Item:

Alliance for Scholars – Year 5 – Impact & Insights (Bonnie Wagner)

Requested Action:

The Board is asked to receive this report.

Background:

The Children's Trust of Alachua County began funding Alliance for Scholars in summer 2022. Since then, the program has expanded its reach, and the number of children served each year. In summer 2026, 110 scholars were served, the highest to date.

Alliance for Scholars implements a nationally recognized, research-based summer literacy and enrichment program designed to strengthen K-12 students' reading skills while building confidence, civic awareness, and social-emotional competencies. Nearly all youth served came from low-income households, with family incomes below 300% of the federal poverty level, and 77% received free or reduced-price lunch.

During summer 2026, each site operated for six weeks, providing daily literacy and enrichment activities, field trips, and weekly parent workshops. Youth attended an average of 24.6 of the 29 program days offered, reflecting an 85% attendance rate.

The program uses the Qualitative Reading Inventory (QRI) to measure growth in reading skills, including word recognition, oral reading fluency, retelling, and comprehension. Pre- and post-assessments showed 98% of scholars maintained or improved their reading skills. Parent survey results reinforced these findings, with families reporting improvements in their children's reading abilities (91%), enthusiasm for reading (89%), and preparation for school (100%).

Beyond academic gains, parents reported positive social-emotional outcomes for their children, including increased confidence (100%), improved self-efficacy (100%), stronger social skills (98%), and ability to resolve conflicts (97%).

Family engagement is key aspect of the program. Nearly all youth had at least one parent actively involved through weekly workshops, chaperoning field trips, participating in read-alouds, enrichment activities, or other volunteer roles. Parents surveyed also said they benefited from the program by gaining a better understanding of how to support their child and indicated they plan to become more engaged in their child's schoolwork.

Attachments:

Board Presentation – Alliance for Scholars – Impact & Insights on 11-09-2026

Strategic Plan Connection:

This program supports:

Goal 2: All Children and Youth Learn what they Need to be Successful

Focus Area 2: Literacy and Academic Success

Fiscal Impact:

FY2026 – Fiscal Allocation, Expenditures, and Fund Utilization

Program	Allocation	Expenditures	Utilization
Alliance for Scholars - Gainesville	$150,568.48	$149,115.47	99.0%
Alliance for Scholars - Hawthorne	$84,000.00	$82,692.56	98.4%
Program Total	$234,568.48	$231,808.03	98.8%

Recommendation:

Receive the information.