



Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, May 15, 2023

4:00 p.m.

Location:

**United Way – Ryder Room
3250 S.W. 3rd Avenue (Coral Way)**





Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, May 15, 2023
3250 S.W. 3rd Avenue (Coral Way)
United Way – Ryder Room
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Board of Directors

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair
Pamela Hollingsworth
Vice-Chair
Mark A. Trowbridge
Treasurer
Karen Weller
Secretary

Edward Abraham, M.D.
Laura Adams
Matthew Arsenaault
Daniel Bagner, Ph.D.
Hon. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Ph.D.
Ta'Myah Byars
Morris Copeland
Lourdes Diaz
Victor Diaz-Herman
Mary Donworth
Richard P. Dunn II
Gilda Ferradaz
Hon. Norman S. Gerstein (Ret.)
Lourdes P. Gimenez
Nicole Gomez
Valrose Graham
Mindy Grimes-Festge
Hon. Keon Hardemon
Malou C. Harrison, Ph.D.
Nelson Hincapie
Marissa Leichter
Annie R. Neasman
Maria Norton
Clara Lora Ospina, Psy.D.
Hon. Orlando Prescott
Javier Reyes
Hon. Alex Rizo
Hon. Isaac Salver

David Lawrence Jr.
Founding Chair

James R. Haj
President & CEO

County Attorney's Office
Legal Counsel

4:00 p.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair

4:05 p.m. **Public Comments**

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair

4:10 p.m. **Approval of April 17, 2023 Board of Directors
meeting minutes summary**
(Additional Items Packet) (Pg. 5)

Karen Weller
Secretary

4:15 p.m. **Inspector General Training/Overview**

Felix Jimenez
Miami-Dade County Inspector General

4:35 p.m. **Code of Ethics Training**

Jose Arrojo
Executive Director, Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

5:00 p.m. **Finance & Operations Committee Report**

Mark Trowbridge
Committee Chair

Resolution 2023-41: Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with The Center for Social Change Inc., for match funding for the Community Based Care Alliance of Miami-Dade County (CBC Alliance), in a total amount not to exceed \$64,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024.
(Pgs. 6-9)

5:05 p.m. **Program Services and Childhood Health Committee
Report**

Pamela Hollingsworth
Committee Chair

- *Collective Impact Funder Collaboration Presentation*

Natalia Zea
Chief Public Policy & Engagement Officer

The public is allowed to comment on a specific agenda item but must register with the Clerk of the Board prior to being allowed to comment.

Resolution 2023-42: Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and negotiate and execute contracts with Be Strong International, Inc., Florida International University (FIU), and University of Miami (UM), to deliver brief parenting workshops and educational or public health events as part of The Children's Trust Parent Club, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00, for a one-time contract extension term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. *(Pgs. 10-13)*

Resolution 2023-43: Authorization to negotiate and execute renewal contracts with the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership, Inc. and All in One Mail Shop, Inc. d/b/a All in One Direct Marketing Solutions for the support and maintenance of a birth to five book club, in a total amount not to exceed \$2,602,239.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, with one remaining 12-month renewal, subject to annual funding appropriations. *(Pgs. 14-16)*

Resolution 2023-44: Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and negotiate and execute a contract with Miami Dade College for The Children's Trust Books for Free program, in a total amount not to exceed \$450,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. *(Pgs. 17-18)*

Resolution 2023-45: Authorization to renew a funder collaboration contract with The Miami Foundation, as the fiscal agent for Miami Connected, in a total amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 for a term of 12 months, commencing on October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. *(Pgs. 19-22)*

Resolution 2023-46: Authorization to execute a funder collaboration contract renewal with the U.S. Soccer Foundation to support the continuation of the Soccer for Success program and the implementation of a new Just Ball program, in a total amount not to exceed \$250,000.00, for a term of 12 months commencing August 1, 2023, and ending July 31, 2024. This is an increase of \$125,000.00. *(Pgs. 23-27)*

Resolution 2023-47: Authorization to negotiate and execute a funder collaboration contract with Miami Homes for All, Inc., to support partnerships to end youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County through service linkage, advocacy, and engagement, in an amount not to exceed \$234,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. Further, authorization to negotiate and execute an IT contract with Miami Homes for All and the Homeless Trust, in an amount not to exceed \$91,000.00, for a term of 16 months commencing June 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024, for a pilot program in which Miami Homes for All will consult on the research, design, procurement and population of a housing inventory software database for the Homeless Trust, and, if necessary, authorization to negotiate and execute a related collaborative data sharing agreement. Further, delegation of authority to adjust funding between the initiatives. *(Pgs. 28-31)*

Resolution 2023-48: Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and enter into a contract with Lutheran Services Florida, Inc., as a result of a change in agency ownership from Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services, Inc., to ensure the continuous delivery of evidence-based parenting services. *(Pgs. 32-33)*

5:30 p.m. **Approval of Re-Appointment of Matthew Arsenault – At-Large Board Member**

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair

5:35 p.m. **Refreshed Strategic Framework Content *(Pgs. 34-37)***

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair

K Lori Hanson, Ph.D.
Chief of Research, Evaluation & Strategic Planning

The public is allowed to comment on a specific agenda item but must register with the Clerk of the Board prior to being allowed to comment.

5:55 p.m. **CEO Report**

James R. Haj
President/CEO

- *Media Highlights (Pgs. 38-47)*
- *Financial Disclosure – due by July 1, 2023*
- *Mexican American Council (MAC) 39th Farmworker Student Recognition Ceremony - Site Visit, May 19, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.
Kendall Campus Miami Dade College
11011 SW 104th St., Miami, FL 33176*

6:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

Reminder:
Next Board Meeting: *Monday, June 12, 2023



**Board of Directors Meeting
Summary of Actions Taken
April 17, 2023
4:15 p.m.**

These actions were taken by the Board of Directors of The Children's Trust meeting held on April 17, 2023:

Please note that the number of board members fluctuate based on arrival and departure of some of them throughout the meeting.

Motion to approve the March 13, 2023, Board minutes summaries was made by Hon. Norman Gerstein and seconded by Dr. Daniel Bagner. Motion passed unanimously, 18-0.

Program Services & Childhood Health Committee Report

Resolution 2023-38: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Dr. Edward Abraham and seconded by Annie R. Neasman. Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with 143 providers identified herein, to (i) deliver high-quality after-school programming for 17,413 elementary, middle, high school-aged children and youth, and (ii) summer programming for 18,597 elementary, middle and high school-aged children and youth, in a total amount not to exceed \$76,662,000.00. For year-round and school-year programs the contract term will be 12 months, commencing August 15, 2023, and ending August 14, 2024, and for summer only programs the contract term will be a term of six months, commencing March 1, 2024, and ending August 31, 2024, each with four remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations. **Motion passed, 12-0. Recusals by Daniel Bagner, Hon. Norman Gerstein, Nelson Hincapie, Pamela Hollingsworth, Hon. Keon Hardemon, and Richard P. Dunn II.**

Resolution 2023-39: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Nelson Hincapie and seconded by Lourdes P. Gimenez. Authorization to negotiate and execute a final contract renewal with Florida International University Board of Trustees (FIU) for reading enhancement services, in a total amount not to exceed \$945,752.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. **Motion passed, 17-0. Recusal by Daniel Bagner.**

Resolution 2023-40: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Mary Donworth and seconded by Dr. Clara Lora Ospina. Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with Florida Introduces Physical Activity and Nutrition to Youth (FLIPANY) for after-school snacks and meals, in a total amount not to exceed \$600,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, with two remaining contract renewals. **Motion passed unanimously, 18-0.**

Finance & Operations Committee Report

Motion to approve the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) FY 2021-22 was made by Javier Reyes and seconded by Nelson Hincapie. Motion passed unanimously, 18-0.

Human Resources Committee Report

Motion to approve revisions to the employee handbook was made by Lourdes Gimenez and seconded by Mary Donworth. Motion passed unanimously, 18-0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: May 15, 2023

Resolution: 2023-41

Strategic Plan Priority Investment Area: Community Awareness and Advocacy: Cross-funder collaboration of goals, strategies, and resources; and Parenting.

Strategic Plan Headline Community Results: This investment supports all headline community results for children in the child welfare system.

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with The Center for Social Change Inc., for match funding for the Community Based Care Alliance of Miami-Dade County (CBC Alliance), in a total amount not to exceed \$64,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$64,000.00 is projected to be available in FY 2023-2024.

Description of Services: Since August 2007, The Children's Trust has provided annual funding to the Community Based Care Alliance of Miami-Dade County (CBC Alliance) to support staff and operational costs. The Center for Social Change, Inc. serves as the fiscal agent for the CBC Alliance. Recommendations by the CBC Alliance help to improve children's well-being in the foster care system and promote the integration of foster care with other social services programs, including The Children's Trust's direct services programs.

The Children's Trust funding supports the mission of the CBC Alliance board and its subcommittee workgroups to provide support, guidance, and coordination of the entire child welfare system. The Trust investment supports the CBC Alliance's full-time director position, operating costs, and Annual Regional Child Welfare Conference. As the fiscal agent, the Center for Social Change, Inc. coordinates the payments for the staff position, utilizing these funds with funding from other agencies.

