

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Milagro ("Miracle") Center Motivates & Empowers Economically-Challenged & Academically At-Risk Children & Teens to "Reach for the Stars" and Succeed in School and in Life.

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OUR MISSION

Milagro Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure the social and academic success of underserved children and youth 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.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR AND OUR PRESIDENT/CEO

Dear Milagro Center Friends and Supporters,

People in the news have said "Good riddance to 2021!" And, while the year did indeed present many challenges due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and its lingering effects, we are proud to share with you that Milagro Center enjoyed a banner year for funded grants and donations and launched some of our most impactful programming to date.

As we look back on 2021, we take pride in what Milagro Center has been able to accomplish, even during the most difficult of times, thanks to you - our friends, our supporters - our dedicated staff and our Delray Beach Community. Here's a snapshot:

We opened the **Community Art Garden at Milagro Center**. Thanks to the Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties and DPR Construction and their ability to see our vision for an outdoor artistic space for Milagro Center students and our community artists to exhibit their creative works, the Community Art Garden opened in January 2021 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce. Since then, Milagro Center has hosted many community events in that lovely space.

Milagro Center was chosen as a Grand Award winner for the highly prestigious Impact 100 Palm Beach County Grant for our innovative **L.E.A.P. ("Ladies Empowerment and Achievement Program") South Palm Beach County**. This empowerment program for underserved middle and high school young women is truly growing in leaps and bounds and now has greater than 120 L.E.A.P members.

We received the funding we needed from a local family foundation to launch the new **Transition to Success (T2S) Program**, which enables Milagro Center to provide continuing academic support, life skills, and career guidance to our high school graduates for two additional years past high school.

With generous grant support from Hands on Tzedakah, Milagro launched its **"Summer Accelerated Reading Lab"** placing an intense focus on improving reading skills for our K-3rd graders who were combatting the COVID-19 learning losses they experienced due to virtual learning throughout the school year. Though summer camp was shortened to 7-weeks, we achieved tremendous results by bringing on 2 additional reading tutors who provided one-on-one focused support, enabling our at-risk students to make major reading gains and return to school in August on track and ready to move ahead.

Milagro Center was awarded the Men Giving Back-South Palm Beach County Grant which enabled us to successfully launch and grow our new **Boys to Men EmpowerMENT Program** providing at-risk middle school and high school young men with positive male role models and career exploration.

In spite of the continuing challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2nd year of Milagro Center's **We Read To Succeed! Program** was a tremendous success, thanks to continued funding of this program by The Virginia and Harvey Kimmel Foundation. Students demonstrating reading delays were given individual interventions, small-group tutoring, phonics lessons, and computer-assisted instruction above and beyond Milagro Center's daily afterschool academic enrichment and instruction. We're proud to report that 100% of the 3rd graders participating in our We Read To Succeed! Program are currently reading on grade level.

The Executive Women of the Palm Beaches selected Milagro Center as a grant award winner in support of our highly impactful **Girls Go Build Program**, which is focused on exposing young ladies to the field of construction.

Milagro Center was the only nonprofit agency in Palm Beach County to receive the **Florida Grade Level Reading Campaign Summer Literacy Acceleration Grant** which focused on improving at-risk students' reading competency in phonics and decoding, fluency, vocabulary and reading comprehension.

Our organization was also one of only 3 nonprofit agencies in Palm Beach County chosen to be a hub site for the United Way of Palm Beach County's **"Level Up Mentoring Program"** which pairs disconnected youth from the southern part of our county with mentoring and other wrap-around services.

And, in addition to the wonderful programmatic enhancements we were able to make in 2021 due to the wonderful support of our funders and donors, the shining stars of 2021 are our Milagro students, who, despite all of the challenges of COVID's remote learning and limited social interaction, **all successfully advanced to the next grade in school and our seniors proudly graduated from high school and went on to college, trade school, and the military**. In fact, one of our proudest success stories is that of our student Kayla, who after attending Milagro Center since kindergarten, graduated from high school with honors and now attends Penn State University! (see her "Then and WOW!" photos on page 14)

We count the many blessings that came our way in 2021 and excitedly look forward to celebrating Milagro Center's 25th birthday in 2022. Thanks to your committed support, Milagro Center has continued to be the beacon of hope for Kayla and so many other deserving at-risk youth; guiding them onto a brighter and better path towards a productive future. We appreciate you all for investing in our children and joining us in making "Milagro Miracles" all these many years!

