



2015 ANNUAL REPORT



www.MilagroCenter.org | 561.279.2970 | 695 Auburn Avenue, Delray Beach, FL 33444



TheMilagroCenter



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Milagro Center



Milagro Center

OUR MISSION

Milagro Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency whose mission is to ensure the social and academic success of children through cultural arts, Living Values, academic support and mentoring.

OUR VISION

To be a center of creative cultural collaboration, engaging education and inspiration that dissolves social barriers, forms lasting connections and sets the stage for future success.



FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR KURT KNAUS



Milagro Center remains committed to enriching the lives of children and families in Delray Beach. Since 1997, Milagro Center has been serving our most economically challenged families by providing affordable high quality after school and summer camp care to children whose parents otherwise could not maintain their jobs. By combining excellent and accredited after school programs and academic enrichment, exposure to cultural arts, mentoring, and the Living Values curriculum in a collaborative and nurturing environment, we're preparing children not just to succeed in school but also in life. Milagro Center's unique approach to learning and discovery paves the way for our children to become responsible, productive, and caring citizens who will become assets to our community. Milagro Center was honored to be named as the 2015 Non-Profit Organization of the Year by the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce.

For the last five years, our programs have expanded to include youths in the 6th through 12th grades, a group that is often unsupported by organized programs, which later is often a huge expense to our entire community. This program provides the unique combination of professional arts, Living Values education, and academic support to include: SAT/ACT preparation, life skills training, healthy living skills, and mentoring, aimed at preparing youth to graduate from high school ready to succeed in college and/or work and have a smoother transition into young adulthood. We expect that this program will have a positive impact on increasing the high school graduation rate

of a population that has only a 60–65% chance of graduating from high school, costing our community exponentially. During the 2014–15 school year, we had three seniors in our Teen Program; all three achieved their goal of graduating and are currently enrolled in 4-year colleges. We now have 13 seniors in the program and the November report cards for the 2015–16 school year indicate that all 13 are on track for graduation. This reflects a 100% graduation rate for students attending Milagro Center.

To further our goals of reaching and positively impacting children, Milagro Center has forged several unique and interesting collaborations with other community partners, both nonprofit agencies and for profit corporations. Most notably, Milagro Center's partnerships with the Delray Art League, Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, National League of American Pen Women, Plein Air Palm Beach, Carver Middle School, Schmidt College of Medicine at FAU, Old School Square, and Delray Beach Fire Rescue have afforded children and teens in our community with opportunities for learning, self-expression, and personal growth that we are proud to say are unmatched by any other Center offering after school care. Our commitment is to improve not just our children's lives, but their families' lives as well by equipping their children with the knowledge, tools, and self-confidence needed to become independent and responsible contributors to our community.

We thank our community, donors and supporters for their ongoing support.

Kurt Knaus



OUR PROGRAMS



STARS

"STANDING TOGETHER ACHIEVING RECOGNITION & SUCCESS"

Our STARS program provides a superior and uniquely integrated platform of arts instruction, Living Values education, academic enrichment and tutoring to 43 children of families who are living at or below the federal poverty level. These children are most often at risk of school failure, drop-out, and cyclical poverty. Young children in low income neighborhoods gain the most from quality after-school and summer camp programs. Milagro Center gives these children the opportunity to experience daily art, music, dance, musical instrument instruction, and academic enrichment that encourages creativity, learning, and acceptance and builds an indestructible sense of self-worth in our year-round program.



TEEN LEADERSHIP

Our Teen Leadership program serves 45+ economically-challenged middle and high school youth, ages 12–18, in an after-school and summer camp setting located at our Teen Center on SW 6th Avenue. The Teens receive daily homework assistance and literacy and math tutoring, art and music instruction, Living Values education, career development and planning, ACT/SAT preparation, life skills, and other resources to help them succeed in school and prepare them for futures that will enable them to become productive, self-sufficient members of our community. The Teens mentor younger students at our STARS program and receive community service hours as they develop their leadership skills.





MENTORING MIRACLES

Milagro Center relies heavily upon the support of its volunteers and mentors and strives to match each student individually with an adult mentor. The Mentor Program connects youth with positive adult role models and fosters nurturing, supportive, intergenerational relationships that are essential to building a child's self-esteem. Mentors are required to make a minimum one-year commitment and weekly hour-long visits are held on-site. We had 33 active matches during 2015. Of these, 38% had been with their mentee for more than two years and 90% had passed their 1-year commitment. All mentors undergo extensive background screenings and participate in vigorous orientations and ongoing trainings.