The CBC Alliance director is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the CBC Alliance, the implementation of its mission, goals, and responsibilities, and provides administrative support to the CBC Alliance, including the following:

- organizing and facilitating monthly CBC Alliance meetings;
- preparing and disseminating minutes from all committee meetings and a summary of all board meeting minutes;
- conducting follow-up activities after all board and committee meetings;
- participating in community meetings and events connected to the child welfare system as the CBC Alliance representative;
- facilitating community and monthly board meetings and supporting board action plans based upon board priorities;
- engaging in regular communication with the CBC Alliance board and community stakeholders;
- overseeing all operational issues related to the CBC Alliance; and
- engaging in other activities related to ongoing projects of the CBC Alliance.

In FY 22-23 the CBC Alliance Director reports the following accomplishments:

- Reevaluated and reinforced the CBC Alliance by-laws to ensure the board of directors implements effective change and upholds the vision and mission of the CBC Alliance.
- Actively worked with organizations and community stakeholders that interface with the child welfare system through various committee workgroups. These workgroups focused on identifying barriers, creating solutions, and collaborating with community partners for strategic plans for change.
- Participated in the Collaborative Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign.
- Actively participated and facilitated a fiscal committee to establish and strategically plan for grant funding opportunities through programs, events, and initiatives.
- Developed a parent birth rights brochure voted and approved by the board of directors for distribution to parents at removal and/or throughout their case plan, through the parent education committee. A parent's rights manual is also being developed to provide an in-depth description of the process for a parent while their case is under our system of care.
- Actively participated in internal and external committees related to improving outcomes within the child welfare system.
- Established conversation series events and developed a proposal for Community Café: Statewide CBC Alliance workgroup in collaboration with Hillsborough County and Sarasota County to obtain accurate and reflective trends across statewide community alliances, allowing for systemic change and advocacy to the legislature in the state of Florida.
- Continued the use of SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis for community partners, stakeholders, and members of the CBC Alliance.
- Conducted the CBC Alliance Training Series each month offering continuing education units through Jewish Community Services.

With funding for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, CBC Alliance proposes to continue and institutionalize the following initiatives:

- Actively facilitate and engage with community stakeholders to maintain the committees that were established and create goals and objectives for the work they have begun.
- Bring additional speakers for the Annual Regional Child Welfare conference and provide more opportunity for stakeholders to network and share ideas for successful models used in their organizations.
- Expand and facilitate "The Conversation" training series to include lived experiences, expansion of community partners, and outreach.
- Create and disseminate tools and resources to assist parents involved in the child welfare system.
- Actively update and engage the community through website and social media management.
- Actively engage the community, children, and families to bring awareness to teen-centered topics.

Background: The CBC Alliance was established under section 20.19(6), Florida Statutes, to provide a local community presence to guide the development of community-based care for child welfare in Miami-Dade County. While the CBC Alliance was created by a State of Florida statute, local stakeholders and the board of directors are responsible for making it a functional body that promotes the interests of children and families associated with the child welfare system.

The CBC Alliance is composed by law of mandatory representatives and includes various members through expansion so that at any given time the body consists of more than 20 participating members. The Children's Trust is a mandatory representative of the CBC

Alliance, as the children's services council representative.

The mission of the CBC Alliance is to engage the community in advocating for a family-centered, culturally competent, and outcomes-driven system of care that enhances the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families. The CBC Alliance focuses on:

- Redesigning the system of care for children in or diverted from the child dependency and juvenile justice systems.
- Serving as the lead advocate for implementing research-based best practices for services to dependent and other children associated with the child welfare system.
- Advocating for additional funding for traditionally state-operated social services components.
- Maintaining an open community forum for addressing the challenges associated with the community-based system of care for dependent children and continuing improvement of the system.

In addition to the funding from The Children's Trust, the CBC Alliance reports the following agency contributions to the operating expenses; including in-kind support, such as additional partner staff time, office and meeting space and office supplies.

Partner	Amount
	*In-kind funding
Domestic Violence Initiative	\$2,496.68
Florida Department of Children and Families	*\$10,000.00
Jewish Community Services	*\$1,200.00
Magic Waste Foundation	*\$12,000.00
Regional Conference Ticket Sales	\$6,370.00
The Guardian Ad Litem- 16th Circuit	*\$1,000.00
United Way of Miami	\$5,000.00
Voices for Children	\$5,000.00
Total	\$43,066.68

Per the procurement policy, section 2006, Match Funding and Funder Collaboration, the negotiation and execution of a match contract are exempt from the competitive solicitation process. Renewal of match funding beyond the initial contract term is at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust and is contingent upon satisfactory performance, availability of funding, and an ability to maintain the underlying primary funding sources.

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **15th day of May, 2023.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: May 15, 2023

Resolution: 2023-42

Strategic Plan Priority Investment Area: Parenting: Group parenting

Strategic Plan Headline Community Results: Children are supported by nurturing and involved parents; children are ready for kindergarten; students are succeeding academically; and children behave appropriately in schools, homes, and communities.

Recommended Action: Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and negotiate and execute contracts with Be Strong International, Inc., Florida International University (FIU), and University of Miami (UM), to deliver brief parenting workshops and educational or public health events as part of The Children's Trust Parent Club, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00, for a one-time contract extension term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 is projected to be available in FY 2023-24.

Description of Services: Regardless of their circumstances, all parents and families face inevitable parenting challenges and can benefit from learning evidence-based strategies that support children's healthy development from prenatal through adolescence. Effective, consistent, and supportive parenting prepares children for a lifetime of success. Brief universal interventions can offer an effective, low-cost way to reach large and diverse groups of primary caregivers who might not otherwise receive parenting education. Improved parenting will support positive child outcomes related to emotional, behavioral, social, cognitive competence, and physical health and safety.

The Children's Trust Parent Club was launched in September 2019. Brief, evidence-based parenting workshops are delivered in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole for diverse groups of primary caregivers across Miami-Dade County to enhance awareness and knowledge for parents with children birth to age 16. These group contacts with parents strengthen social supports by connecting parents and linking families who have additional needs with appropriate services. Be Strong International, Inc., FIU and UM offer a combination of in-person and virtual, single-session group parenting workshops. Topics address common parenting strategies for parents of all abilities and information about available community resources. Parent Club providers are given the flexibility to deliver the workshops in person and virtually.

The Children's Trust Parent Club uses a collaborative approach among the three funded agencies, The Children's Trust, and Miami-Dade County Public Schools Department of Family Support Services. The school system helps promote the program among its students and parents, and provides a forum, at no cost, for the workshops. There is a common set of collaboratively developed operating procedures so that anyone attending a Parent Club workshop has a similar experience, regardless of which of the three agencies provides it.

The following programs are recommended for contracts:

Agency	Evidence-based Curriculum	Current Contract Amount	New Contract Amount up to
Be Strong International, Inc.	Triple P Selective Seminars Research-informed hot topics	\$300,533.00	\$400,533.00
FIU Board of Trustees, Center for Children and Families	Triple P Selective Seminars Research-informed hot topics	\$411,231.00	\$516,231.00
University of Miami Department of Pediatrics	Pediatric Care Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) Research-informed hot topics	\$302,966.00	\$583,236.00
Total:			\$1,500,000.00

Recommendations include increasing the funds to each of the three agencies, proportionate to the enhanced expectations during the upcoming planning year, allowing the providers to add staffing and supports needed to engage with The Trust to implement the enhanced initiative offerings and pilot new activities within the Parent Club. The total recommended funding is aligned with the amount approved by the board for the competitive solicitation in resolution 2023-17.

Background: On February 19, 2019, the board of The Children’s Trust approved the funding recommendations from the competitive invitation to negotiate, ITN #2019-02, to fund one or more agencies to provide universally available group parenting services for a four-year funding cycle, following a comprehensive review process. We are in the fourth year of the funding cycle (2022-2023), with contracts ending September 30, 2023.

Current recommendations for funding are based on staff assessment of programs through observations of activities and performance data reviews. The three agencies have made satisfactory progress, especially working collaboratively as a cohesive team representing The Children’s Trust Parent Club. In 2021-22, 10,061 parents attended 1,627 Parent Club workshops, a 41 percent increase from the prior year. Attached is a summary of the progress for The Children’s Trust Parent Club.

Request for Procurement Waiver (requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of board members present): On January 23, 2023, the board approved resolution #2023-17, to issue a new funding cycle for Parent Club universal parenting services. This resolution requests a procurement waiver of the competitive procurement process to add one 12-month contract term before issuing the new solicitation. The three and a half operational years to date have resulted in a well-developed Parent Club program. As preplanning began for the solicitation preparations, it was determined that an additional year of planning is needed for the initiative to reach its full potential and for the development and release of a new competitive solicitation.

We know from our parent community survey and focus groups that parents want more interactive, engaging activities. They want more short-term options of one to five sessions. They want ways to connect and share experiences and supports with parents who have similar experiences. The additional planning and development time will allow The Trust to pilot new activities being developed, such as family engagement, support groups, community passport family outings, community liaison collaborations to spread the reach of Parent Club, and brief

session parenting series. The funding cycle extension will also allow The Trust to complete the development of the Trust Central registration and reporting module for Parent Club which is in progress.