Gratefully,

Kurt Knaus



Kurt Knaus
Board Chair



Barbara J. Stark
President & CEO



OUR UNIQUE, AWARD WINNING PROGRAMS

CHANGING LIVES & BUILDING FUTURES

S.T.A.R.S. "STANDING TOGETHER ACHIEVING RECOGNITION & SUCCESS"

Our S.T.A.R.S. Program for Kindergarten through fifth grade children provides a superior and uniquely integrated platform of cultural arts instruction, Living Values education, one-on-one mentoring, and academic enrichment in a daily afterschool, summer camp, and school break environment 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 afterschool and summer camp programs. Milagro Center gives these children the opportunity to experience daily art, music, dance, musical instrument instruction, reading and math academic enrichment, and rich Social Emotional Learning knowledge in individual and small group settings – year-round - that encourages creativity, learning, and acceptance and builds an indestructible sense of self-worth. Milagro Center's innovative curriculum provided in the S.T.A.R.S. Program results in a remarkable 98% annual grade promotion rate. And, each year, we prepare the most interested and talented students in art, music, and dance for admissions auditions at the BAK Middle School of the Arts. Following the graduation of our 5th grade S.T.A.R.S. students, they smoothly transition into Milagro Center's Junior Teen Leadership Program where academic support, cultural arts enrichment, Social Emotional Learning experiences, and mentoring continue.

JUNIOR TEEN LEADERSHIP

Responding to the desperate need in Palm Beach County for additional quality out-of-school time enrichment programs for economically-challenged middle school youth, Milagro Center continues to expand and enhance its Junior Teen Leadership Program. Located at the Virginia and Harvey Kimmel Milagro Junior Teen Center, adjacent to Milagro's Teen Center at 346 SW. 6th Avenue in Delray Beach, this afterschool and summer camp program is uniquely structured for the academic and social and emotional needs of at-risk youth in grades 6 through 8 (ages 12-14). Milagro Center's Junior Teen Leadership Program provides a full 38-week afterschool program and 14-week full-time camp program (10 weeks of summer camp, 2 full weeks of full-day winter break camp, 1 week of full-day spring break camp, and 1 week of Thanksgiving holiday camp). Providing academic classes, individual subject matter-focused tutoring, cultural arts (dance, art, musical instrument lessons), mentoring, enrichment activities, and life skills, this impactful program now serves over 45 youth with continually growing enrollment. Exciting program additions and expansions in 2021 include the new L.E.A.P. ("Ladies Empowerment and Achievement Program"), Boys EmpowerMENT Program, and the Girls Go Build initiative, providing positive role models, career and college exploration, and valuable local internship opportunities to these underserved youth. With Milagro's S.T.A.R.S. graduates seamlessly "moving up" into this Junior teen Leadership Program, attending through their middle school years, and then seamlessly transitioning to Milagro Center's Teen Leadership Program, Milagro Center enjoys the unique and extraordinary opportunity to shape our community's most vulnerable youth from ages 5 through 18 and prepare them for successful and productive futures.

TEEN LEADERSHIP

Our Teen Leadership Program serves 50 economically-challenged high school youth, grades 9 – 12, in an afterschool and summer camp setting located at our Milagro Teen Center at 340 SW 6th Avenue in Delray Beach (adjacent to Milagro's Jr. Teen Center). The Teen Leadership Program curriculum is robust and innovative providing high school students with comprehensive and intensive academic assistance in the major subject areas coupled with art and music instruction, Living Values education, career development and planning, college ACT/SAT preparation, life skills, and other resources and experiences such as the "Creation Station" where they create videos, record vocals, and learn sound production. The Teens also enjoy participating in the L.E.A.P., Boys EmpowerMENT, and Girls Go Build initiatives. All of these offerings are provided by Milagro Center's professional staff and complemented by organizations who collaborate with Milagro Center. The goal of this program is simple: to help our students succeed in school, achieve high school graduation, and prepare them for post-

graduation schooling or training that will enable them to become productive, self-sufficient members of our community. The Teens mentor younger students at our S.T.A.R.S and Junior Teen Leadership Programs and receive community service hours as they develop their leadership skills. Since the inception of the Teen Leadership Program at Milagro Center 10 years ago, 100% of the Teens who attend this program have graduated from high school (many are the first in their families to earn a high school diploma) and are on the path to success, entering or graduating from college and trade school, becoming apprentices to local professionals, and entering military service. The Milagro Teen Leadership Program is involved in our local community and our Milagro Teens often contribute their musical and artistic talents to local festivals, fairs, and events, building confidence and self-assurance.

MENTORING MIRACLES

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that there are indeed many effective channels for mentoring and now Milagro's Mentoring Miracles Program provides the flexible opportunity for our Mentors to mentor on-site at Milagro Center or choose to have their weekly mentoring sessions with their mentees virtually. Our Milagro Mentors truly make miracles happen for our children and youth. Milagro Center's Mentoring Miracles program involves adult volunteers whom we match to each individual student in our S.T.A.R.S. and Junior Teen Leadership Programs. In 2021, we achieved another record of successfully matching each of our 43 S.T.A.R.S. children with a mentor and, in addition, we expanded the Mentoring Miracles program to now include greater than a dozen mentor matches with our Junior Teens. Our highly effective mentor program connects youth with positive adult role models and fosters long-term nurturing, supportive, intergenerational relationships that are essential to building a child's self-esteem. Mentors are required to make a minimum one-year commitment to the program and participate in weekly hour-long sessions with their mentees. More than 50% of our mentors have been with their mentee for more than two years and 95% have passed their 1-year commitment. All mentors undergo extensive background screenings and participate in vigorous orientations and ongoing mandatory trainings to ensure the highest level of performance.

