

## *Rotary Club of Inverness Presents Scholarships To Five Citrus High School Students*



The Rotary Club of Inverness was again delighted to award scholarships to Citrus High School students chosen through their written presentations and interviews with a panel of club members. Considerations included scholastic achievements, in-school and community activities and service projects. Pictured, L - R: July Castro Morales, who was also Interact president this year; Natalia Aguilera; Connor Clark; Carolyn Cooper; Renee Fonseca; and club president Charlie Richer, who presented the scholarships.

While the first four recipients received \$1,000 awards, Renee Fonseca was named recipient of a \$1,500 award given in memory of long-time music teacher and club member V. Lionel King. King, who passed away recently, left his mark on several generations of Citrus High School students to whom he taught just music as well as, in many cases, the lessons of life.

Our club has a long history of scholarship donations. Banker Joe Brannen, a Rotary Club of Inverness member since 1975 its president in 1979, recalls that the club started giving scholarships when educator Everett McDonald was club president in 1984. Club financial records, available for the years since 1994, indicate that in the early days there were two scholarships of \$200, increased to two \$500 awards a few years later. For the past 10 years, the club has done well enough on fundraising projects to be able to give \$1,000 scholarships to Citrus High School students, plus two \$500 scholarships to Withlacoochee Technical Institute students.

Club treasurer Dora Hunt said that the club has given \$79,000 in scholarships since 1994. Joe Brannen estimated that if amounts donated during the years for which we have no written records are included, our scholarship donations could be closer to \$100,000.