Geographic Area: Countywide

The foregoing recommendation was offered by_____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by_____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **15th day of May, 2023.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

TOTAL WORKSHOP SESSIONS

2,052

TOTAL PARTICIPANT ATTENDANCE

9,910

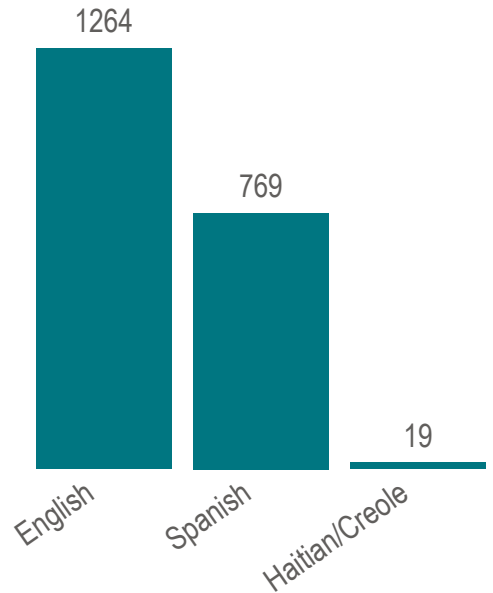
TOTAL SURVEYS COMPLETED

5,289

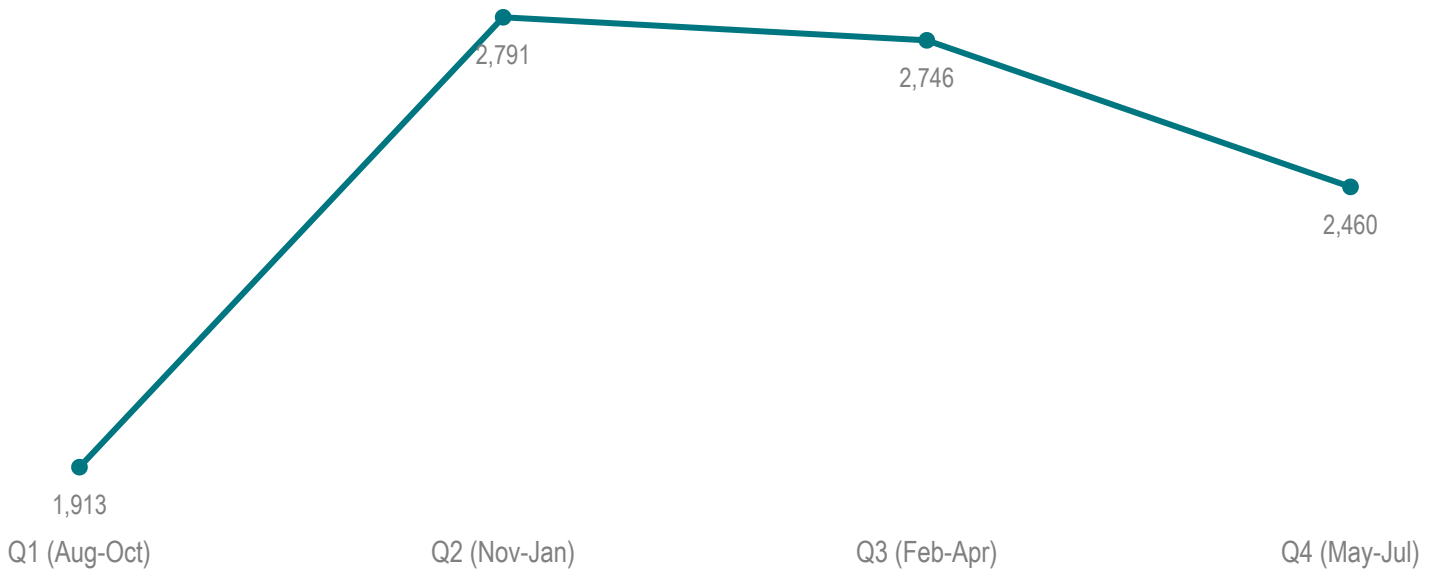
AVERAGE PARTICIPANTS PER WORKSHOP SESSION

4.8

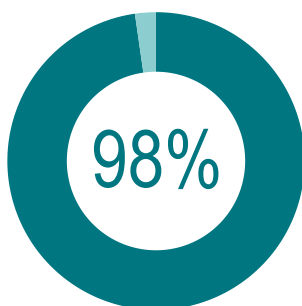
WORKSHOPS BY LANGUAGE



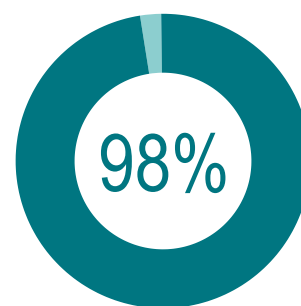
ATTENDANCE OVER TIME



GAINED SKILLS THEY INTEND TO PUT INTO PRACTICE



BELIEVE PRESENTERS WERE ORGANIZED, ENGAGING AND KNOWLEDGEABLE



The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: May 15, 2023

Resolution: 2023-43

Strategic Plan Priority Investment Area: Parenting: Early literacy programs

Strategic Plan Headline Community Results: Children are supported by nurturing and involved parents; and children are ready for kindergarten.

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute renewal contracts with the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership, Inc. and All in One Mail Shop, Inc. d/b/a All in One Direct Marketing Solutions for the support and maintenance of a birth to five book club, in a total amount not to exceed \$2,602,239.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, with one remaining 12-month renewal, subject to annual funding appropriations.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$2,602,239.00 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2023-2024.

Description of Services: The Children's Trust Book Club provides free, monthly age-appropriate books and supporting materials for Miami-Dade County families with children from birth to their fifth birthday. By participating in the Book Club, parents and caregivers are provided with the means to help their children build strong learning and social skills. The opportunity to remain in The Children's Trust Book Club for five years also increases touchpoints with parents, provides families with information and strategies that bolster early interactions, and supports child brain development and kindergarten school readiness.

National research shows poverty is a leading indicator of limited early reading skills since it may contribute to lower school readiness, poor school attendance, and learning loss in the summer. These factors contribute to achievement gaps between children in low and middle-income households. To reduce these disparities, focused marketing and recruitment for this universal book club is prioritized in neighborhoods where early child development, kindergarten readiness and third grade reading levels are historically lower, and rates of lower socio-economic status are higher than the county average.

The Children's Trust's early literacy investments include The Children's Trust Book Club, Reach Out and Read, and the Books for Free programs, which are all part of the community-wide campaign for grade-level reading in Miami-Dade County. The campaign focuses in part on increasing high-quality early learning experiences, including early access to books in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole and early parent-child reading interactions supported by parent-friendly guides for developmentally appropriate practices with young children.

The Children's Trust Book Club is comprised of four implementation components, which include the following key services:

- **Content Revision/Development and Book Buying** – Includes the: (i) selection of developmentally-appropriate books for young children, (ii) revision and creation of culturally-relevant content and activities to accompany the books, inclusive of content

for children with disabilities, (iii) revision and development of digital content, activities that support early literacy, math and social-emotional skills, and (iv) procurement of books.

- **Professional Fulfillment Services** – Includes packaging, storing and monthly mailing of the books and accompanying materials.
- **Marketing** – Includes the creation and implementation of specialized marketing campaigns and other supporting collateral materials for grassroots outreach efforts. This component is approved under a separate resolution (Resolution 2022-20) for marketing services.
- **Ongoing Operations** – Includes project and vendor management, relationship building to coordinate outreach and enrollment with other early childhood organizations and the community, customer service, and day-to-day oversight. These tasks are carried out by a dedicated Children’s Trust staff member. The Book Club’s existing software management solution assists with the management of operational tasks.

Vendors for the above-described implementation components and The Children’s Trust are working together to ensure coordination and effective operations. The following vendors are recommended for contract renewals.

Agency	Service Provided	Amount Not to Exceed (2023-2024)
Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership, Inc.	Content Development/ Book Buying	\$1,453,039.00
All in One Mail Shop, Inc. d/b/a All in One Direct Marketing Solutions	Professional Fulfillment Services	\$1,149,200.00

These projections include maintenance of the previous fiscal year’s budget for content development, fulfillment, and outreach events. This includes procuring and developing of a complete set of five new books in Haitian Creole and their accompanying educational materials. These books and educational materials will be provided in a single package to families who would like to receive Haitian-Creole books at various outreach activities, birthing hospitals and through professional fulfillment services.

Background: The Children’s Trust issued a request for proposals (RFP) #2019-10, on March 27, 2019, to fund one or more vendors to implement The Children’s Trust expanded Book Club. Applicants could apply for one or more of three implementation components in the RFP: content development and book-buying; professional fulfillment services; and ongoing operations. Two agencies were funded for the Book Club's content development/book buying and professional fulfillment services components. The operations, functions, and marketing of the Book Club are managed by The Children’s Trust and contracted marketing vendors.

The Board previously approved resolution #2023-24 to add \$300,000.00 in funds for the expansion of Haitian Creole book packages, accompanying reading guides, as well as outreach materials and contractors, for a new total not to exceed \$2,617,239.00, and to amend fiscal year 2022-23 general budget to reflect the increase.