ARTREACH

Furthering Milagro Center's commitment to introduce and engage at-risk children, youth, and the underserved community at-large to the arts, Milagro Center expanded its ARTreach Program by opening a 2nd art venue through funding received by the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties' Community Revitalization Grant. This new Milagro Center outdoor "Community Art Garden" had its official ribbon-cutting ceremony in January and throughout the year hosted a rotating schedule of art and sculpture exhibits by local emerging artists and our very talented students. In addition, the Community Art Garden provided the beautiful backdrop for our annual "Women's Garden Tea Party" in March and our very successful "Showcase Under the Stars" event in June. Like Milagro Center's on-site indoor "Blueprint Gallery", the "Community Art Garden" is available for community-based childcare centers, schools, youth activity centers, local organizations and companies, and local art groups and leagues to participate in the art and hold meetings and retreats outdoors in the art garden. With these two art venues, Milagro Center now has the opportunity to welcome the community to numerous impactful art exhibits featuring varieties of visual and performing art exhibits. The ARTreach Program has proven to be an effective approach to providing economically-challenged children and the community with first-hand exploration of exciting art exhibits leading to exploration and the embracing of their own artistic capabilities. Going forward, we are excited about expanding Milagro's ARTreach Program and further involving the community to participate in and witness the wonder and joy of amazing art here in our own backyard!



MILAGRO CENTER : BY THE NUMBERS

100% of the children and teens we serve live at or below the poverty level.

The community in which we operate has a **25.06%** poverty rate with **34%** 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)

Research reveals that reading proficiency by third grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success. Yet, in Delray Beach, **2/3 of the 3rd graders** in our local schools are currently reading below grade level.

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 22% 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

98% of Milagro Center's students participating in our enhanced summer literacy acceleration program demonstrated increased reading skills by showing improvement in at least 3 of the 5 areas of competency:

1. Phonological Awareness
2. Phonics and Decoding
3. Fluency
4. Vocabulary
5. Comprehension

100% of students at Milagro Center (STARS, Juniors, Teens) received Music Appreciation classes.

More than **160 children and youth** in Palm Beach County were exposed to cultural arts, academic enrichment, and Living Values lessons.

We continue to operate our licensed and accredited S.T.A.R.S. (K-5th grade) program at **100% maximum enrollment capacity** with a perpetual waiting list.

Our S.T.A.R.S. students have a **12-year 98% average** for successful annual grade promotion.

Our Teens have had **100% grade promotion** in each of the last 10 years.

Milagro Center has paired **55** of our students with adult mentors (43 at our S.T.A.R.S. K-5 Center and 12 Middle School students).

100% of our students are maintaining satisfactory school attendance, as measured by report cards.

100% of the students in our Teen Leadership Program have increased their college and career preparation skills.

100% of the high school seniors who regularly attend our Teen Leadership Program achieve high school graduation and are involved in post-secondary education and training.

100% of our students demonstrate increased knowledge of and abilities in the arts.

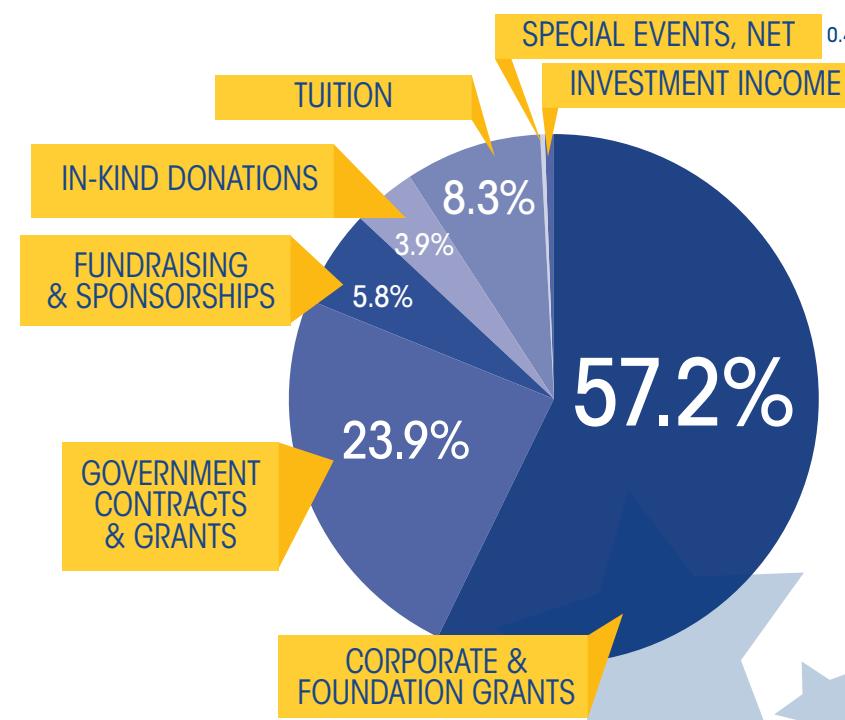
100% of our students demonstrate improved self-esteem, self-confidence, and life skills.

