



Dear Child Advocates,

We are excited to share that July was proclaimed as Summer Learning Month and July 12-16 specifically as “Summer Learning Week 2021” in Palm Beach County. Summer learning, to ensure children don’t lose educational gains made during the school year, was even more challenging last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet Palm Beach County students in kindergarten through second grade unexpectedly, and counter-intuitively, experienced less learning loss in summer 2020 than summer 2019.

The Palm Beach County School District’s diagnostic assessments found that almost 13% of students in those grades declined in reading proficiency in summer 2020, compared to 54% in 2019.

While experts don’t yet know why fewer students had learning losses, all agree that any loss can hamper children’s future success in school. That’s why there have been a number of great collaborations this summer – the School District, Children’s Services Council, Youth Services, Prime Time, United Way and the Early Learning Coalition, to name a few – to help ensure our children were ready when they went back to in-person learning in August. These initiatives/collaborations included expanded learning opportunities and increased academics in summer camps, as well as summer school, book drives and Back to School bashes.

As the school year began, all the Birth to 22 agencies are doing what we do best – partnering to ensure every child succeeds in school.

We thank you for your continued commitment as we navigate these complicated times.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Williams-Taylor
CEO, Children’s Services Council

Tammy K. Fields
Director, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department



Birth to 22 United for Brighter Futures NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 | Issue 4 | September 2021

Sunsetting Online Directory

The Birth to 22 Alliance Steering Committee has agreed to sunset the Online Resource Directory.

Advancing the Mission

Members of the Racial Equity Core Team conducted an inaugural cohort on organizations for racial equity.

Alliance Spotlights

Since its inception, Birth to 22 and its community alliances, have been working towards providing youth and young adults resources to reach their fullest potential.

Share Feedback & Stories!

Do you have feedback or have an inspiring story to share? We’d love to hear from you!

Contact us at, pbcbirthto22@pbcbgov.org

Culture of Health Prize Finalist Update



In February, Palm Beach County learned it has been selected as a finalist for the Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Prize, which honors communities working at the forefront of advancing health, opportunity, and equity for all.

The final stage of Palm Beach County’s review included community reflection sessions in which resident leaders and community partners shared about the collective work that is spurring health advancement across our neighborhoods.

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, Palm Health Foundation and Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County collaborated on the application process for the prize that shared the county’s collective commitment to the social determinants of health, including Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures, an alliance of over 300 organizations supporting the healthy growth, development and education of children and youth prenatally through young adulthood.

Check out this [video](#) overview of our diverse Palm Beach County community, presented in the final phase of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize review developed by the Palm Health Foundation.

Super Summer Spelling Bee



The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department hosted its seventh annual Super Summer Spelling Bee on July 21. The competition was held virtually with 129 campers from 34 Summer Camp Scholarship Program sites participating.

The spelling bee is for students enrolled in the Summer Camp Scholarship Program’s participating camps and provides academic activities to encourage the spirit of learning while preventing summer slide. Using Kahoot!, a virtual learning-based platform, campers’ spelling skills were tested in a fun and interactive way allowing spellers to compete with campers throughout the county.

“In an effort to combat summer and COVID slides, we

have encouraged our camps to integrate education into their curriculum daily,” said Valerie Messineo, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department senior program specialist. “Campers have practiced their spelling words over the last five weeks and the Super Summer Spelling Bee is the culmination of their hard work.”

Among the winners were campers from Bethel Evangelical Church, City of Greenacres, Digital VibeZ, Neil S. Hirsh Boys & Girls Club, and Preparing Tomorrow’s Leaders summer camps.

Participating agencies include the County Attorney’s Office, City of West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County Library System, Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition, Prime Time Palm Beach County, Friends of Youth Services and Palm Beach County, Inc., and Florida Power & Light.