The intent is to continue the Haitian Creole book expansion by selecting five new book titles and developing the accompanying reading guides and activities. Numerous early childhood organizations comprising The Children’s Trust Book Club Community Advisory Committee collaborate and support the efforts to select age-appropriate books and develop the accompanying educational collateral materials.

- A Central
- Creoletrans
- Dr. Marisel Elias-Miranda
- Dr. Melissa Baralt
- Dr. Nick Andre
- Florida International University
- Lisa Blair
- University of South Florida
- Leonie Hermantin

The Book Club reached its target goal of 40,000 active members and plans to retain that number, taking into account natural monthly attrition due to aging out throughout the following year.

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this
15th day of May, 2023.

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
 MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____
 SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: May 15, 2023

Resolution: 2023-44

Strategic Plan Priority Investment Area: Parenting: Early Literacy Supports

Strategic Plan Headline Community Results: Children are supported by nurturing and involved parents; children are ready for kindergarten; and students are succeeding academically.

Recommended Action: Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and negotiate and execute a contract with Miami Dade College for The Children's Trust Books for Free program, in a total amount not to exceed \$450,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$450,000.00 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2023-2024.

Description of Services: The Children's Trust Books for Free program ensures young children (through age 8) have access to books to take home and keep at no cost from bookshelves placed in public spaces throughout Miami-Dade County. To administer the program, Miami Dade College (MDC) engages communities, businesses, volunteers, and the public sector to collect, sort, and categorize donated gently used and newly purchased books. MDC then distributes the books through 77 bookshelves maintained in public places where parents and children frequent, such as Women, Infant and Children (WIC) offices and community organizations in under-resourced neighborhoods. This program has a minimum annual 15 percent match requirement in cash or in-kind resources from MDC.

The program adjusted to meet community needs over the past year by extending its distribution model to include barbershops and laundromats through partnerships with Kiwanis of North Dade and Kiwanis of South Dade. Additional outreach and engagement activities were incorporated, including rich cultural storytelling events and temporary pop-up bookshelves throughout the county. The program added 12 new sites with the \$50,000.00 funding increase approved last year, which was five more sites than expected.

Background: On July 9, 2018, The Children's Trust board approved the funding recommendation from the competitive request for proposals, RFP# 2018-04, for a five-year funding cycle, following a comprehensive review process. Upon considering the performance of this contract, The Children's Trust assessed this program's progress and determined the provider is performing satisfactorily and meeting or exceeding all contractual benchmarks. During contract year 21-22 (October 1, 2021–September 30, 2022), MDC successfully:

- Operated 77 bookshelf sites that received regular deliveries.
- Collected 76,116 and distributed 106,771 books.
- Provided more than 50% in-kind match to the program, leveraging an additional \$362,486 value to the program.

During the first quarter of the current 22-23 contract year, MDC distributed 30,738 books with services to 77 bookshelves, exceeding the number of currently contracted sites.

Request for Procurement Waiver (requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of board members present): To better align the planning and development of all related parenting early literacy supports, The Children's Trust Books for Free contract requires a procurement waiver of the formal competitive procurement process to add one 12-month contract term. The 2022-23 contract year is the fifth year of the 5-year funding cycle resulting from the last RFP#2018-04. More planning time is needed to pilot and research new services and enhance the current model before issuing a new competitive solicitation.

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **15th day of May, 2023.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____
SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: May 15, 2023

Resolution: 2023-45

Strategic Plan Priority Investment Area: Community Awareness and Advocacy: Cross-funder collaboration of goals, strategies and resources.

Strategic Plan Headline Community Results: This investment supports all headline community results.

Recommended Action: Authorization to renew a funder collaboration contract with The Miami Foundation, as the fiscal agent for Miami Connected, in a total amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 for a term of 12 months, commencing on October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$150,000.00 for this resolution is projected to be available for FY 2023-2024.

Description of Services: Miami Connected offers no or low-cost broadband internet to families and students across Miami-Dade County. Families are eligible if someone in their household participates in government assistance programs, such as SNAP or WIC, has a student who receives a Pell Grant or attends a Title I school, or has a household income of up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Miami Connected collaborates with schools and engages community-based organizations (CBOs) to support outreach to families and provide technical assistance to ensure full adoption of these internet service opportunities. The initiative is also involved in various community engagement and advertising activities to raise awareness and continuously optimize the internet service registration process.

In working toward systems-level change, Miami Connected, in partnership with Miami-Dade County and national experts, is developing a broadband plan to draw down and deploy federal funds to increase the number of families with broadband internet service across the county. The broadband plan is targeted for finalization and release in April 2023, and related demonstration projects will be launched.

Current implementation partners are listed, and others are being engaged on an ongoing basis.

- Achieve Miami
- Catalyst Miami
- City of Miami
- Literacy Minnesota
- Miami-Dade County
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- Overtown Children & Youth Coalition
- Overtown Youth Center
- Samvid Ventures
- The Children's Trust
- The Miami Foundation

The total projected cost for the project is \$6,740,472.00.00. The Children's Trust's proposed investment for FY 2023-24 is \$150,000.00. To date, \$6,417,972.00 has been raised, including The Trust's previous annual contributions of \$150,000.00 over the past three years. Contributors and those who have pledged additional funding to this initiative are:

Funder	Received	Pledged	Total Amount
Blackstone	\$50,000.00		\$50,000.00
Cindy & Robert Friezo Foundation	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
City of Miami		\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Comcast	\$140,472.00		\$140,472.00
eMerge Americas		\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Helios Education Foundation	\$200,000.00		\$200,000.00
Ken Griffin	\$5,000,000.00		\$5,000,000.00
Leslie Miller Saiontz	\$60,000.00	\$190,000.00	\$250,000.00
Samvid Ventures	\$250,000.00		\$250,000.00
Simkins Family Foundation	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
TD Bank & Miami HEAT		\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Terra Group	\$7,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$10,000.00
Ticket Master & Miami HEAT	\$100,000.00		\$100,000.00
The Children's Trust	\$450,000.00		\$450,000.00
The Miami Foundation	\$250,000.00		\$250,000.00
	\$6,517,972.00	\$322,500.00	\$6,840,472.00

Background: Many nationwide entities have collaborated to bring broadband internet connectivity to families with limited economic resources, especially families with students relying on online learning resources. The cities of Chicago and Philadelphia have both launched collaborations focused on this goal. The Miami Connected initiative adapts best practices from these successful initiatives to Miami-Dade's specific needs, and its partners collaborate to support a collective effort. The Miami Foundation has been the lead partner for this innovative initiative since its inception in September 2020. It established a fiscal sponsorship fund to support Miami Connected's financial/fund development maturity and independence.

Since its inception, Miami Connected has assisted over 93,000 families with connecting to no or low-cost internet service through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and its internet sponsorship option. Of the families surveyed, 89 percent reported accessing additional educational and economic opportunities because of the internet service they obtained.

Miami Connected has also made a measurable impact by leveraging federal resources to implement digital literacy and navigation assistance to families. These components were implemented in FY 21-22 with \$1.2 million in cumulative funding secured by The Miami Foundation. Miami Connected provides digital navigation services and hands-on support for families navigating online resources, including educational opportunities, health resources, employment opportunities, and other social services. Miami Connected also provides digital literacy programming to support families in increasing their ability to utilize technology daily. As of February 28, 2023, at least 737 families were provided with digital navigation and digital literacy services through the Northstar Digital Literacy platform

Miami Connected continues to maximize new opportunities and refine the comprehensive roadmap for the way forward, most notably leveraging federal funds from the ACP to provide internet subsidies to families. This has allowed Miami Connected to utilize federal funding to cover the monthly internet cost for families. Other achievements include the establishment of

a dedicated Miami Connected hotline through Jewish Community Services, which provides additional technical support to families.

Geographic Area: Countywide

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **15th day of May, 2023.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

IMPACT REPORT

2022-2023

Ensuring that students and families are set up for success in today's digital world by increasing access to broadband internet service, digital navigation support, digital skills training, and career opportunities in technology.



93K

Families Connected

through federal
subsidy and
Miami Connected
sponsorship
programs

\$48M

Federal Funding Drawn Down

for internet service
and device
acquisition

40

Partners & Funders

across the public,
private and
philanthropic
sectors

737

Families Received Digital Literacy & Navigation

services from grant
partners

72%

Families Report Increased Confidence in Skills

after programming

“

I am currently viewed as just a migrant worker, but I am so much more than that. By increasing my tech skills and earning certifications, I am building up my resume in order to pursue new economic opportunities. This program has helped me regain confidence in my abilities to learn and grow.

- Will

”

WHAT'S NEW

BROADBAND & DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava announced our partnership on this plan at the State of the County address, and the full plan will soon be published.

Stakeholder convenings continue and an initial \$1.5 million in State broadband grant funding has been awarded to expand services in Miami-Dade.

DIGITAL EQUITY HOTLINE

Jewish Community Services is fully managing the hotline families call for help accessing internet service, devices and skilling opportunities.

DIGITAL EQUITY COLLECTIVE

Thirteen grant partners are participating in a community of practice to increase collaboration, drive continuous improvement and elevate insights.

