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\$30K from Cigar City to fund 4 scholarships for lower-income youth

The local brewery has partnered with Step Up For Students for the first time.

By Meaghan Habuda



Cigar City Brewing Chief Operating Officer Justin Clark (right) presents Step Up For Students Development Officer David Bryant with a \$30,000 check.

Tampa's Cigar City Brewing has partnered with a statewide nonprofit to fund four K-12 scholarships for financially disadvantaged youth.

A \$30,000 contribution from the local brewery

went to Step Up For Students earlier this month. The nonprofit helps manage the income-based Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, ensuring lower-income families are able to send their kids to schools that best suit their learning needs.

This is Cigar City's first time joining forces with Step Up For Students, which is funded by corporations with tax-credited donations.

The scholarship program is set to serve 100,000-plus students with tuition assistance during the 2017-18 school year. Across the Sunshine State, more than 1,700 private schools are involved in the program.

"Cigar City Brewing is proud to support our community, and even more proud to make a difference in the life of a child through providing educational opportunities that might not otherwise be available," said Justin Clark, chief operating officer for Cigar City, in a statement. "We admire the work of Step Up For Students and are pleased to join in this partnership."