Spelling Bee Winners

K-2nd	3rd-5th	6th-8th	9th-12th
Jadah (1st) Neil S. Hirsh Boys & Girls Club	Sean (1st) Digital VibeZ. Inc.	Sanai (1st) Bethel Evangelical Church	Jay’Shawn (1st) Preparing Tomorrow’s Leaders
Natalya (2nd) Neil S. Hirsh Boys & Girls Club	Andres (2nd) Neil S. Hirsh Boys & Girls Club	Alexzander (2nd) Bethel Evangelical Church	Valerie (2nd) Bethel Evangelical Church
Robert (3rd) Preparing Tomorrow’s Leaders	Neysa (3rd) Neil S. Hirsh Boys & Girls Club	Jamiriah (3rd) Preparing Tomorrow’s Leaders	Amelia (3rd) City of Greenacres

Sunsetting Birth to 22 Online Resource Directory

The Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures' Steering Committee has agreed to sunset the Online Resource Directory because two new online directories are now available in Palm Beach County – Florida Unite Us and MyFloridaMyFamily.

[MyFloridaMyFamily](#), provides a comprehensive directory of local resources that help strengthen families. Families and professional providers can search for services by category and by zip code.

[Unite Florida](#), provides an online coordinated care network of health and social service providers. With Unite Florida, providers across sectors can send and receive secure electronic referrals, track every person's total health journey, and report on tangible outcomes across a full range of services in a centralized, cohesive, and collaborative ecosystem.

Both MyFloridaMyFamily and Unite Florida have dedicated

staff to build, expand and continually update the directories. They both include and operate in the manner we had hoped we would reach with the Birth to 22 Online Resource Directory. Fortunately, both sites are free for families and professionals to use.

One benefit to the professional community that emerged from the creation of the Birth to 22 Online Directory was that providers' knowledge about resources available in the county increased. Now that more sophisticated directories have been developed and are free to both families and professionals, it is logical to sunset the Birth to 22 Online Directory.

We wish to thank Palm Beach County Information Systems Services (ISS) for the countless hours they devoted to building the platform, the funders and agencies who provided information about their services to be included in the directory, and to the many Birth to 22 member volunteers whose contributions helped to make the directory possible.

County Gets its Green On



Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures and the Becoming a Trauma Sensitive Community Action Team, celebrated the sixth annual "Get Your Green On" campaign and invited Palm Beach County to wear green on May 20 in solidarity. The Palm

Beach County Board of County Commissioners also issued a proclamation declaring May 2021 Mental Health Awareness and Trauma-Informed Care Month in Palm Beach County.

Throughout the month, community partners shared their favorite mental health tips, agencies hosted behavioral health trainings and workshops on Zoom, the School District of Palm Beach County staff and students created posters and information to share via their website and on YouTube, buildings and fountains were lit up green to show support, and events were held in honor of the campaign. On May 20, Get Your Green On day, thousands of residents wearing green posted pictures across social media.

This year, the Get Your Green On website was revamped to include events and information, mental health resources, an engagement toolkit, and campaign materials to share across social media.

Committee members participated in several outreach events including radio and television interviews to spread the importance of mental health awareness and trauma-informed care. On May 20, WPBF Channel 25 News reporter Angela Rozier featured an [interview](#) regarding the campaign.

Among those that got their green on were Palm Beach County Commissioners and Administration, Public Affairs, Youth Services Department, Library System, Water Utilities Department, Environmental Resources Management, BeWellPBC, Faulk Center for Counseling, The School District of Palm Beach County, Healthier Delray Beach, United Way of Palm Beach County, NAMI Palm Beach County, Alpert Jewish Family and Children's Service, 211 Helpline Palm Beach and Treasure Coast, and Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County.

Congratulations to the Birth to 22 Get Your Green On subcommittee for the exceptional planning and to everyone in Palm Beach County for honoring your behavioral health and wellness.

For more information about the Get Your Green On campaign, click [here](#).

GARE Membership Meeting



In May, members of Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures along with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) Core Team attended the 2021 GARE Annual Membership Meeting.

Palm Beach County is the first community in the state to become a member of GARE. In addition to Palm Beach County, three additional communities from Florida joined the other 36 states at this year's meeting.