All 13 of our high school seniors graduated from high school in 2021. All 13 of them went on to college, trade school, or the military. Scholarships were awarded to Penn State University and Middlebury College in addition to FAU and Palm Beach State College.

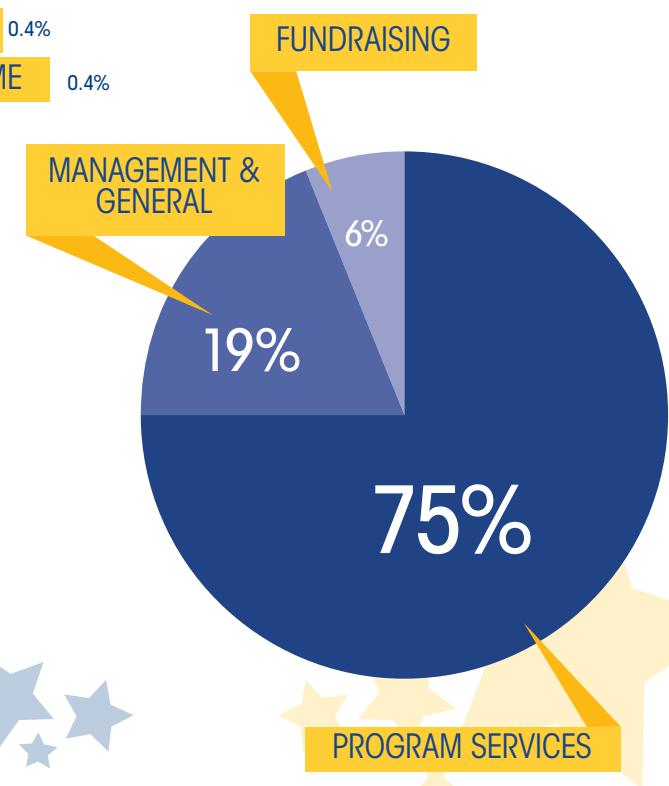
100% of our S.T.A.R.S. students involved in the summer learning program returned to school reading at or above their previous term's reading level, experiencing no summer learning loss.

Milagro Center's many programs benefit our local community, including 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 after school and during school and summer breaks. 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.

2021 REVENUES

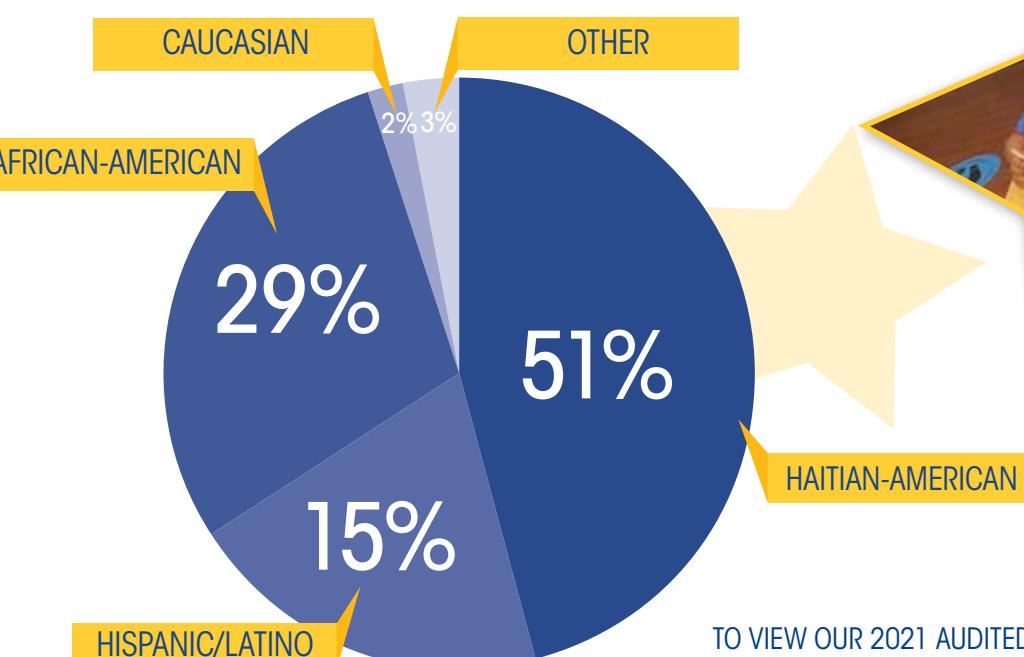


2021 EXPENSES



2021 DEMOGRAPHICS OF POPULATION SERVED

S.T.A.R.S., JUNIOR TEEN LEADERSHIP,
TEEN LEADERSHIP, & ARTREACH PROGRAMS



THE NUMBERS SPEAK VOLUMES: **MILAGRO CENTER'S CHILDREN AND TEENS SUCCEED IN SCHOOL AND IN LIFE!**

TO VIEW OUR 2021 AUDITED FINANCIALS AND 2021 990, PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.MILAGROCENTER.ORG/ABOUT/#FINANCIAL-STEWARDSHIP

2021 COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Milagro Center truly believes it takes a village to raise a child. We are proud of our remarkable ability to create strong community partnerships and collaborations that infuse and enrich our quality programs, further engaging and fostering the success of our at-risk children and youth. It is with much appreciation that we acknowledge and say "thank you" to the following organizations, companies, and individuals - our "village" – that helped make our miracles happen again in 2021!