ARTreach

Furthering Milagro Center's commitment to involve and expose at-risk youth to the arts, Milagro Center opens its doors to neighboring community childcare centers, schools, and youth centers and invites them to bring their students to our in-house professional art gallery, "The Blueprint Gallery at Milagro Center". The children and youth explore our beautiful art exhibits and participate in creative, hands-on artistic projects. The ARTreach program has proven to be an effective means of giving economically-challenged children an art gallery experience and have them explore their artistic capabilities. In 2015, more than 270 children participated in Milagro Center's ARTreach program.



MILAGRO – BY THE NUMBERS

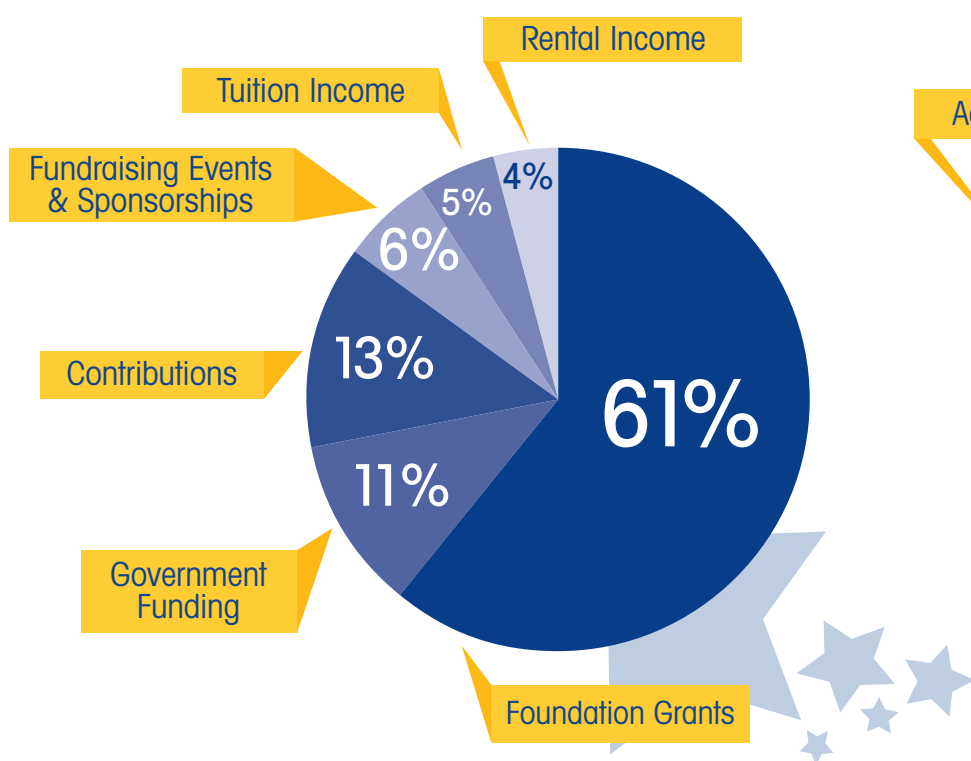
- ☆ 100% of the children and teens we served live at or below the poverty level.
- ☆ The community in which we operate has a 26.1% poverty rate with 35% of the children living in poverty homes (U.S. Census).
- ☆ Less than 70% of economically challenged Florida students graduate from high school, generally continuing the cycle of poverty in their families (U.S. Department of Education).
- ☆ The unemployment rate for people without local high school diplomas is nearly twice that of the general population. The local 33444 zip code area, which we primarily serve, was at 6.2% in 2015, one of the highest in Delray Beach.
- ☆ High school drop-outs cost our community in multiple ways. An at-risk youth who becomes a career criminal costs society between \$1.4 – \$1.7 million over his/her lifetime. The average drug abuser can cost society more than \$1 million. Even those who don't turn to crime often cost society more than a quarter of a million dollars individually over the course of their lifetimes.