The GARE Membership Meeting took on a different approach using an interactive virtual platform to bring the message of equity straight to organizations. The exposure to the race equity discussion was vast, including richness of storytelling from the City of Durham, to elevate the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and brought context and awareness to communities struggling with gentrification. Speakers provided hands-on tools to assist communities in creating action plans to advance racial

equity within their respective jurisdictions.

Through the experience of three arts administrators participants saw how the arts and arts education are essential for racial equity-driven governmental responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Panelists provided important insights into how arts education grant-making, programming, and advocacy have been vital during the pandemic for the well-being and long-term recovery of their jurisdictions. Panelists described lessons learned regarding arts education, crisis response, and racial equity. Team members were provided with an understanding of how to re-center racially equitable arts education practices in their jurisdictions, as the country slowly emerges from the pandemic.

The meeting also included informational breakout sessions on recommendations for other entities to connect with GARE and to learn from the work, challenges and successes of other jurisdictions.

Racial Equity Institute Phase 2 Training



Racial Equity Institute's two-day Phase 1 training is designed to develop the capacity of participants to better understand racism in its institutional and structural forms. Moving away from a focus on personal bigotry and bias through a historical, cultural, and structural analysis of racism. To expand on the concepts learned through REI's Phase 1 training, REI's two-day Phase 2 training helps emerging racial equity leaders identify their struggles and challenges in light of the racial equity analysis outlined in Phase 1. "Diagnosis determines treatment" is a frequent statement in Phase 1 training. In Phase 2, participants practiced looking at problems through an equity lens and developed an appreciation for the power of narrative.

The REI Phase 2 workshop was held using a virtual platform and was sponsored by Children's Services Council of Palm

Beach County and included leaders from more than 10 agencies throughout Palm Beach County.

Leaders discussed their obligation to craft new narratives with the goal of building power that is sufficient to challenge power.

Using the problem solving wheel, to ensure clarity of awareness, analysis of the meaning of the information, taking the time to envision what the right solution would look like, and the action to achieve the plan.

The guiding principles for the work involves leaders getting proximate to the issue, changing the narrative, being willing to get uncomfortable, maintaining hope and committing to the work within their community.

For more information about REI, click [here](#).

Future Leaders United for Change Meeting



Future Leaders United for Change and the Teen Advisory Council (TAC) held their monthly meeting virtually on April 20. The meeting was co- led by Anton Spalding, middle school professional development specialist, Andrea Hurtado, quality advisor at Prime Time Palm Beach County and Ike Powell III, senior program specialist at Palm Beach County Youth Services Department. The meeting included a featured Prime Time Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELO) on

“entrepreneurship” facilitated by Daniel Williams of the Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE).

Additionally, youth were provided the opportunity to share their input, perspectives and feedback on current matters including “what does the word equity mean to you?” Prior to the conclusion of the meeting, the trial of Derek Chauvin concluded with the verdict being announced and aired on local and national television networks. Time was allotted to discuss how the group was feeling and to allow a safe space to process the news.

Racial Equity Core Team Advancing the Mission



As a member of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, several members of Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures actively participate at the Advancing the Mission (ATM) sessions.

ATM is designed to enhance leaders’ ability to utilize racial equity tools and assessments, identify policies and institutional practices that lead to reducing racial inequities and develop racial equity action plans within their respective organizations. The primary strategy to accomplish this work is through the Advancing the Mission quarterly workshop.

All of the Racial Equity Core Team Members were involved in the planning and presentation of this session. The team has the primary charge of facilitating the responsibilities of the Palm Beach County GARE associate membership in partnership with the Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures Alliance.

As a member, Palm Beach County is able to engage in building local, regional and national collaborations, access technical support and resources that will enable our community to establish new pathways to deepen our racial equity work.

In May, the core team members conducted an inaugural cohort on organizations for racial equity. The session delved into a review of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, the history of race equity and the urgency of now as we recap the impact of the global pandemic on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), the Capitol insurrection, the global protests following the killing of George Floyd and the Derek Chauvin verdict.