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

May 15, 2023

Resolution 2023-46

Strategic Plan Priority Investment Area(s): Youth Development: After-School Programs; Community Awareness & Advocacy: Cross-funder Collaboration

Strategic Plan Headline Community Results: Students are succeeding academically; children meet recommended levels of physical activity; children behave appropriately in school, homes, and communities; and youth successfully transition to adulthood.

Recommended Action: Authorization to execute a funder collaboration contract renewal with the U.S. Soccer Foundation to support the continuation of the Soccer for Success program and the implementation of a new Just Ball program, in a total amount not to exceed \$250,000.00, for a term of 12 months commencing August 1, 2023, and ending July 31, 2024. This is an increase of \$125,000.00.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$250,000.00 is available in FY 2022-2023 and is projected to be available for FY 2023-2024.

Description of Services: The selection of Miami-Dade County as a host site for the 2026 FIFA World Cup presents a new and unique opportunity to expand upon the longstanding partnership between the U.S. Soccer Foundation and The Children's Trust through its Miami Soccer Initiative. The initiative intends to create a long-term legacy of soccer in the community, while also giving youth from under-resourced and under-served communities safe places to play coupled with effective and relevant programming.

The Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative is a \$10 million, 10-year multi-partner effort supported financially by Ken Griffin and the Citadel Foundation, as well as U.S. Soccer Foundation sponsor Adidas. In partnership with The Children's Trust and Miami-Dade County and future partners who are currently being engaged, the initiative will include:

- Mini-pitches: Installation of 50 mini soccer pitches in under-resourced areas across Miami-Dade County, over a four-year period. Each pitch is valued at \$100,000.00 and includes lighting, seating, and advertisement of sponsors and partners. Pitches will be selected at Trust-funded provider sites, Miami-Dade County sites, and future community partners currently being identified. The pitches are funded entirely by Ken Griffin and Citadel Foundation through a \$5 million donation to U.S. Soccer Foundation. The Trust's contribution toward this effort is \$37,500 to assist with funding infrastructure support.
- Just Ball Neighborhood League: The Children's Trust funding will support the implementation of the *Just Ball* Neighborhood League on the newly installed mini-pitches. The program will provide youth, ages 11-18, from under-resourced communities the opportunity to participate in a hyper-local soccer league that emphasizes creativity, mentorship, youth development, and healthy competition. The *Just Ball* Neighborhood League is a fun, inclusive league opportunity centered in the neighborhoods where they live and supported by coach-mentors from the communities. The *Just Ball* league model prioritizes fun, friendship, and inclusivity over winning. Trust support of implementation of Just Ball is estimated at \$142,500, which will be utilized to support the purchase of equipment, playmaker (coaches) training and the countywide Just Ball Unity Cup.

- Soccer for Success Innovation Hub: The Children's Trust has funded U.S. Soccer Foundation's Soccer for Success program in Miami-Dade since 2017. *Soccer for Success* is an evidence-based model for sports-based youth development for youth ages 6-13. It is delivered after school for two 12-week seasons annually with programming three days a week. It is free and provided by trusted community-based organizations to increase accessibility for youth with the highest needs. The *Soccer for Success* curriculum integrates key elements that benefit the physical, social, and emotional health of youth—physical activity, nutrition education, family engagement, mentorship, and safe spaces. Family and community engagement is integral to *Soccer for Success*, and the program is used as a lever to address other issues, such as social, dental, and physical health needs.
- This year's funding will also support a *Soccer for Success* Innovation Hub to expand *Soccer for Success* programming for youth, ages 6-13, from under-resourced communities across Miami-Dade County and at the mini-pitch sites. The Innovation Hub will serve as the local leader for operating *Soccer for Success* and for building the capacity of other youth development and community-based organizations to offer this program. This hub will provide expertise and guidance to community-based organizations and Trust funded programs who have a desire to implement soccer programming in their communities while removing such barriers as transportation and cost that often prohibit youth in underserved communities from playing the game. Funding of \$70,000 has been earmarked to continue The Trust's commitment to expose underserved communities to soccer. Through this expanded collaboration it is envisioned that *Soccer for Success* and *Just Ball* together will create a continuum of opportunities for youth as they progress through their school years, with an emphasis on multiple opportunities for middle school-aged youth—an especially critical time for physical, social, and emotional well-being, which also coincides with the time that youth tend to reduce their levels of physical activity.

With funding support from The Children's Trust, the goals and objectives for the Miami Soccer Initiative are to:

- Engage at least 2,000 Miami-Dade youth in *Soccer for Success* programming.
- Train a minimum of 60 coach-mentors in effective delivery of *Soccer for Success* and the skill sets to support positive youth development and social and emotional learning, through the Soccer for Success Innovation Hub.
- Engage at least 5,000 youth in the *Just Ball* Neighborhood League.
- Train at least 175 Playmakers (coaches) to effectively facilitate play in the *Just Ball* Neighborhood League on newly installed mini-pitches.

Background: The U.S. Soccer Foundation (U.S. Soccer) is the pre-eminent organization using soccer to improve children's health and social outcomes in underserved communities. Their unique and cost-effective programs have been shown to transform neighborhoods, increase physical activity among children, and build a culture of health in communities nationwide. Since 2017, the U.S. Soccer Foundation has collaborated/partnered with The Children's Trust to support community-based organizations to implement its evidence-based *Soccer for Success* program. During that time, 15,889 youth from under-resourced communities across Miami-Dade County have been engaged through *Soccer for Success* with the support of 860 trained coach-mentors. As is true nationally, the Miami-Dade youth served through this initiative reflect under-resourced populations. Ninety-one percent of participating youth identify as Black, Hispanic, or multi-ethnic and 87 percent qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.

On March 17, 2017, The Children's Trust Board approved resolution #2017-70 initially committed \$100,000.00 to support and expand the Soccer for Success program to serve 1,300 children and youth in Miami-Dade County. This allocation was subsequently increased to \$125,000 for fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-23. For fiscal year 2023-2024 the funding Resolution 2023-46 – Community Awareness and Advocacy, Cross-funder Collaboration, US Soccer Foundation

request has increased to \$250,000 to support the Miami Soccer Initiative community-wide expansion, to support programming on the 50 new donated soccer pitches, to establish of the new Just Ball program, in addition to the continuation of Soccer for Success.

The U.S. Soccer Foundation also raises additional funds to grow and improve the program in Miami-Dade County. So far, the initiative has received a \$5,000,000.00 donation from Ken Griffin and Citadel Foundation, which will be invested directly into building 50 soccer pitches countywide. Additional funding partners are also currently being engaged. As a result of this collaborative effort, for every dollar The Children's Trust invests, \$20.00 is invested by the funding partners collectively.

Per the procurement policy, section 2006 Match Funding and Funder Collaboration, the negotiation and execution of a funder collaboration contract are exempt from the competitive solicitation process. Renewal of match and funder collaboration funding beyond the initial contract term is at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust and shall be contingent upon satisfactory performance evaluations, quality program results, outcome achievements, availability of funding, and an ability to maintain the underlying primary funding source(s).

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this
15th day of May, 2023.

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

Soccer for Success

AUGUST 2022 - PRESENT



Soccer for Success, developed by the U.S. Soccer Foundation, is an evidence-based program which provides children in underserved neighborhoods with structured physical activity, nutrition education and mentoring by specially trained coach-mentors. This program year, the *Soccer for Success* program is being implemented by six community partners (After School All Stars of South Florida, the City of North Miami, the City of Miami Gardens, FLIPANY, Fútbol con Corazón, and YMCA of South Florida) that receive funding and/or materials and equipment, program curriculum and training provided by the U.S. Soccer Foundation.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The goal of the program is to implement the *Soccer for Success* curriculum with fidelity to be able to achieve expected outcomes. Program fidelity includes having trained Coach-Mentors at a 15:1 ratio, implementing the program at least 3 days per week, 60-90 minutes per session, for an 8–12-week season.

During the Fall 2022 season, these program partners were asked to implement our brand-new Social Emotional Learning (SEL) *Soccer for Success* curriculum which teaches soccer and healthy lifestyles in a fun and safe environment where children can thrive. The SEL *Soccer for Success* curriculum teaches social and emotional competencies such as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Three sessions per week that teaches soccer, social-emotional learning, and life skills through trained coach-mentors.

Fall 2022 Outcomes:

- During the Fall 2022 *Soccer for Success* season, **1,300 students received 60-90 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity**, 3-days per week, during a 12-week period.
- During the Fall 2022 *Soccer for Success* season, the After School All Stars of South Florida, City of North Miami Parks & Recreation, FLIPANY, and YMCA of South Florida were able to implement 36 Social Emotional Learning (SEL) *Soccer for Success* lessons during the season.
- The overall impact from our survey results was that 91% of participants maintained or grew in at least 1 SEL capacity. 71% maintained or grew in at least 2 SEL capacities. 44% maintained or grew in at least 3 SEL capacities. And 16% maintained or grew in all 4 SEL capacities, with 91% of participants sharing program satisfaction.