OUR RESULTS

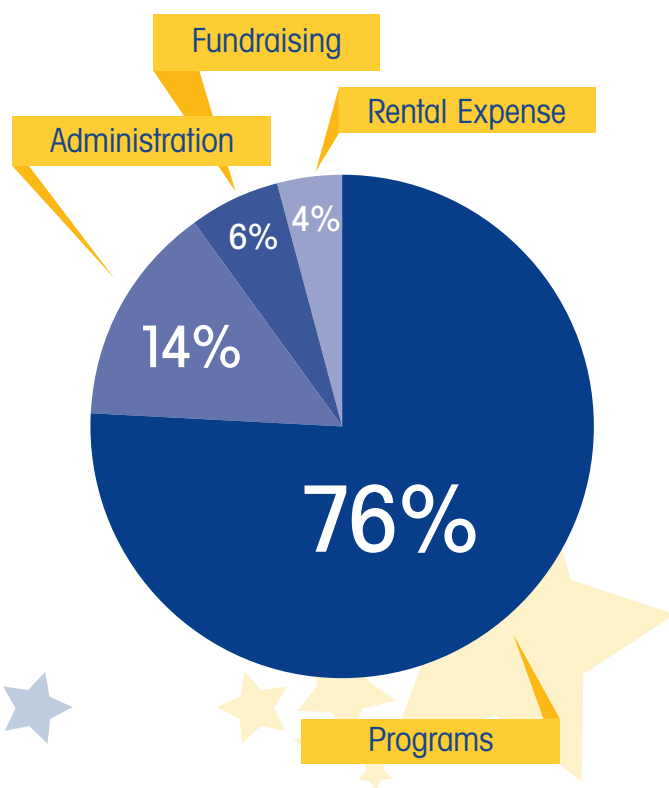
- ☆ More than 290 children and youth in Palm Beach County were exposed to cultural arts, academic enrichment, and Living Values lessons through Milagro Center's programs in 2015.
- ☆ We continue to operate at maximum capacity with a perpetual waiting list.
- ☆ Our STARS students have a 6-year 98% average for successful annual grade promotion. Our Teens have had 100% grade promotion in each of the last four years.
- ☆ 100% of the high school seniors who regularly attended our Teen Leadership Program achieved high school graduation and are involved in post-secondary education and training.
- ☆ 96% of our students demonstrate increased knowledge of and abilities in the arts.
- ☆ 92% of our students demonstrate improved self-esteem, self-confidence, and life skills.
- ☆ 100% of our STARS involved in the summer learning program returned to school reading at or above their previous term's reading level, experiencing no summer learning loss.
- ☆ Our programs' benefits to the community include the promise of future productive residents; parents who are engaged in their children's lives and futures and can maintain their own employment knowing their children are in a safe, nurturing, enriching environment. There is also growth and exposure to the arts in the community and diminished costs in terms of social services related to homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, general crime, and law enforcement.