Also addressed in this session was the intent and plan to strategically advance the mission of equity through the development of cohorts with a parameter that meets the needs of the agencies that have officially taken the pledge to advance equity in their institution and community.

To find out more about the work of the Racial Equity Core Team and Advancing the Mission, click [here](#).

Birth to 22 Business Breakfast



Due to precautions taken to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in our community, this event has been rescheduled for Friday, April 8, 2022.

Please [join us](#) for a conversation with business leaders supporting the Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures initiative.

PBC School District LIT Summer Curriculum



On April 19, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department’s Summer Camp Scholarship Program (SCSP) and the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) held a meeting for SCSP providers. The meeting provided information on summer monitoring as well as resource information from Prime Time Palm Beach County Inc., Palm Beach County Youth Services Department’s Residential Treatment and Family Counseling program, and the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County.

SDPBC’s Dr. Debra Robinson introduced her team and a project they have been working on for SCSP providers; the L.I.T. Summer Curriculum.

The L.I.T. (Liberating Inspirational Transformative) Summer

Curriculum was created by the School District of Palm Beach County’s Teaching and Learning Division Office of African, African American, Latino, Holocaust, and Gender Studies. It provides free content that consists of culturally relevant activities for participants in grades 6th-8th. Although the curriculum is aimed at the secondary grades, it also provides resources for primary grades K-5.

The goal of the program is to engage and inspire students through movement, art, music, and real-world experiences.

For more information about the L.I.T. Summer Curriculum, click [here](#).

CAN Community Health Center Grand Opening



On June 25, Ike Powell III, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department senior program specialist and Gary Graham, senior director at United Way Palm Beach County attended the Compass Community Center ribbon cutting and grand opening for their new partnership with CAN



Community Health. This exciting partnership brings the CAN Community Health Clinic to Palm Beach County. The clinic is located inside the Compass facility and will provide vital services to the community. Both Compass and United Way of Palm Beach County are county funded agencies.

Alliance Spotlights



Prime Time Palm Beach County held their virtual [Afterschool Symposium](#) themed Unmasking Your Potential, Building Systems and Programs Where All Youth Can Thrive was a successful event with more than

250 participants in attendance. The two-day event hosted on Whova, a virtual event application, on May 13-14, allowed for Palm Beach, Martin counties and beyond to join for networking, professional development workshops, award ceremonies and a special keynote address by Thaddeus Bullard, a.k.a WWE Superstar Titus O'Neil.

The goal of the annual symposium was to introduce out-of-school time professionals to 'best practices' for implementing high-quality programming and to celebrate their hard work and dedication during the school year. This year's theme, Unmasking Your Potential, emphasized tapping into the reserves of perseverance and creativity stored within us all as we navigate our new normal and the subsequent migration to a virtual landscape. Workshops included the great need for equity, access and inclusion for all youth in our community and how social-emotional learning (SEL) is vital for school, work and life success. SEL speaks to the important work taking place in afterschool and summer camp settings and to the role that OST practitioners play in enriching the lives of the children they serve. Attendees were presented with innovative methods for positively impacting children and youth in a physically

distanced environment.

Guest speakers Palm Beach Post Executive Editor Rick Christie welcomed attendees and Palm Beach State College President/CEO Ava Parker congratulated practitioners who received certificates and degrees this past year in youth development, on the first day of this two-day event. Prime Time's Professional Development Honoree Ceremony recognized afterschool professionals for their educational achievements this past year.

Day two of the symposium kicked off with a viewing of Prime Time's Annual Impact Review and then moved to workshops. After the workshops concluded, Thaddeus M. Bullard, an accomplished athlete, philanthropist and entertainer as WWE Superstar Titus O'Neil, joined attendees as the keynote speaker. Bullard shared how he went from being a resident of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches as a troubled, underperforming young man to being a mentor, role model and honorary Deputy for the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Bullard's passion and commitment to not only succeed personally but also to help others succeed is derived from an early seed planted at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, where many invested in him when, in his words, "they had nothing to gain in return."