Abbey Delray
ABC Institute
ACHIEVE Palm Beach County
Afterschool Programs, Inc.
Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness

Allstate
Amazon Hub
American Heritage School
American Red Cross
Atlantic Avenue Magazine
Atlantic Community High School
AVDA
Bell Rock Capital
Best Buy
Boca Greens Country Club
Boca Museum of Art
Boca Pointe "Clowns on Call"
Boca Raton High School Empower Latin Youth
Boca Raton Observer

Boca Raton Resort
Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach County
Brooklyn Cafe
Campus Management Association Foundation

Cape Universal
Capital One
Capital One Café Delray Beach
Career Source Palm Beach County
Caridad Center
Caring Kitchen
Carver Middle School
Catherine Strong Splash Park
Center for Creative Education (CCE)

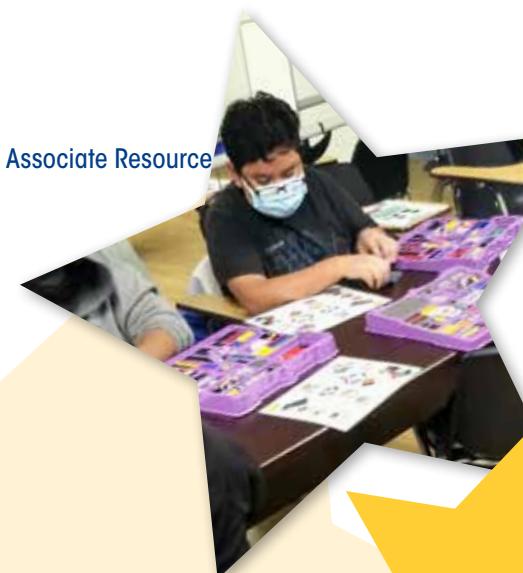
Center for Independent Living Options
CenterState Bank
Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at FAU
Chick-fil-A
Children's Services Council
Chipotle

Christine's Hope for Kids
City of Delray Beach
Club Singers of Delray Beach
Coalition for Independent Living Options, Inc.
Colony Yoga
Comcast
Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties
Community Greening
Community Partners of South Florida

Congregation B'Nai Israel
Congregation Beth El
Cornell Art Museum
CreditGuard of America
Cultural Council of Palm Beach County
Danie Spikes, Relationship Coach/Motivational speaker
Delray Art League
Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce
Delray Beach Community Land Trust
Delray Beach Elks Lodge
Delray Beach Fire Rescue
Delray Beach Forum
Delray Beach Historical Society
Delray Beach Nonprofit Council
Delray Beach Orchid Society
Delray Beach Police Department
Delray Beach Public Library
Delray Community Wellness Center
Delray Morning Live
Delray Sun
Digital Vibez
Dress For Success
DPR Construction
Dr. Sam
Drowning Prevention Coalition of PBC
Early Learning Coalition
Eat Better, Live Better
Extraordinary Charities
Families First
FAU Schmidt College of Medicine
FAU School of Business
Feeding South Florida
First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach
Flipany
Florida Association of Women Lawyers
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Barber Academy
Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County
Florida Fishing Academy
Florida Power & Light
Florida Women Business Center
Frank's Bowling
Freedom Chiropractic
Future Leaders Palm Beach County
Genesis Community Health & Dental
Gerrits Construction
GFA International
Glenmede
Green Arrow Marketing & Media Group
Grieco Automotive Group
Grieco Youth Soccer program
Habitat for Humanity
Health Council of Southeast Florida
Healthier Delray Beach
Hessler Paint and Hardware
Home Depot
Hyatt Place, Delray Beach
Iberia Bank
In Jacob's Shoes
Jack and Jill of America, Inc. (Palm Beach chapter)
Jingle Jolly Holiday Elves

