Voucher backer donates big bucks to charter school serving low-income students

John Kirtley, perhaps best known as one of Florida's biggest school voucher proponents, has turned his attention to RCMA Wimauma Academy, which serves some of Hillsborough County's poorest farm children.

Kirtley has donated $100,000 to the charter school's $1.6 million capital campaign, an amount matched by the Walton Family Foundation. Kirtley also offered to help the Redlands Christian Migrant Association connect with the many groups he works with to seek additional support.

"This school is a perfect example of how the distinctions of 'public' and 'private' are increasingly meaningless," Kirtley said in a news release. "Just as in our tax credit scholarship program, here you have a nonprofit organization providing a customized education that low-income parents freely choose as the best for their children."

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