The Afterschool Symposium culminated with the annual Advancing Afterschool Awards, where out-of-school time practitioners had the opportunity to nominate and recognize their peers for their dedication to high-quality programming and commitment to children and youth they serve by submitting nomination forms weeks prior to the awards ceremony. Prime Time surprised award winners by safely hand-delivering plaques.



During the annual Business Breakfast, the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches acknowledged the accomplishments of businesses and the impact they make on our community.

Congratulations to the Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County for being a finalist in the non-profit category and to Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County Board Member Connor Lewis for winning the 2021 Youth Professional Award.

For more information about the Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County, click [here](#).



The Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN) has created a Steering Committee for the Planning of a Coordinated System of Care pursuant to House Bill 945. House Bill 945

was signed into law by Governor DeSantis on June 27, 2020.

This legislation focuses on children's mental health and requires the Managing Entity – SEFBHN in Palm Beach County – to develop a Coordinated System of Care with feedback and input from community partners.



Palm Beach County Community Services Department Securing Our Future Initiative hosted a community-wide essay and video competition for youth in 6th-12th grade. The competition was designed to engage youth in poverty reduction work. Youth are naturally creative,

insightful, and passionate. The competition provided youth an opportunity to tap into that passionate and creativity to develop new strategies to be used in the Securing Our Future work.

The prompt was to identify an innovative way to reduce poverty in Palm Beach County. Some recommendations were to focus on policy related to the fiscal benefits cliff. Other suggestions were to recruit companies that pay a living wage at entry level and raise the minimum wage. One essay stood out. Carly, a junior at Inlet Grove Community High School, feels strongly that engaging youth as young as elementary school in after school clubs will break the cycle of generational poverty. Carly describes a world in which youth have been engaged in creative problem-solving from a young age. She explains that youth need the opportunity to engage in creative activities. She thinks offering after school clubs such as screen-writing, gardening, and language clubs will broaden the minds of our young people, allowing them to see a better future for themselves and their families. Youth engaged in these types of after school programs are better able to creatively solve problems, have increased confidence, and build a social network with peers and trusted adults that will strengthen their opportunity for growth.

While not specifically mentioned, Carly's point of view will have a positive impact on the lives of the parents as well. Engaging more youth in after school clubs provides additional free childcare that parents need to continue working. The cost of childcare is immense in Palm Beach County and having youth spend 1-2 hours after school engaged in a club will offer less time that the parents need to pay for after school care.

Carly's point of view is that engaging youth in after school clubs that promote creative thinking will break the cycle of poverty and provide the youth with a greater outlook of their future, allowing them to accomplish what they dream.

For winning the essay competition, Carly will be matched with an adult mentor engaged in the Securing Our Future Initiative to implement her ideas in 1-2 pilot schools over the next school year.

Carly is 16 years old and a junior at Inlet Grove Community High School in Riviera Beach. She is in her school's medical program, and is currently working on her EKG certification. Following high school Carly wants to be a developmental pediatrician and aims to specialize in behavioral studies with a concentration on autism spectrum disorders. She also serves as the research intern for Inlet Grove's Mindfulness Club. Carly volunteers in the Mindfulness Club's garden with other high school students on a regular basis. She spends her free time watching new shows and studying different languages.

To congratulate Carly on her excellent work, email your congratulations to Jodie Boisvert at JBoisver@pbcgov.org.

During the month of May, Palm Beach Regional Juvenile Detention Center celebrated the Get Your Green On Campaign with youth through a variety of activities to raise awareness of mental health and trauma informed care.