2015 REVENUES

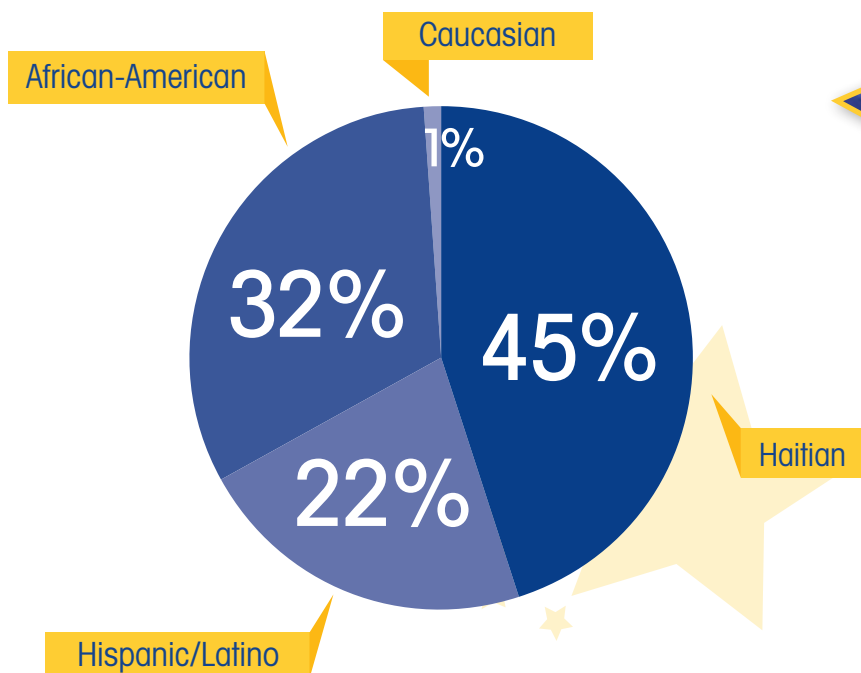


2015 EXPENSES



2015 DEMOGRAPHICS OF POPULATION SERVED

STARS & TEEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS



2015 COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

- ☆ Afterschool Programs, Inc.
- ☆ American Diabetes Association
- ☆ American Red Cross
- ☆ Artists Alley, Delray Beach
- ☆ Arts Garage
- ☆ Atlantic Avenue Magazine
- ☆ AutoNation Chevrolet
- ☆ Bluegreen Corporation
- ☆ B'Nai Torah Congregation, Boca Raton
- ☆ Boca Greens Country Club
- ☆ Boca Museum of Art
- ☆ Boca Pointe "Clowns on Call"
- ☆ Boca Raton Observer
- ☆ Boca Raton Resort
- ☆ California Pizza Kitchen
- ☆ Cameras For Kids Foundation
- ☆ Carver Middle School
- ☆ The Center for Creative Education
- ☆ Center State Bank
- ☆ Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at FAU
- ☆ Christine's Hope for Kids
- ☆ City of Delray Beach
- ☆ The Club Singers of Delray
- ☆ Congregation B'Nai Israel, Boca Raton
- ☆ Connecticut School of Broadcasting
- ☆ Cool Clothes Closet
- ☆ Cosmo The Dog
- ☆ CROS Ministries/The Caring Kitchen
- ☆ Curls Rock Salon
- ☆ Dada, Delray Beach
- ☆ Delray Art League
- ☆ Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce
- ☆ Delray Beach Fire Rescue
- ☆ Delray Beach Initiative (DBI)
- ☆ Delray Beach Magazine
- ☆ Delray Beach Police Department
- ☆ Delray Beach Public Library
- ☆ Delray Forum
- ☆ DPR Construction
- ☆ Drowning Prevention Coalition of PBC
- ☆ Elks Lodge, Delray Beach
- ☆ First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach
- ☆ Florence Fuller Child Development Centers
- ☆ Florida Atlantic University
- ☆ Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County
- ☆ Forum for Non-Profits Radio Show
- ☆ Gary Midnight
- ☆ Genesis HealthCare





- ☆ Gifts for the Sole
- ☆ The Good Humor Man
- ☆ Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce
- ☆ Healthier Delray Beach
- ☆ Jarden Consumer Solutions
- ☆ Jeff Industries
- ☆ Jingle Jolly Holiday Elves
- ☆ Junior League of Boca Raton
- ☆ KidSafe Foundation
- ☆ Leadership Palm Beach
- ☆ LexisNexis, Boca Raton
- ☆ Morikami Museum
- ☆ Morningday Community Solutions
- ☆ National League of American Pen Women
- ☆ NCCI Holdings, Inc.
- ☆ Nerdy Cares
- ☆ New Era Barber Shops
- ☆ Norton Museum
- ☆ Office Depot Foundation
- ☆ Old School Square
- ☆ Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition
- ☆ Palm Beach Daily News
- ☆ Palm Beach School for Autism
- ☆ Palm Beach Zoo



- ☆ Palm Beach State College
- ☆ Papas Tapas, Delray Beach
- ☆ Rotary Club of Delray Beach
- ☆ Safety Council of Palm Beach County
- ☆ Schmidt College of Medicine at FAU
- ☆ Seagate Beach Club
- ☆ SoFlo Music Academy
- ☆ Sow Share
- ☆ Space of Mind
- ☆ Sparkle of Life
- ☆ Spirit of Giving Network
- ☆ Sun-Sentinel
- ☆ The Breakers, Palm Beach
- ☆ The Palm Beach Post
- ☆ The Pineapple
- ☆ Toussaint L'Ourveture School
- ☆ Town of Palm Beach United Way
- ☆ Twin-Star Home
- ☆ United Way of Palm Beach County
- ☆ Village Academy
- ☆ Whole Foods, Boca Raton
- ☆ Wines for Humanity
- ☆ YMCA of South Palm Beach County
- ☆ Young Singers of the Palm Beaches
- ☆ Zimmerman Tree Service
- ☆ Zimmerman Advertising

2015 MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- ☆ Afterschool Advocacy Committee, Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc.
- ☆ Chamber of Nonprofit Health & Human Services Providers in Palm Beach County
- ☆ Children's Services Council Palm Beach County
- ☆ Council on Accreditation (COA)
- ☆ Cultural Council of Palm Beach County
- ☆ Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce
- ☆ Delray Beach Nonprofit Council
- ☆ Directors of Volunteer Services of Palm Beach County
- ☆ Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
- ☆ Extraordinary Charities
- ☆ Family Central, Inc.
- ☆ Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations (FANO)
- ☆ Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- ☆ Florida Department of Health
- ☆ The Giving Library
- ☆ Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce
- ☆ Great Nonprofits
- ☆ GuideStar
- ☆ Health Council of Southeast Florida
- ☆ Inter-Agency Network of Palm Beach County Map
- ☆ My Charity
- ☆ Nonprofits First
- ☆ Palm Beach County Directors of Volunteer Services (DOVS)
- ☆ Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc.
- ☆ Rewards for Causes
- ☆ Spirit of Giving Network
- ☆ Sunbiz.org
- ☆ United States Department of Agriculture Afterschool Program
- ☆ United Way of Palm Beach County Agency Executive Council
- ☆ United Way of Palm Beach County Mentor Network