PROGRAM IMPACT DURING THE FALL 2022 SEASON

4	24
Community Partners	Active Sites
50	1,300
Participating Coaches	Participants Served

Programs Participating in the Spring 2023 Season & Expected Number of Participants

- ASAS South Florida (100 students)
- City of Miami Gardens (150 students)
- City of North Miami (100 students)
- FLIPANY (700 students)
- Fútbol Con Corazón (700 students)
- YMCA of South Florida (300 students)

FLIPANY

During 2022, FLIPANY was selected as a U.S. Soccer Foundation Innovation Hub (1 of 6 throughout the country). Innovation Hubs represent organizations in strategic markets, with the capacity to not only implement *Soccer for Success* with high fidelity but serve as regional hubs for delivery of professional development and technical assistance for other programs in the region. Starting in the 2022-2023 program year, FLIPANY serves as an Innovation Hub, serving as a regional learning hub with the capacity to provide technical assistance and training for other programs in the region that may be interested in implementing the *Soccer for Success* program. Most recently, FLIPANY has also been part of our ongoing efforts around our United for Girls Initiative, with the goal of expanding opportunities for young girls to access the sport of soccer and to increase opportunities for women to engage as Coach-Mentors in their own communities. In 2022, FLIPANY got the opportunity to be featured in a video (filmed in FLIPANY's South Florida program sites) created by the U.S. Soccer Foundation to highlight our United for Girls Initiative and in the Fall 2022 they were featured in our Count Her In: A Playbook for Youth Sports Programs to Engage Girls publication.

U.S. Soccer Foundation

Mini-Pitch

Mini-pitches are small, customized, hard-court surfaces that are perfectly suited for organized soccer programs and pick-up games. Mini-pitches are often used as community hubs and are shown to strengthen community cohesion, encourage physical activity and improve safety perceptions.



99%

say people in their community are more active after installation of a mini-pitch

96%

say their mini-pitch is accessible to all

98%

say that their community feels safer after installation of a mini-pitch



The Children's Trust Board Meeting

May 15, 2023

Resolution 2023-47

Strategic Plan Priority Investment Areas: Community awareness and advocacy: Cross-funder collaboration of goals, strategies and resources.

Strategic Plan Headline Community Results: Students succeed academically; children behave appropriately in school, homes and communities; and youth successfully transition to adulthood.

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute a funder collaboration contract with Miami Homes for All, Inc., to support partnerships to end youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County through service linkage, advocacy, and engagement, in an amount not to exceed \$234,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. Further, authorization to negotiate and execute an IT contract with Miami Homes for All and the Homeless Trust, in an amount not to exceed \$91,000.00, for a term of 16 months commencing June 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024, for a pilot program in which Miami Homes for All will consult on the research, design, procurement and population of a housing inventory software database for the Homeless Trust, and, if necessary, authorization to negotiate and execute a related collaborative data sharing agreement. Further, delegation of authority to adjust funding between the initiatives.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$325,000 is available in FY 2022-2023 and is projected to be available in FY 2023-2024.

Background: Youth and family homelessness is a concerning reality in South Florida. According to the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust, in 2022, there were 947 youth and families served by homeless housing and services providers across Miami-Dade County. Additionally, many youths do not know how to navigate the multiple systems where they can receive support. Rates of homelessness are higher among youth of color and among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ+) youth. The challenge of youth homelessness, and homelessness in general, has been exacerbated by the current affordable housing crisis in Miami-Dade County and a lack of inventory of housing placements for homeless youth, families, and single adults.

Miami Homes for All (MHFA) was created to promote community efforts to help prevent and end homelessness in South Florida by establishing alliances with agencies and organizations. Since its inception, MHFA has sought to develop formal partnerships to break down silos and support all individuals who experience homelessness at any point in their lives.

Thanks in part to funding from The Children's Trust from 2018 through 2022, MHFA is the backbone agency for the Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth Collective (HOMY Collective), a multi-sector effort to create a locally designed, comprehensive system of care to prevent and address youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County. With the help of MHFA, HOMY ensured that more than 100 agencies work collaboratively to serve Miami-Dade County's youth experiencing homelessness. Now, HOMY has merged with MHFA's broader coalition, The Greater Miami Housing Alliance to support youth with safe and stable housing and wraparound

services to help them become more resilient adults. The collaboration seeks to reach Miami-Dade's most vulnerable and often invisible youth to ensure stable housing for all youth.

Description of Services: This funder collaboration project builds upon the foundations of the HOMY Collective and adds a direct service component for homeless youth. Additionally, this item authorizes the establishment a pilot initiative for MHFA to research and assist the Homeless Trust in developing and populating a live housing inventory database to assist in locating additional housing leads for the homeless; with youth and homeless families being the top priority for housing placement.

MHFA concentrates on advocacy, prevention, and informational services to enhance existing community efforts while filling support gaps. MHFA seeks to work in partnership with multi-sector organizations to create a comprehensive system of care. Specifically, this collaboration aims to:

- improve outreach, identification, and assessment of needs of homeless youth and families;
- ensure disconnected and vulnerable youth develop healthy, permanent relationships;
- support the social, emotional, and physical well-being of youth; and
- expand homelessness prevention efforts and improve collaboration between systems.

These efforts will be accomplished through the following:

1. Service Linkage: MHFA will facilitate referrals of homeless youth for housing placements and services, utilizing Trust-funded Family Neighborhood Support Partnerships (FNSP) providers for care coordination, and an established network of additional community partners. Additionally, MHFA aims to continue to break down silos related to housing placements, referral processes, and other issues to serve homeless youth. This will be accomplished by creating, enhancing, the utilization of agreements between providers. The intention is also to review system performance outcomes, in partnership with the Homeless Trust, to further develop and implement a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness.
2. Through a continued focus on advocacy and engagement in the form of coalition and partnership building, MHFA will continue to coordinate and improve policies and interventions to prevent homelessness.
3. MHFA will focus on enhancing homeless families' access to mainstream services. This structure enables communication and collaboration to create a coordinated community response. Advocacy goals are to facilitate better local collaboration between stakeholders working with youth and families, including local child welfare, education, law enforcement agencies, runaway and homeless youth providers, LGBTQ+ organizations, and other local stakeholders. Youth who have personally experienced homelessness are at the forefront of this advocacy work.
4. MHFA will begin a pilot program, in partnership with the Homeless Trust, in which MHFA will consult on the research, design, procurement, and population of a software platform to centralize, automate, and prioritize housing opportunities for homeless households, with an emphasis on families with minor children and unaccompanied youth. The system-level landlord tracking tool, to be procured by the Homeless Trust, will allow for a repository of all available units and landlord/property owner/property management contact information, and if possible, the ability to determine whether a landlord has any available units in real time. The centralized data collection and storage system will enable data/information sharing across programs, including a live and consistently updated inventory of available housing units.

After procurement of the system, MHFA will be responsible for generating and curating the population of housing leads into the system, together with the Homeless Trust and providers and partners within the continuum of care. The exact cost for the system is unknown at this time and will be a component of the initial research and planning being conducted by MHFA. The Homeless Trust has committed to providing the necessary funding for the system technology, up to \$47,500, that is determined to be needed to support this project. The Children's Trust funding will go toward MHFA's costs and salaries to research and eventually run the system. It is anticipated that The Children's Trust will have access to the data/information in the system through the anticipated collaborative and will enter into related collaborative data sharing agreements.

FY 22-23: \$25,000.00 would be expended in FY 22-23 for part-time staff support to begin the research and planning necessary to support the development of a centralized data system for the Homeless Trust.

FY 23-24: \$66,000.00 will be expended in FY 23-34 for part-time staff support to continue the research, development, and population of the centralized data system for the Homeless Trust.

This resolution seeks for The Children's Trust to invest \$325,000.00 into this funder collaboration. The funds will be expended as outlined above (\$91,000.00 for the pilot program; \$234,000.00 for service linkage, engagement, advocacy). Staff is requesting that, with the passage of this resolution, the Board delegate authority to staff to shift funding between the above initiatives as may be needed. Any such funding will not exceed the total amount of \$325,000.00.

MHFA will provide a \$657,500.00 match for these initiatives from the funders summarized in the table below. For every dollar The Children's Trust invests in this initiative, at least \$2.00 is leveraged in return.

Other Funders		Amount	Use of Funds
	JPMorgan Chase	\$175,000	Engagement, Advocacy, and Service Linkage
	United Way of Miami-Dade	\$50,000	Engagement, Advocacy, and Service Linkage
	Miami Foundation	\$12,495	Engagement, Advocacy, and Service Linkage
	Gucci Changemakers	\$50,000	Service Linkage and Engagement
	Bank of America	\$14,415	Advocacy and Engagement
	Wells Fargo	\$10,000	Advocacy and Engagement
	Bradesco BAC Florida Bank	\$10,000	Advocacy and Engagement

	Homeless Trust: youth homeless outreach and triage	\$288,090	Service Linkage and Engagement
	Homeless Trust: Housing inventory tracking tool	\$47,500	Service Linkage
	Total Other Funders	\$657,500	

Per the procurement policy, section 2006 Match Funding and Funder Collaboration, the negotiation and execution of a funder collaboration contract are exempt from the competitive solicitation process. Renewal of match and funder collaboration funding beyond the initial contract term is at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust and shall be contingent upon satisfactory performance evaluations, quality program results, outcome achievements, availability of funding, and an ability to maintain the underlying primary funding source(s).