CeCe the Therapy Dog

On May 11, Ms. Deborah and her American Bull Dog 'CeCe' visited the Palm Beach Regional Juvenile Detention Center. The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Reform Specialist, Shirlon St Amour and Cristy Altaro from Court Administration made a connection with Certified Therapy Dog Inc. to have Ms. Deborah and CeCe work with the youth in secure detention. CeCe was an immediate attraction for the youth. She allowed them to play with her

and give her treats when she followed their command. The youth were fascinated with her obedience and comforted her with gentle rubs on her head and tummy. Ms. Deborah and CeCe will try to continue to build relationships with the youth at the detention center in future months.



Yoga and Meditation

The DJJ Reform Specialist, Shirlon St Amour and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Gang Prevention Coordinator, Marcia Bahia hosted two days of fun filled fitness, stress relief and education for the youth at the Palm Beach Regional Juvenile Detention Center. On May 21, six males participated in a yoga session with Yani Daes from SOHAM Yoga. Ms. Daes educated the youth on the importance

of breathing properly to circulate oxygen and energy to heal the body. She also taught them a few basic stretches and then guided them through a meditation exercise. The youth were able to relieve some built up stress, anxiety and tension and verbally expressed a desire to participate again.



Rapping for Mental Health

On May 24, Wil Romelus and the staff from Digital VibeZ Inc. along with Dr. Seth Bernstein from the United Way of Palm Beach County worked with

the youth on using dance, fitness and verbal expression to relieve tension as well as communicate feelings to others. Digital VibeZ began the session with inspirational music and fitness moves to get the youth up and dancing. Dr. Bernstein then discussed what positive mental health looks like and how to achieve it. The youth ended the afternoon working with the Digital VibeZ staff on a “rap for mental health” showcase. Some of the youth wrote individual rhymes to express their current moods and others collaborated to write a song on their emotions. The activity really showed the youth’s creativity and gave them a chance to openly articulate their thoughts on the subject.



It takes many hands to create equality of opportunity and equity of outcomes in education. Path to College Fellowship celebrates the heroes that close gaps and provide resources to help all students succeed. During the fourth annual Education Fest, Path to College’s signature year-end celebration, keynote speaker Alex Price inspired guests to pursue life and work avenues that fulfill your spirit and give back to the community. In fact, his passionate work at Office Depot has made a tremendous impact in Path to College’s mentoring program through their Depot Difference Mentorship Movement. The Education Champion of 2021 award was presented to Mark Howard, the Chief of Performance Accountability at the School District of Palm Beach County. When schools closed due to the pandemic, Mark led the development of the Digital Inclusion Initiative that granted all students access to reliable internet at home and specifically supported communities in critical need. Mark says that the most powerful change we can make to improve outcomes for under-resourced students is to make connections.

“...if all students reached their potential and had connection, support and opportunities, the economic impact on the community would soar as a result of the productivity and the full contributions of each individual.”

The highlight of Education Fest is a student speech competition where 160 viewers witnessed the top five persuasive presentations. Ms. Chimdindu Ejidike was voted

Best ED Talk Champion with her empowering remarks on “Black Beauty, Black Pain: Dangers of Mimicking Whiteness.” What an honor to provide a platform for their voices to be heard.

The Armory Art Center provided a lush, outdoor backdrop for 70 guests on-site and an additional 287 guests at home via livestream on the evening of May 26. Sponsors of Education Fest are community-focused and equity-valuing business partners including Office Depot, PNC Bank, Hedrick Brothers Construction, Lynch & Associates, and the United Way of Palm Beach County.

The Path to College Fellowship is a rigorous, three-year academic commitment for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Through targeted tutoring, individual mentoring, leadership development workshops, service projects, and challenging enrichment projects students are able to achieve ambitious academic goals. In fact, the 2021 graduates have all received acceptances to four-year colleges, 85% to top tier universities and 62% achieving full-ride scholarships. These impressive students, who accomplish so much and overcome a multitude of obstacles, now set forth to university experiences that will increase their long term earning potential, with little or no debt, and with the mandate to go forth, succeed, and improve the world.

To learn more about Education Fest or the Path to College Fellowship, click [here](#).