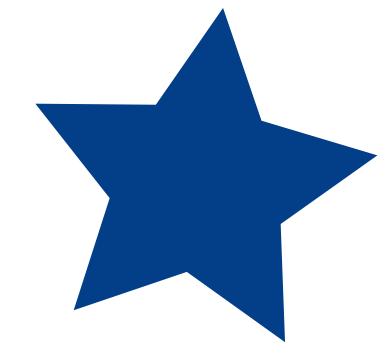
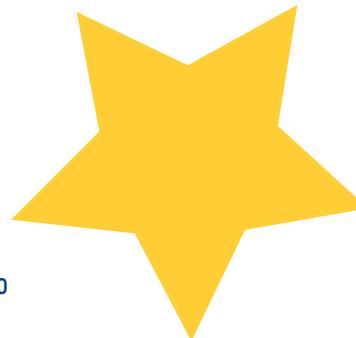
Joshua's Heart Foundation
Junior League of Boca Raton
Karisma Dance Company
Katz Yeshiva High School of South Florida
KidSafe Foundation
Kindness Matters 365
Kiwani Club Delray Beach
Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra/Kula Concert
Productions, Aaron Kula
KOP Mentoring Network
Lake Ida Park
Leadership Delray
Leadership Palm Beach County
LexisNexis
Lifestyle Media Group
Live Nation
Living Hungry
Lord & Taylor, Boca Raton
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Lynn University
MAP Dance Theatre
Marshall's
Masterful Living
Merrill Lynch
Miami Children's Health Plan
Milwaukee Tools
Mission Possible Foundation
Modernizing Medicine
Morikami Museum
Morningday Community Solutions
MVP Group
My Brother's Keeper
NAEYC (National Association for Education of Young Education)
National League of American Pen Women
NCCI
Nerd Alert
Nerdy Cares
Nonprofit Chamber
Nonprofits First
Norton Museum
Office Depot
Old School Square Crest Theatre
Pace Center for Girls
Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition
Palm Beach County Coalition on Human Trafficking
Palm Beach County Food Bank
Palm Beach County Government
Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition
Palm Beach County Substance Awareness Coalition
Palm Beach County Youth Services Department
Palm Beach Daily News
Palm Beach Flagler Rotary Club
Palm Beach Historical Society
Palm Beach Philanthropy Tank
Palm Beach Post
Palm Beach School for Autism
Palm Beach State College
Palm Beach Zoo
Palm Greens Women's Club
Palm Health Foundation
Pediatric Angel Foundation
Photo Pro Boca
Pine Crest School
Pine Jog Environmental Education Center
Place of Hope

Plastridge Insurance
Pompey Park
Porcaro Law Group
Posh Properties
Prime Time Palm Beach County
Printer's Choice
Project FACT
Publix
Relationship Coach Dani Spikes
Right Way Plumbing
RN Network
Roots and Wings
Rose Marcom
Rotary Club of Delray Beach
Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services
Safety Council of Palm Beach County
Saint Andrews Academy
Sandoway Discovery Center
Seagate Country Club
Seeds of Fortune
Shawmut Construction
Sickle Cell Foundation
Social House
SOMOS (Office Depot's Latino/Hispanic Associate Resource Group)
SouthTech Schools
Sow Share
Space of Mind
Spady Cultural Heritage Museum
Spirit of Giving Network
St. Vincent Ferrer Church
State Farm Insurance
Stuart & Shelby Development
Suits for Seniors
Sun-Sentinel
Synovus Bank
Target
Temple Beth El
Temple Mount Sinai
The Arc of Palm Beach County
The Breakers, Palm Beach
The Club Singers of Delray Beach
The Coastal Star
The Estate of Paul Reekie
Toshiba
Touch a Heart Foundation
Town of Palm Beach United Way
Trademark of Milagro Center's logo and tag line registration by the US Patent & Trademark Office
Trinity Lutheran Church
Twin Star Home
United Way of Palm Beach County
Universal Engineering Sciences Company
University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine
Urban League of Palm Beach County
US Soccer Foundation
Village Academy
Village at Delray
Viner Foundation
Wayside House
Wise Tribe
Women's Club of Delray Beach
Women's Foundation of Palm Beach Community Giving Circle
WPTV
YMCA of South Palm Beach County
Young Engineers



2021 MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Afterschool Alliance
After School Programs (ASP)
Amazon Smile Program
Blacktie South Florida
Center for Creative Education (CCE)
Center for Strategic Philanthropy & Civic Engagement
Chamber of Nonprofit Health & Human Services
Providers in Palm Beach County
Charity Navigator
Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida
Atlantic University
Children's Services Council Palm Beach County
City of Delray Beach Education Advisory Board
CiviCore
Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin
Counties
Council on Accreditation (COA)
Cultural Council of Palm Beach County
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 Atlantic University (FAU)
Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Tech Runway/
TechGarage
Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)
Florida Department of Health
Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)
Florida Notary Public
Florida Office of Early Learning
GrantStation.com
Great Nonprofits
Greater Delray Beach Chamber Nonprofit Council
Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce
Greater Delray Chamber Education Fund (DCEF)



GuideStar
Hands on Tzedakah ("H.O.T.")
Health Council of Southeast Florida
Human Resources Association of Broward County, FL
Human Resources Certification Institute (PHR)
Inter-Agency Network of Palm Beach County
Leadership Delray Beach
Leadership Palm Beach County
Little Kids Rock
Lynn University
MentorCore
National Association of Nonprofit Organizations &
Executives (NANO)
Network for Good
Nonprofit Chamber
Nonprofits First Palm Beach County
Palm Beach County Directors of Volunteer Services
(DOVS)
Palm Beach County Youth Services Department
Palm Beach State College
PayPal Giving Fund
Prime Time Palm Beach County Rising Leaders
Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc.
Rewards for Causes
Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM)
Spirit of Giving Network
Sunbiz.org
The Giving Library
Town of Palm Beach United Way
United States Department of Agriculture Afterschool
Program
United Way of Palm Beach County
United Way of Palm Beach County Mentor Network
VolunteerMatch
Volunteers of the Palm Beaches

