



Hello volunteers, donors, partners, and friends of Above & Beyond for Change,

February has been a special month around here! With great pride and gratitude, we share with you, our essential partner, the moments that have marked the last few weeks at Pinewood Elementary. Each event was living proof that, together, we transform learning into unforgettable experiences.

Shall we get to the news?



Literacy Night: "Reading is a Treat!"

Earlier this month, Florida celebrated **Literacy Week**, and Pinewood Elementary hosted a night dedicated to family reading. Above & Beyond was responsible for an essential ingredient: the fuel for learning! We provided all the snacks and refreshments for Literacy Night.

It was heartwarming to see so many families gathered, celebrating education in such a welcoming environment. We believe that caring for the body is also caring for

the mind, and being able to offer this support is our way of saying: "We care about your children's future."

👉 [Click here to see photos from this inspiring night!](#)



🍽️ Dinner Experience: More than a Dinner, a Window to the World

On February 10th, we carried out an action that touched our hearts deeply. In partnership with the dedicated teachers at Pinewood, we took 10 students to Olive Garden for an experience that went far beyond the meal.

Our young students were able to:

- Talk business with the restaurant manager.
- See math being applied in the real world.
- Practice etiquette and social skills in a new environment.

The most beautiful part? Witnessing their confidence grow with every question asked, every new dish tried, and every toast celebrated. For many, it was their first time at a restaurant like that — and seeing their eyes light up reminded us that **exposure changes perspectives, and perspectives change futures.** We want every child to know that the world belongs to them too.

A very special thank you to the team at Olive Garden for their warmth and hospitality, and to the educators at Pinewood for believing that learning happens everywhere.

👉 [See how this magical night unfolded!](#)



👊 A Full-Circle Moment: Heritage, Pride, and Black Leaders at Pinewood Elementary

This year's Black History Month celebration at Pinewood Elementary was a powerful full-circle moment.

In 2025, Above & Beyond donated traditional attire to the students, a meaningful gesture that allowed them to connect with the rich history behind it. This year, when inspiring **Black leaders from business, media, and community impact** visited the school, the students proudly welcomed them wearing that same attire.

They weren't just learning about history — they were living it. Connected to their roots and standing confidently alongside leaders who inspire them, students experienced firsthand what it means to see their own potential reflected back at them.

Moments like these reinforce why representation, heritage, and community connection matter, and why we remain committed to supporting them. 🙌 ✨

💖 A Special Message from Our Founder



This month, I would like to take a moment to share something a little more personal, heart to heart.

Last year on my birthday, I made a simple request to friends and family: instead of gifts, I asked them to support Above & Beyond for Change. Their response was so generous, it continues to move me today.

With the funds raised (US\$1,500), we were able to provide essential learning materials to students in the ESE program at Pinewood Elementary, young learners who benefit from individualized support and specialized resources. These tools are already helping create a more accessible, engaging, and nurturing learning environment for them.

To see a collective act of kindness transform into something that directly supports our children's growth... there is truly no greater gift.

Thank you to everyone who made this possible. You turned my birthday into a celebration that uplifted an entire community.

With gratitude,

Michelle

Founder, Above & Beyond for Change

How You Can Help Now

1. **Share our cause:** Forward this newsletter to a friend who also believes in the power of education.
2. **Follow us on Instagram:** [@AboveAndBeyondForChange](#) to see behind-the-scenes and daily updates and share our activities with others.

A most special thank you to you, who makes all of this possible — whether as a donor, volunteer, or supporter of our cause. Your support is the soil where all these stories bloom.

With gratitude,

Until the next newsletter!

P.S.: If you know a business or restaurant that, like Olive Garden, would like to open its doors for a transformative experience like this one, **let us know!** We want to

create more partnerships like this. 🧡

Love 💕 and Light ✨

Michelle Sanchez- FOUNDER

Michelle

Your generous donation will bring joy to our students and their families this holiday season. Let's spread love and kindness together!

Thank you for your support! 💕 ✨

Feel free to share with friends and family.

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

— Malcom X

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