

Legacy Scholars Academy Celebrates Largest Graduating Class

On May 24th, Legacy Scholars Academy (LSA) held a graduation ceremony for its third class of seniors. This year, we had a total of twelve graduates. Ten of those graduated from LSA, while the other two were part of our Independent Living program, and attended local Volusia County schools. The event was held at First United Methodist Church of Sanford, and the class was our largest yet. It was surely an evening of celebration and reflection.

The ceremony included remarks from Children's Home President & CEO, Kitwana McTyer, Volusia County school superintendent Tom Russell, School Board Chair Melody Johnson, Volusia County Coordinator of Contracted Sites Stephanie Workman, and Children's Home Director of Education Mary Cortez. "Rise Up" was the theme of the 2017-18 school year, and the graduation speakers summarized and focused on the practical applications of the theme.



Special thanks to: First United Methodist Church of Sanford for graciously hosting this special event; Publix for donating gift cards to help offset the cost of food; Margaret Morris, for the desserts and personalized cakes; and the many folks who helped behind the scenes. Each graduate received a personalized handmade quilt from a quilting group at First United Methodist Church of Boca Raton and a check for \$125 from Silver Palm United Methodist Church. Each graduate was also gifted with a laptop computer, which will help them as they pursue their post-high school goals. Finally, each student received a personalized Bible from our Spiritual Life Department.

The really impressive part about these students is how they've beaten the odds to become successful graduates. They originally came to the Children's Home from abusive or neglectful homes, and some had to catch up to their appropriate grade level. Most came to us with failing GPAs. As an example, one student came to us with a 0.7 GPA, and is now graduating with a 3.9 GPA. Of the 12 graduates, five will be attending Daytona State College; three will be attending Seminole State College; two will be joining the Army; one will be pursuing her education in technical engineering in Atlanta; and one will be joining the Police Academy.

We are incredibly proud of our graduates for all of their hard work. They are well on their way to achieving their goals. We also want to thank each of you, for it is through your support that we have been able to provide for the education, therapy, and daily needs of each of our children. You make a difference!