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Cultural Arts Director
Anthony Talton
Junior Teen Leadership Program
Director

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Innovation, JTL and TL Programs
Kendra Williams, FLDOE
Sr. Director of Education and
Innovation, S.T.A.R.S. Program



2021 AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Milagro Center celebrated its 24th year of providing exceptional afterschool and summer camp programs to the community's most at-risk children and youth.

Greater than 160 underserved and academically at-risk children and youth living in South Palm Beach County were exposed to cultural arts, academic enrichment, and Living Values lessons through Milagro Center's virtual and on-site programs throughout 2021.

Through a Community Revitalization grant from Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties, Milagro Center opened our Community Art Garden in January, 2021. This outdoor venue is a resource for the entire community.

The Fisher Foundation and Hamilton Family Charitable Trust funded Milagro Center's "Take Art to Heart" Program, an innovative art program based on social-emotional learning ("SEL").

Milagro Center was once again recognized as an "Extraordinary Charity in the 2021 Charitable Giving Directory.

In 2021, Milagro Center launched our Transition to Success (T2S) Program, which enables us to keep working with our high school seniors for two more years.

Milagro Center was the only agency in Palm Beach County to receive a grant from the Florida Children's Council/Florida Grade Level Reading Campaign for a summer reading program.

In June, 2021, Milagro Center held our 1st Annual "Showcase Under the Stars" event.

In 2021, Milagro Center won the Impact 100 Palm Beach County Grant to expand and implement our Ladies Empowerment and Achievement Program ("L.E.A.P.") throughout Southern Palm Beach County, growing this impactful initiative into 4 local middle and high schools and reaching an enrollment of greater than 100 young ladies.

20 L.E.A.P. girls had the amazing opportunity to participate in an 8-hour internship training experience. Learning on the job skills from administrative, working with animals, assisting the senior community, serving food and much more! They also each received a \$100 stipend.

Milagro Center was one of three grand award winners chosen by the Men Giving Back--South Palm Beach County in their inaugural year. We received a \$25,000 grant, which enabled us to found our Boys to Men EmpowerMENT Program.

Milagro Center expanded its Girls Go Build construction education program from a summer initiative to a year-round program serving both middle and high school girls. The program continues to flourish with support from many women philanthropic groups supporting this innovative initiative.

Milagro Center won the Lois Kwasman Program for Community Impact Grant from the Executive Women of the Palm Beaches for our highly-impactful Girls Go Build Program.

Our Girls Go Build Program was the proud recipient of a grant from the Jewish Women's Foundation of Palm Beach County.

ABC Institute Certified 15 Girls in our Girls Go Build program in OSHA 10 and they each received a certification card after completing two (8) hour days of training.

Thanks to our collaboration with NCCI, our "NCCI Girls in Technology" group was created to provide our middle and high school young ladies with training and exposure inside the IT industry.

Milagro Center became a Comcast Lift Zone.

Milagro Center was one of only 3 agencies in Palm Beach County chosen to be a hub site for United Way of Palm Beach County's "Level Up Mentoring" Program, pairing disconnected youth from southern Palm Beach County with individual and group mentoring and other services as needed.

Our S.T.A.R.S. students continue to maintain a 98% average for successful annual grade promotion. Our Teens have had 100% grade promotion in each of the last 10 years and 100% high school graduation.

Our innovative individual and ensemble musical instrument instruction program continued to expand by offering lessons to greater than 85% of enrolled students with additional instrument choices. More than 38% of our students are proficient in more than one instrument.

S.T.A.R.S. has been an approved provider with Palm Beach County Youth Services Department for 7 years now.

Milagro Center was honored to receive the semi-finalist nomination for "Nonprofit Organization of the Year" by the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Milagro Center was named as a beneficiary in the estate of Paul Reekie.

Received 2nd draw PPP loan.

Our professional staff grew to 22 in total.

Milagro Center was the beneficiary of the Delray Beach Chamber's "Wine and Design" Rose Marcom event.

Milagro Center is ServSafe Certified through the National Restaurant Association.

Milagro Center proudly celebrated 100% of the 2021 high school graduates going on immediately to attend College, Professional Trade School, and the Military.

Successfully raised the funds to purchase a 2nd

15-passenger van to transport our Jr. Teens.

Milagro Center was the recipient of an Allergy-Friendly Pantry donated by the Peles Family.

Milagro Center's President & CEO was nominated for the Executive Women of the Palm Beaches Women in Leadership Award.

Milagro Center received its trademark registration for its logo from the US Patent & Trademark Office.

