

Chairman Joe

If you are hanging out at the ball field at Delaney Park or attending a school event at one of several SODO area public schools, chances are you will run into your neighbor Joe Losch. Most folks know Joe as a father of four, a husband, and the highly respected Market President for First Southern Bank. But, most don't know about his important role that impacts all of our children. Joe is now the Board Chair for the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools (FOCPS).



The Foundation for Orange County Public Schools exists as the philanthropic arm of the school district. It connects community resources with identified needs to help improve student achievement.

Last year through Foundation programs:

521 struggling 2nd grade readers improved their reading fluency through Read2Succeed

332 teachers received more than \$150,000 in classroom grants (\$2.2million since this program was started) and

10 middle schools ran morning book clubs using e-readers that helped 143 reluctant readers build their self-confidence, improve their communication and develop an appreciation of other's ideas along with increasing their reading skills.



It's personal for Joe. He grew up in Orlando and graduated from Colonial High School. He and his wife Tracy have 3 kids in 3 Orange County Public Schools and the fourth will begin Kindergarten next fall. He says parent involvement is key. "Parents at all three SODO schools our family attends take the time and make the effort to partner with each school to ensure a better place for ALL of the students."



The Foundation sponsors events like the annual Fore Our Schools Golf Tournament and Orange County's Top Talent to support the

Foundation's initiatives. Last year more than 1,000 people watched the 18 finalists perform live at Top Talent and compete for prizes for themselves and their schools. This event specifically supports the arts with 40% of the net proceeds going back to the schools through teacher grants for things like instruments, art materials, equipment, sheet music and more.



Joe tells us there is a Philanthropic Strategic Plan with 4 key initiatives to 1) Ensure all children are ready to learn, 2) Improve academic achievement, 3) Bridge the digital divide, and 4) Ensure graduation.

There are specific ambitious programs in place to achieve each goal. "My vision is that we develop into a community that provides

the resources to make all of that happen and I believe the FOCPS can play a key role."

We believe you are the man to make it happen, Joe. Your

SODO neighbors appreciate your time, talent and dedication to the schools and children in our community.



For more information about the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools

visit www.foundationforocps.org