Choose a High-Quality Afterschool Program for Your Child this School Year

Research shows that high-quality afterschool and summer programs can lead to substantial academic, social and emotional benefits for

children and youth.

As families begin to think about the new school year and plans for their children and youth during after school, Prime Time Palm Beach County, a 20-year old nonprofit that has one of the strongest, most comprehensive and well-respected systems for measuring and improving out-of-school time program quality in the nation, offers information and guiding questions to help when considering a high-quality afterschool program.

For more information about the program, click [here](#).

New Training Series Focused on Restorative Justice Coming this Fall

According to The Afterschool Alliance, afterschool settings provide an ideal location for introducing a restorative justice system, as they focus heavily on building a strong sense of community and assisting students with diverse backgrounds and needs, both of which are core focuses of the restorative justice model.

As Prime Time Palm Beach County continues to empower out-of-school time (OST) practitioners to create safe, supportive and welcoming environments that encourage positive social interactions and engagement with youth, it has developed a brand new professional development training series that focuses on the importance of teaching youth to learn from their mistakes and repair harm done, instead of isolating and punishing youth.

For more information about the restorative justice training or to register for the fall training, click [here](#).



The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) shared residents life-changing experiences after receiving help through OUR Florida rental and utilities assistance.

Floridians who have received rent and utilities assistance through OUR Florida, the federally-funded Emergency Rental Assistance Program operated by the Department of Children and Families, share their stories of rebound and recovery.

OUR Florida, which stands for Opportunities for Utilities and Rental Assistance, provides relief on rent and utilities for families who were affected by the public health emergency. The program was launched on May 10 and has already paid millions in relief to landlords and utilities companies to ensure families can stay safely in their homes, together.

"I was laid off last April due to the pandemic. As money began to run out, I realized I was facing eviction and was worried how I would make ends meet. Everything changed when I heard about the OUR Florida program. OUR Florida provided me with the necessary relief to keep a roof over my head. Now, I am back on my feet and starting a new job at the end of this month. OUR Florida has been my lifeline during such a challenging time in my life." – Marvel, Tenant, Orlando

"As a single mother, after I lost my marketing job during the pandemic, I was extremely worried about how I would pay for my rent. OUR Florida came at the perfect time. With

OUR Florida helping with my rent payments, I have the time I need to search for a new job while keeping a roof over my son's head. OUR Florida has put me back on track as my family recovers." – Aidaliz, Tenant, Winter Park.

"I thought all was lost until I was approached about the OUR Florida program. Now, I can see the light at the end of the dark tunnel. My tenants remain safe in their homes, and my small business is back in the black!" – Mark, Landlord, Belleview.

"This program has been a blessing to our family in so many ways. Without this program, I would be in a very bad spot, homeless, or without utilities. Thank you so much for offering this program to hard-working families like ours who are dealt unfortunate circumstances. You have restored my faith in humanity and what our great country stands for!" – Amanda, Tenant, Orlando.

Floridians who rent their home, apartment, or other dwelling where they live can apply. To be eligible for benefits, renters must:

- Earn an income at or below 80% of the area's median income,
- Be unemployed, have experienced a loss of income or financial hardship during the last year, and
- Be delinquent with rent or utilities payment or at risk of falling behind.

To learn more about eligibility, required documentation, and how to apply, click [here](#).



Unicorn Children's Foundation's students had a wonderful time in the summer in-person and virtual classes.

Unicorn Children's Foundation served 48 participants

this session—many of whom express they do not have access to other programs in their local area. These classes promote independent living skills including topics such as Daily Living, Coping Skills, and industry training courses for employment.

To register for next semester, click [here](#).



Despite the shortened summer break and challenges caused by the pandemic, GL Homes and Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County Back-To-School Drive successfully collected more than 2,400 backpacks stuffed with school

essentials. With the strong support of nearly 40 community partners, all Club members attending summer camps received a new backpack filled with the supplies needed to start the new school year successfully.

