Valkaria. A total of 64,441 electrical customers were left without power, which was about 70% of the county. Heavy rainfall was reported in the county, with 14.15 in (359 mm) observed west of Vero Beach. A total of 12 people were rescued from floodwaters. The storm wrought minor damage to 72 structures in the county, while 6 others were inflicted with substantial impact. Damage estimates in the county reached approximately \$1.5 million. (Wikipedia)



Your thoughtfulness put a smile in my day!

I truly appreciate the {\$\$\$\$} for assisting me with my hurricane damage. It is most welcome.
Ante L. Zeman

lines, leaving 159,212 customers – about 60% of the county – without electricity.[84] Rainfall totals were mostly around 4 in (100 mm), though 10.32 in (262 mm) of precipitation was observed in Laurel. A total of 4 homes suffered major damage and 10 had minor damage. Overall, property damage was estimated at \$10.73 million, while damage to citrus was estimated at \$2.2 million. (Wikipedia)



Sarasota County and Hurricane Irma

The strongest wind gust observed in Sarasota County from Hurricane Irma was 81 mph (130 km/h) at a home weather station in Sarasota. The wind damaged numerous homes and knocked over trees and power