For the 8th straight year, Milagro Center was selected by FAU's Schmidt College of Medicine as a community site for the 2nd year medical students' service learning projects.

Milagro Center launched its new on-line store "Milagro Merch".

Selected for the 10th year in a row as a Palm Beach County non-profit organization to participate in the Great Charity Challenge and was awarded grant funds at the main event competition.

Our S.T.A.R.S., Jr. Teen and Teen Leadership students participated in the countywide virtual spelling bee put on by Palm Beach County's Youth Services Department and came away as award winners.

Milagro Center maintained its eligibility for the Federal Hot Meal Program, sponsored by After School Programs (ASP), allowing Milagro Center to offer daily nutritious meals to our S.T.A.R.S. program children.

Our 2021 annual appeal raised far greater than its expected revenue goal.

The Department of Children and Families renewed Milagro Center's Gold Seal Quality Care Accreditation.

Milagro Center retained its accreditation by Nonprofits First for Sound Nonprofit Management.

We renewed Palm Beach County Health Department license.

We renewed the Florida Solicitation of Contributions registration from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Milagro Center maintained its accreditation by the Council on Accreditation (COA). Accreditation is a tremendous achievement that demonstrates that our program is recognized as an afterschool provider that successfully implements high performance standards and, as such, is delivering the highest quality services to all of its children, youth and families.

The S.T.A.R.S. program retained its maintenance level achievement and the Junior Teen Leadership Program maintained its high QIS scoring in the Palm Beach County

Afterschool Quality Improvement System (QIS).

Our Mentoring program maintained its status as a National Mentoring Quality Program through United Way of Palm Beach County.

Milagro Center continued to grow our investment account throughout 2021 to build an operating reserve fund that will help with future sustainability and growth of the organization.

Our Mentoring Miracles program attracted a record number of mentors and volunteers who engaged with our students virtually and in-person throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Key staff attended the virtual 2021 National Mentor Summit in Washington DC.

All front-line staff earned and/or maintained the required DCF 40-hour Child Care Certification, Staff Credential, and completed mandatory in-service state trainings, including classes in child care, CPR and First Aid, and Florida Statutes relating to licensed child care facilities.

Successfully secured ongoing funds to support the ACT/SAT Prep course for our Teen Leadership Program.

Continued ongoing professional development for staff including trainings facilitated by Prime Time Palm Beach County, Nonprofits First, Florida Department of Children and Families, and Palm Beach State College.

Our President & CEO maintained both her National and Florida Child Care and Education Program Advanced Director Credential.

Our VP of Operations and HR maintained her SHRM-CP and PHR credentials.

Three of our staff members have earned and maintained their Florida Child Care and Education Director Credentials.

Maintained an active marketing and social media presence which has successfully gained increased visibility for the organization.



MILAGRO CENTER CULTIVATES CREATIVE CHILDREN WHO SUCCEED!

Here is our “5-Step Recipe” for Success:

1. We “Prepare the Soil” by providing a safe space for independence and creative expression where every child is respected and individual differences are celebrated.
2. We “Sprinkle the Seeds” with care and nurture each child’s strengths while encouraging new growth.
3. We “Stimulate the Seedlings” by employing impassioned teachers and positive adult role models who inspire each child by shining a bright light on learning.
4. We “Fertilize Our Garden” with Living Values that help our children sprout into strong, tolerant, and caring human beings.
5. We “Enjoy the Harvest” and celebrate each child’s accomplishments, unbridled self-esteem, and the development of a growing, insightful, creative, and productive mind.

“MILAGRO MIRACLES” : THEN AND NOW!!!

Since 1997, Milagro Center has launched hundreds of at-risk youth onto paths for a successful future.

Here are just three of our proud graduates:

THEN & WOW!



Meet Milly, who came to Milagro Center in kindergarten and graduated our program as a senior in high school. Today, she balances being a college student while working part-time as a member of Milagro Center's professional staff as the HR and Operations Assistant.



Kayla is a Milagro shining star. She went from precocious kindergartner to outstanding student to our very own part-time Operations Assistant as a high schooler to heading off as a freshman to Penn State University on a scholarship to study forensics.



Cristofer is a true Milagro Center success story! Attending Milagro Center's afterschool and summer camp programs since age 6, Cristofer (known to us as "Ducky") now attends Palm Beach State College as a nursing student and is a member of Milagro's professional staff as our Junior Teen Leadership Program Operations Assistant. Way to go Ducky!

OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

OUR SUPPORT

Milagro Center is extremely grateful for the support granted by these community-minded foundations, organizations, and individuals. Together, we are making Milagro miracles - and for this we thank you!



And thank you to our many Milagro Center "Champion" monthly givers!



Growing Together



If a child lives with tolerance,
She learns to be patient.
If a child lives
with encouragement,
He learns confidence.
If a child lives with praise,
She learns to appreciate.
If a child lives with fairness,
He learns justice.
If a child lives with security,
She learns to have faith.
If a child lives with approval,
He learns to like himself.
If a child lives
with acceptance
and friendship,
She learns to find love in the world.

– Anonymous



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