“Due to the pandemic and distance learning issues, this new school year is crucial. It’s important for GL Homes to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County’s efforts to help all children reach their full potential. For many Club members, they would not be able to return to school with new supplies without this back-to-school drive,” explained Sarah Alsofrom GL Homes senior director of community relations. “To ensure all Club members received the needed supplies, GL Homes made a significant additional donation as the title sponsor of the drive.”

Unlike previous years, the shortened summer break made it more challenging for community partners to collect the needed school supplies. As a result, Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County incorporated a virtual drive, which allowed donors to safely and easily purchase and ship items

directly to the Clubs. Traditional donation drop-off locations included most Starbucks, Tropical Smoothie Cafés, Sears and more than three dozen other sites.

Title sponsor, GL Homes, led the charge. Organizations such as The Mack Foundation, The Education Foundation, 88.1 Way-FM, Maschmeyer Concrete, Democratic Women of North Palm Beach County, The Palm Beach County School District – Office of Diversity in Business Practices and Tropical Shipping also made significant donations.

“This year, we faced an enormous challenge due to the short summer break. We were able to persevere thanks to the support of our amazing community partners,” said President & CEO Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County Jaene Miranda. “We are confident that our Club children will be able to enter the new school year with full confidence and ready to defeat the achievement gap that has negatively impacted them due to the pandemic.”

The tremendous outpouring of support allowed Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County to distribute backpacks before school started on August 10. The Clubs will also distribute additional backpacks and school supplies throughout the school year to ensure that all children have the supplies necessary to achieve.

For more information and ways to get involved, click [here](#).

Collective Impact Pledge



Birth to 22 is committed to a common agenda, we are an alliance of community partners that engages and aligns existing coalitions, networks, systems and youth-serving organizations as well as connecting families, community members, and most importantly, young people.

Take the *Pledge*, be listed as a Collective Impact Partner of the Birth to 22 Alliance to improve outcomes from cradle to career for all Palm Beach County children, youth and families.

Click [here](#) to join us in envisioning and creating a culture that values our youth from cradle to career.

Steps to Success

The Steps to Success represent 6 domains of child and youth development – physical health, behavioral health, academic readiness, social/emotional well-being, career readiness and connection and contribution to community and society. These steps represent key markers of success that allows us to access developmental outcomes. As children and youth make their way up these stairs, we are able to track their progress or lack thereof. The indicators, or measures, for these different areas are shown above the stair steps in the green text (for things we are trying to promote) and orange text (for things we are trying to prevent). Understanding what this data looks like for different subpopulations within Palm Beach County is also essential. In order to achieve those outcomes, children and youth need key supports along the way, through a combination of effective parenting and safe and nurturing families and communities. A sample of possible measures are listed below.

Steps to Success & Supports for Success

STEPS TO SUCCESS: Child & Youth Outcomes & Indicators



SUPPORTS FOR SUCCESS: Effective Parenting | Safe & Nurturing Families & Communities

ECONOMIC ACCESS: Percentage of Families in Poverty • Access to Housing • Workforce and Job Development Opportunities • Number and Percentage of Households receiving Food Stamps • Access to Transportation
PARENTING & ROLE MODELS: Parenting stress (situational are chronic) • Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development • Support Services for Parents
SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS: Access to Afterschool Services • Access to Early Childhood Education and Care • Mental Health Assessments & Services • Caregiver Stability • Bullying
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORTS: Educational Attainment • Advancement via Individual Determination • Parent Education & Involvement • Healthy School Connections • Effective Schools
HEALTH & WELLNESS SUPPORTS: Access to Health Insurance • Food Deserts • Physical/Eye/Hearing Exams • Late or No Prenatal Care • Access to Safe and Clean Parks and Recreation Spaces
REMOVAL OF COMMUNITY STRESSORS & SYSTEMIC BARRIERS: Crime Reduction • Access to Domestic Violence Services

KEY: + Child & Youth Indicator (Promotion) - Child & Youth Indicator (Prevention) ■ Family, School or Community Supports **Bold = measures & data currently available** *Italics = measures and/or data TBD*

