



Media Release

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:

Liz Morgan, Liz Morgan/PR

904.608.3823 or Liz@LizMorgan/PR.com

PUTNAM COUNTY TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN HOSTS AUGUST 25 SCHOOL YEAR KICK OFF CELEBRATION AS PROGRAM EXPERIENCES UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH

JACKSONVILLE, FL (July 2022) – Take Stock In Children’s Putnam County program officially launched 18 months ago, and since then the program has surged from two to 55 students. On August 25, the program will celebrate by kicking off the new school year and recognizing 39 students who enrolled during the last school year.

The event takes place at the Putnam County Fairgrounds.

For more than 20 years, Take Stock in Children of Duval County has been changing the lives of deserving (or under-served) children by combining in-school support through a college success coach, the promise of a college or vocational school tuition scholarship and most importantly the guidance of a caring mentor. Since last year, students in Putnam have experienced the life-changing impacts of Take Stock in Children.

“We are so happy with the exponential growth of this program in Putnam County so far. We’re giving these students the promise of a guaranteed pathway to post-secondary education,” said Wendy Hansford, Take Stock in Children. “Take Stock along with Goodwill has invited our local business partners and community organizations to help celebrate our students and to share more about Take Stock and the life-changing impact our program makes in the lives of our local students, by providing hope, scholarships, and mentors.”

The event’s keynote speaker is Take Stock In Children Alumni (from Marion County), Dr. Christian Calderon. In 2020, Dr. Calderon relocated to Palatka and is passionate about helping grow Take Stock In Children in Putnam County. Calderon acknowledges that his drive and leadership skills were fundamentally driven through his development as a Take Stock Scholar and through his mentor.

Currently, Dr. Calderon serves as Pharmacy Operations Manager and Equity of Care Coordinator at Putnam Community Medical Center. Additionally, Calderon is a board member of the Education Foundation of Putnam County and the Rotary Club of Palatka.

For more information on the program in Duval or Putnam County, please visit (takestockjax.org).

###