



Help Great Futures grow at IDEA Lakeland

Our newest Club at IDEA Lakeland opened at the beginning of September and already serves 125 students, with the capacity to serve up to 150. It's a promising start—and a reminder of how many families are looking for a welcoming place for their children after school.

Unit Director Alex Lindsay brings years of experience with Boys & Girls Clubs of Polk County, most recently at our Joe L. Saunders Club. Cameron Saunders joins him with experience at our Brady and Saunders Clubs and in our food program.

While this site was not approved for 21st CCLC funding, our commitment to these students remains strong. Now we need our community to stand with them. Your gift today helps sustain the Club for the 125 students already attending and make room for more. Give today—and consider a monthly gift to help IDEA Lakeland remain a dependable place for students throughout the year.

GIVE NOW



[Fore The Kids 2026](#)

The 2026 Fore The Kids Golf Tournament, presented by Always Fresh Farms, is more than a great day on the course—it's an opportunity for your business to make a lasting impact on Polk County youth.

Sponsorship and underwriting opportunities offer meaningful ways to showcase your organization while supporting the teachers, tutors, mentors, meals, and life-changing programs Club members depend on throughout the year. Whether you sponsor a contest, underwrite part of the tournament, or choose one of our featured sponsorship levels, your partnership helps more young people reach their full potential.

Join us Monday, October 26, at The Country Club of Winter Haven or The Club at Eaglebrooke, and put your company behind a cause that builds stronger futures across our community.

Become a sponsor today and help make this year's Fore The Kids Golf Tournament our most impactful yet.

[SPONSOR NOW](#)

Give generously and help us go further for Polk County kids.

Questions about sponsorships or special requests? Contact Matthew Quick.

[CONTACT MATT](#)



[Bullying Prevention Month](#)

Bullying Prevention Month begins October 1st, and our North Ridge Club staff and members created a video to share a message that matters to them.

At Boys & Girls Clubs of Polk County, keeping kids safe means caring for their emotional well-being as well as their physical safety. Our staff and mentors work to build Club spaces where young people feel heard, respected and supported—and where they know they can turn to a trusted adult.

Watch and join our Clubs in standing up for kindness!

What's Up At The Club?



Fort Meade Club

Let's take a look back at what our members got up to in the last month:

- **George Jenkins Memorial Club**

Members paired up with reading buddies to explore books and practice their skills. They could also use fidgets while reading to help them stay comfortable and focused. It made for a relaxed afternoon of learning together.

- **North Ridge Club**

North Ridge members rolled up their sleeves to pull weeds and tidy the grounds around their Club. Working side by side, they made the space more welcoming for everyone and showed what teamwork can accomplish.

- **IDEA Lakeland Club**

Club member Jonas received homework help and encouragement from both his teachers and Club staff. With that consistent support, staff saw him become more focused, confident and engaged in learning—a promising example of what this new partnership can mean for students.

- **Joe L. Saunders Club**

Thirteen-year-old Elven, or "EJ", has embraced his role as a Youth Leader. He helps prepare equipment, assists with Triple Play and takes pride in lending a hand around the Club. His family and teachers have heard how proudly he talks about the role, while Club staff have seen him grow more confident in speaking up and connecting with others.

- **Fort Meade Club**

When Fort Meade introduced Flocabulary, staff thought of member London, who had been working hard on her schoolwork. Since using the learning app, staff have seen encouraging progress in her grades. They're proud of London's effort and excited to see her keep growing.

- **James J. Musso Club**

Some Musso members weren't sure they wanted to tackle a chapter book. Then their group began reading *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* aloud, pausing to share predictions and talk about the characters. Before long, members were eager to find out what happened next—and reluctant to stop when reading time was over.

- **Weinstein Family Club**

Weinstein members put their vocabulary skills to work with a word-chain game. Starting with "sun," they used its last letter to find a word beginning with "n," then kept the chain going together. The challenge had members thinking quickly and building on one another's ideas.

- **Wogan S. Badcock, Jr. Club**

Sania has been especially engaged during Power Hour this year. One day, she was so determined to finish her work that Ms. Owens had to remind her to take a break for dinner. Staff and family have noticed her growing focus and confidence—a reflection of Sania's hard work and the encouragement she receives at the Club.

Meet-A-Member: Rajshan

Rajshan had his share of rough moments and missed a few field trips because of his choices. Then he had what Club staff call a little come-to-Jesus moment. He realized that being a leader sometimes means standing out, making a better choice and being himself—even when everyone around him is doing something else.

Rajshan didn't say he was ready for a change, he just showed it. By the end of summer, he had placed in his group's Top 10 two weeks in a row, applied for Youth Leadership and announced that Youth of the Month was his next goal.

Today, the eighth-grade magnet school honor roll student tutors younger members, helps staff around the Club and participates in all activity. Talk about a plot twist! Our Joe L. Saunders Club is proud to call him **Youth of the Month**.



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