2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Kurt Knaus – **Chair**
Nancy Merolla – **Vice Chair**
Silvia Evans – **Treasurer**
Lisa Cody – **Secretary**

BOARD MEMBERS:

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David Worthington
Deborah Beetson
Hannah Lim

Mary McMullen
Gina Skelton
Todd Skelton

PRESIDENT & CEO:

Barbara J. Stark, M.A.



2015 AMBASSADOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Cara Zimmerman
Gayle Devonport
Ian Caven

Ken Parker
Luke Stocking
Mary McMullen
Ronnie Dunayer

Ron Gilinsky
Silvia Evans
Summer Faerman



2015 AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ☆ Named "2015 Nonprofit Organization of the Year" by the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce
- ☆ Named an "Extraordinary Charity" in the 2015 Charitable Giving Directory
- ☆ Achieved successful reaccreditations by Council on Accreditation (COA) and Nonprofits First
- ☆ Our STARS program achieved maintenance level in the Palm Beach County Afterschool Quality Improvement System (QIS), and the Teen Leadership Program became a participating middle school program.
- ☆ Our Mentoring program was named a National Mentoring Quality Program through United Way of Palm Beach County. We maintained 32 active Mentor/Mentee matches throughout 2015.
- ☆ Selected as a Palm Beach County nonprofit organization to participate in the Great Charity Challenge.
- ☆ Selected by Schmidt College of Medicine as a community site for the 2nd year medical students' service learning projects.
- ☆ Successfully served over 250 academically at-risk and disadvantaged youth in Palm Beach County.
- ☆ 100% of the children participating in our STARS and Teen Leadership programs were promoted to the next grade in school during this past academic school year.
- ☆ Continued to grow our investment account to build an operating reserve fund that will help with future sustainability and growth of our programs.
- ☆ Held our 3rd Annual Haircuts for the Holidays Event, a successful service day for families of the youth in our programs.



☆ Art created by Milagro Teens was exhibited at the Boca Museum of Art, Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, The Blueprint Gallery at Milagro Center, the Delray Art League, and Delray Beach City Hall.

☆ Our formal musical instrument instruction program was expanded to include both individual and ensemble lessons. More than 50% of our children participate in this program.

☆ Secured funds to offer a formal ACT/SAT Prep course for our Teen Leadership Program.

☆ The Blueprint Gallery at Milagro Center hosted six professional art exhibits in 2015 and welcomed more than 250 people.

☆ Featured agency on the Forum for Nonprofits Radio Show.

☆ Became a participating site for the Federal Hot Meal Program, sponsored by After School Programs (ASP).

☆ Selected by the Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties to be featured in its 2015 video and as a guest speaker at their donor luncheon.

☆ Prepared our 5th grade STARS students for dance and music auditions for BAK Middle School of the Arts.

☆ Selected as beneficiary of the Delray Beach Initiative's "Hollywood Horror Halloween Event".

☆ Named a beneficiary of the Leadership Palm Beach 2015 Toy Drive.



OUR SUPPORT

Milagro Center is extremely grateful for the continued support of the very loyal organizations and individuals who truly make miracles in the lives of the children we serve. We could never have the impossible made possible and achieve our amazing outcomes without this funding — **and for this we thank you!**

OUR FUNDERS



The Batchelor Foundation

George Zoltan Lefton Family Foundation

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church of West Palm Beach, Inc.

Hermanowski Family Foundation

Lattner Family Foundation

The Mary Alice Fortin Foundation, Inc.

Rosemarie and Ted J. Miller Family Foundation

Schmidt Family Foundation

OUR MIRACLE MAKERS (SPONSORS & DONORS \$1,000 OR MORE)



Brad Straka and Kenneth Volpp

Carlino Natividad

Charles Halberg

David Kissell

Deborah and Frank Beetson

Delray Beach Initiative

Hannah Lim

Kurt and Mary Ann Knaus

Nelson and La Cinda McDuffie

Palm Beach Illustrated

Steven Goldberg

The Club Singers, Inc.

Todd and Gina Skelton



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sales@dndprintingsolutions.com