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **15th day of May 2023.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: May 15, 2023

Resolution: 2023-48

Strategic Plan Priority Investment Area: Parenting: Group, Advocacy, Home Visitation, and Individual Parenting Supports

Strategic Plan Headline Community Results: Children are supported by nurturing and involved parents; children are ready for kindergarten; students are succeeding academically; children meet recommended levels of physical activity; children behave appropriately in schools, homes and communities; and youth successfully transition to adulthood.

Recommended Action: Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and enter into a contract with Lutheran Services Florida, Inc., as a result of a change in agency ownership from Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services, Inc., to ensure the continuous delivery of evidence-based parenting services.

Budget Impact: There is no budget impact for this action.

Background: Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services, Inc. (Miami Bridge), EIN 59-2569847 is one of the Trust's parenting providers. It notified The Children's Trust of its pending merger with Lutheran Services Florida, Inc., which will result in a change in ownership to Lutheran Services Florida, Inc. Through this change, Miami Bridge is absorbed as part of Lutheran Services Florida, Inc., and will be a new entity with new EIN, 59-2198911. The pending merger is in the final stages of closing, expected in June of 2023. This contract is in the final 12-month term of a five-year funding cycle, ending September 30, 2023. The amount of funds still left to be paid out under this contract is \$82,495 as of March 2023 reimbursement.

Request for Procurement Waiver (requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of board members present): On May 16, 2022, the board approved resolution number 2022-45, for a final contract renewal with Miami Bridge for \$131,557.00, and 39 other providers to deliver evidenced based parenting services. This requested action will ensure there is no interruption to the parenting services provided to the families currently served by Miami Bridge. Services will continue to be implemented seamlessly as direct and management staff will remain the same after the merger. The Board's authorization to enter into a contract agreement with Lutheran Services Florida, Inc. is contingent upon the final merger.

Geographic Area: Countywide

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **15th day of May 2023.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

COVER PAGE

ONCE CONTENT IS FINALIZED, WE
WILL UPDATE OVERALL LOOK TO
ALIGN WITH CURRENT BRANDING



Strategic Framework

PAGE 1

Mission: The Children's Trust partners with the community to plan, advocate for and fund strategic investments that improve the lives of all children and families in Miami-Dade County.

Vision: The Children's Trust envisions a community that works together to provide the essential foundations to enable children to achieve their full potential.

Foundational Values

INVEST IN

Early
Childhood
Supports

Services
Through
Transition to
Adulthood

Continuous
Learning &
Quality
Improvement

Community
Engagement
&
Partnerships

SUPPORT

Whole
Child Focus

Vulnerable
Populations

Evidence-
based
Practices

BECAUSE

All Children Are Our Children

PAGE 2

KEY TERMS & DEFINITIONS:

Investing significantly in early childhood is critical, given that 90% of the brain is formed by age 5, and there is a significant return on early investments. Additionally, it is key to sustain these investments **across the developmental continuum through the transition to adulthood**.

Continuous learning and quality improvement supports the development of high-quality services that achieve reach and impact for children and families. This requires that programs recruit, train and retain effective direct service staff members. In turn, staff conduct ongoing performance assessment and growth planning and engage in improvement supports. We review performance at the contract, initiative and priority investment area levels across the portfolio of Trust investments.

Community engagement is essential to empower and seek input from residents and view youth and families as change agents in addition to program participants. A key goal is connection across systems, community organizations and residents to integrate services and increase alignment. We aim to inspire and inform the public about available programs and resources for children and families to support them in achieving their full potential.

Strategic Partnerships involve long-term and meaningful engagement, advocacy and collaboration with community stakeholders at all levels, which lead to leveraged investments, programs and initiatives that achieve collective impact.

A **whole child** focus includes attending to supports for child and youth development across domains such as health, physical, social, emotional, cognitive, academic, approaches to learning and basic needs.

Vulnerable populations and neighborhoods need additional resources. It is critical to amplify strengths and build resilience to counter the effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) such as child abuse or neglect, exposure to family and community violence, family mental health issues, legal issues, family homelessness and extreme poverty. **Children and youth with disabilities** also need intentional supports that ensure they are welcomed into all our funded programs and served effectively with reasonable accommodations.

Informing ourselves with **evidence-based practices** when sufficient evidence exists ensures we offer the best chance of success for children and families.

All children are our children, so we advocate for and support increased availability of needed services, social justice and prosperity for all.

Priority Investments

Thrive by 5 Early Childhood

Development

- Child Care Quality Improvement System
- Families Forward Child Care Scholarships
- Child Care & Education Match Slots
- Developmental Screening, Assessment & Early Intervention
- Community Research Partnerships

Youth Development

- K-12 After-School Programs & Summer Camps
- Summer Reading Enhancements
- Summer Youth Internship Program
- Cultural Arts Programming

Health & Wellness

- School-based Health: Nursing, Oral Health, Vision Care & Mental Health
- Social and Emotional Wellness/Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
- Food & Nutrition Services (in daily programs)
- Public Benefits Enrollment
- Injury Prevention Education

Parenting

- Parenting & Family Strengthening Group, Individual & Home Visitation
- Parent Club
- Book Club
- Early Literacy Supports

Family & Neighborhood Supports

- Family & Neighborhood Support Partnerships
- 211 Helpline

Community Engagement, Awareness & Advocacy

- Community-Based Organization (CBO) Supports and Coalition-Building
- Funder Collaboration Initiatives
- Public Awareness & Program Promotion
- Community Outreach & Resources
- Public Policy Priorities & Advocacy
- Youth Civic Engagement & Leadership Development

Learning & Quality Improvement

- Trust Academy Partners: Supports for Quality Program Implementation
- Capacity Building
- Program Evaluation & Community Research
- Technology Design & Solutions
- Innovation Fund

Headline Community Results

We track our funded program activities and performance measures carefully to assess performance and return on our investments. We are vigilant to utilize tax dollars to improve the lives of children and families.

We also tap the collective resources of this great community, with a focus on achieving sustainable results to make long-term progress on our headline community results listed below. The Trust cannot accomplish any of these headline results on its own, which is why community is a key part of the phrase. It takes the coordinated efforts of a community to achieve results worthy of headlines. No one organization alone can accomplish this at the population level in our large county or reach all children and their families. Moreover, no single organization has the expertise and resources to address the many complex reasons why headline community results are not yet where we wish they would be.

In addition to the specification of broad headline community results within this strategic framework, The Trust publishes annual updates of multiple indicators or current ways of measuring these results. These snapshots show data trends, as well as comparisons to state and national progress when appropriate. Selection of exactly what to measure will be based on identifying a balanced set of available indicators that:

- reflect child, family and community levels;
- include different ages and populations;
- incorporate objective (administrative) data and subjective (self-reported) perception;
- ensure a positive, strengths-based view;
- are easily communicated;
- complement other community work;
- provide quality data on a timely basis; and
- parallel program performance measures when relevant.

Family & Community Supports



High-quality early learning opportunities



Regular use of medical, dental and behavioral health care services



Nurturing and involved parents

Child & Youth Well-Being



Kindergarten readiness



Academic success



Healthy lifestyle habits for eating, sleeping, physical activity and mental wellness



Good choices for pro-social behaviors in schools, homes and communities



Successful transition to adulthood



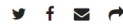
Media Highlights
April 2023

EDUCATION

Children's Trust announces nearly \$400 million in funds to help Miami-Dade school kids

BY HOWARD COHEN

UPDATED APRIL 18, 2023 4:37 PM



Support is on the way to Miami-Dade's children.

The Children's Trust 33-member board of directors announced that a \$383 million funding allocation to support 143 after-school and summer camp programs in Miami-Dade County over the next five years is a go.

Children's Trust founder David Lawrence Jr. applauded Tuesday morning's announcement that was delivered from the Belafonte TACOLCY Center in Liberty City.

"Over the past two decades, The Children's Trust has invested more than \$2 billion in one American community — our own — to give children a much better chance to succeed in school and in life. It gives me such joy," said Lawrence, a former publisher of the Miami Herald.

Lawrence, who chairs The Children's Movement of Florida, founded The Children's Trust in September 2002.

Miami-Dade County voters approved a referendum creating The Children's Trust to use "property tax dollars to invest, support and advocate on behalf of children and families in the county," according to the institution. Natalia Zea, the Trust's chief public policy and engagement officer, told the Miami Herald that the funding is dedicated thanks to two voters' referendums, the last one in 2008, that are in perpetuity.

Tuesday's \$383 million announcement represents an overall increase in Trust-funded program locations from 484 to 682, including a 41% expansion in priority areas, the organization said Tuesday.

"Miami-Dade is an incredible community, which invests a significant number of resources into the strong support of children and families. The establishment and support of The Children's Trust clearly demonstrates that. Despite what any national article or poll may suggest we know that we live in a

special and generous community,” The Children’s Trust president and CEO James Haj told the Herald in an email.

This investment is expected to benefit over 36,000 school-aged children and youth across Miami-Dade each year, the Trust said.

The Trust funds an array of groups including programs that provide after-school programs, STEM education, arts and youth sports groups, museums and schools. The Trust helps present spring events like the Miami Herald’s Spelling Bee and Silver Knight Awards and the Actors’ Playhouse’s Young Talent Big Dreams competition annually.

“Securing sufficient funding is crucial for us and other providers to continue to deliver valuable services to our communities in Miami,” said Shownda Pagan, CEO of Trust-funded service provider Belafonte TACOLCY Center in a statement. “Together, we can ensure that every child has access to a safe, supportive, and engaging environment that facilitates their academic and personal development.

” A portion of the funded programs also includes college readiness training, civic engagement programs, bilingual cultural programming, and a focus on helping teens who have dropped out or are disconnected from school or work, and those who are involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems, according to the Trust.

“I am confident that our investment will positively impact the lives of numerous young people in our community to help them develop new skills, build confidence, and create lasting memories,” said Trust Board Chairman Ken Hoffman in a statement.

The support is part of The Trust’s continuous five-year community-needs assessment and funding planning process, with \$76.7 million provided to programs annually, so long as the programs continue meeting required standards of care and upon annual Board approval.

COMMUNITY

The Children's Trust: What I learned from my experience in the Summer Youth Internship Program | Opinion

BY AMAYA BORROTO

APRIL 28, 2023 7:00 AM



Around this time of year, high schoolers typically slug through the hallways, spinning lists in their minds of internships, community service and ACT/SAT prep. At least, that's where I was in the spring of my

junior year. Fruitlessly searching for programs that would enrich my high school experience without breaking the bank.

So preoccupied was I with the coming college application season that I never listened closely to the morning announcements, which hailed the Summer Youth Internship Program (SYIP), a collaboration between The Children's Trust, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), Miami-Dade County, Career Source South Florida, the Foundation for New Education Initiatives and EdFed Credit Union.

As a paid internship that also offers school credit in Miami-Dade, SYIP is a great opportunity to gain experience while also earning money that is open to high school students in Miami-Dade County.

I enrolled at the urging of my school's activities director. The promise of a paycheck at the end of a resume-building experience was extremely appealing. Another important benefit of the program is that students can earn a GPA boost by way of both school and Dual Enrollment credit through their participation.

Browsing the positions available, I was struck by the range of opportunities being offered: clerking in a law office, filing medical records, marketing, management, retail, or counseling, the possibilities were endless. That July, friends of mine took up new posts as chiropractic assistants, social media managers, and even summer camp counselors.

At first, the array of possibilities before me seemed overwhelming. Without a clear career path in mind, the job descriptions all started to blur together. During the interview process, however, that anxiety finally dissipated. The program provides online comprehensive workplace etiquette and interview coaching to ensure that all students, regardless of experience, are prepared for success.

I was lucky enough to land a spot as an intern for The Children's Trust, a government organization that provides funding for social services, programs, and resources for the children of Miami-Dade. Eight of us were interviewed and hired for five weeks in the summer of last year. None of us had ever worked in an office environment before, but with the help of the program and our wonderful supervisors, we learned how the important work of public service is done. Interning under one of the program's sponsors came with loads of insight into the program at large.

Our supervisor organized financial literacy sessions with EdFed, where educators demystified some personal finance concepts and pointed us in the direction of resources the bank provides. As part of this program, students are required to open a checking account with EdFed to receive their stipend payments. This credit union is particularly geared toward planning for the financial futures of students and educators in South Florida.

Too often, these internship experiences can be hard to access for students living in low-income neighborhoods. But by compensating participants and granting them access to financial literacy resources through the partnership with EdFed, students are really set up to succeed.

In my own experience, the internship program was an invaluable first step in my career. Not only did I learn how organizations like The Children's Trust run, but I also learned how passionate I am to continue to make change in my community. This self-discovery motivated me to stay at The Children's Trust during my senior year through a school year internship, and through applications and decisions, my commitment to pursue a career in social services is strong.

Research shows that students entering the workforce with an internship under their belt are more confident, more experienced, and more prepared to succeed. I can certainly attest to those results, as this opportunity has truly inspired me to stay engaged and push forward.

With the encouragement of M-DCPS and backing from organizations like The Children's Trust, SYIP is uniquely positioned to provide a holistic experience for participants. I hope that families and students reading this piece take advantage of this opportunity and sign up for the SYIP experience. If you're searching for a program to enrich your summer and your resume, then look no further!

The deadline to complete an online course to apply for the program is Friday, May 12. Visit miami.getmyinterns.org for eligibility requirements and more information.

FEATURED

Child advocates recognized by The Children's Trust

Jazmine Santillana Miami Times Staff Writer May 2, 2023 Updated May 3, 2023



Community activist Regina Davis and Annie Neasman, president and CEO of the Jessie Trice Community Health System, at the 2023 Champions for Children awards ceremony.

(Courtesy of The Children's Trust)

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[The Children's Trust](#) honored the work of individuals and organizations putting the needs of children and families first at the 2023 Champions for Children awards ceremony.

Grassroots community activist Regina Davis received the Excellence in Advocacy Award while the [Jessie Trice Community Health System](#) (JTCHS) received a program of the year nod for the health care services it provides at dozens of local schools.

Community trailblazers like Davis, lovingly known as “Ms. Regina,” has dedicated the last 43 years to improving the quality of life for Miami-Dade County residents. Her community service began with

helping young pregnant girls stay in school and she's continued to advocate for children and families in Liberty City, Brownsville and Allapattah.

While Davis has received numerous accolades from other organizations, she said she feels particularly honored to be recognized by The Children's Trust, which she calls an authentic organization that looked into the heart of the community to select her.

"A lot of times, folks like us who are knocking on doors and making sure our children go to school and clean the uniforms are overlooked," she said. "So The Children's Trust didn't just choose me, they chose all the people who put faith in what the parents and I do for our children. The Trust showed us they care about our schools and our families."

Davis' mother taught her to live by the philosophy that it takes a village to raise a child. Her teachings cemented her daughter's foundation for community work, not only to help who you can but to do so without expectations. Davis' mother led by example, bringing children home who were in danger of being abused by alcoholic or drug-addicted parents.

"My mother made it very clear that we are responsible for the children – the postman, the milkman, everyone – and I grew up believing that," said Davis. "If children are given a voice and speak up to say something is going on, then we have to respect that and help them."

Davis continues to support improvements to education and programming in her area and is a critical partner in the [Urban League of Greater Miami](#)'s "We Rise" community education efforts. She advocates for low-income housing complexes to have access to after-school and summer programs, tutoring programs and enrichment activities. Along with children's advocacy, she helps organize her neighborhood's health and family resource fairs.

She also ensured that Brownsville Middle School students received clear backpacks to make the school safer for its student body and administration.

"We have not lost a child since implementing the clear book bags," said Davis. "There are no more children being shot at or bringing guns and weapons to Brownsville Middle School. Children can still play

with each other without working if someone is pulling out a gun or a knife, and teachers don't have to watch their back."

The countless hours she spends in advocacy and volunteering never waiver, despite experiencing gun violence personally at the hands of three underaged young men. Consequently, she now requires the help of a walker, but forgives the young men for their actions because she is motivated by her belief that every child can be successful.

"Children misbehave and it's difficult to forgive, but adults are responsible for children, so that is the person who needs to be held accountable. This community is learning," said Davis. "My goal is to continue to empower parents and children to speak out, to do better."

Formerly known as the Economic Opportunity Family Health Center, JTCHS was founded in 1967 by Jessie Collins Trice, the first Black person to receive a nursing degree from the University of Miami. What began as fulfilling local health care needs has grown into multiple primary care centers focused on improving health equity across South Florida by providing comprehensive care.

JTCHS provided health services 20 years ago to four schools and struggled to keep staff on-site to offer adequate services, according to Annie Neasman, president and CEO of the organization. JTCHS has been funded by The Children's Trust since 2006 to place health professionals in schools and today it serves 40 locations.

"It just means the world to me to be able to keep children healthy, and not only have nurses in schools but social workers and mental health workers who are so desperately needed, more than ever," said Neasman, who this week celebrates 19 years with JTCHS.

A native Floridian who always envisioned a future serving the community as a public health nurse, Neasman worked in the Jackson Memorial Health System in various capacities for more than 20 years then continued on to the North Dade Health Center. She later retired from there but remained on the health care landscape through JTCHS.

“I get to do what I’ve wanted from the beginning and work in population health. I get to look into the area and ask, what can we do to make life better for individuals in communities that may not have access to affordable quality health care?” she said. “It’s just a great feeling.”

Receiving an award for her work at an organization that provided her with her dream job was even better.

“Over the many years that I’ve been in this community and with Jessie Trice, it’s just rewarding to see what has happened in this community and what we’ve done over 55 years,” said Neasman. “I’m beyond words and excited that I’ve been a small part of that.”

Other program of the year honorees included the [Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe](#) and [Breakthrough Miami](#). The Excellence in Direct Service Award went to Abigail Peskin, and Early Learning Coalition president and CEO Evelio C. Torres received the David Lawrence Jr. Champion for Children Award. In a new category, Ransom Everglades School student Lauren Page was awarded for excellence in youth leadership.