



## 2022 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.

Follow us on



# 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,

2022 was an extremely special year for Milagro Center, since we celebrated our 25th birthday! This provided an opportunity for us to look back at the significant difference we have been making in our local community... and look forward to what the next quarter of a century will bring. In spite of the pandemic and other challenges in the world, we were determined to make our 25th year our best year yet, and we achieved that goal.

Here are just a few of our major 2022 accomplishments:

- We had our most successful fundraising event to date with our "Sip, Sip, Hooray!" Celebration in May. Not only did we look back at Milagro Center's first quarter century of making miracles, but Almost ABBA brought down the house.
- Our Board of Directors and Executive Staff didn't just look back, they looked ahead by developing Milagro Center's 2023-2025 Strategic Positioning Plan, which includes goals for exciting expansion.
- Our "Then and Wow" student success stories continue to grow. Kayla, who entered Milagro Center's program as a kindergartener, received a major scholarship to Penn State University and completed her first year with an outstanding 3.8 GPA. Dina, one of our 2022 high school graduates, was accepted into the prestigious Middlebury College in Vermont. Currently we have graduates attending FSU, UCF, FAMU, FAU, and so many other fine universities. We're so proud of our alumni as they continue to make miracles.
- To further support our amazing graduates, Milagro Center, with gratitude to our many supporters, established our "Rising Stars Scholarship Fund" with our first financial scholarships to be granted in the summer of 2023 to our graduating seniors and past Milagro graduates currently attending college.
- And, since our graduates continue to grow each year, we established the Milagro Center Alumni Association ("MCAA"), designed to help Milagro Center's graduates make a successful transition to college, vocational school, apprenticeships, or military service; be fully prepared to embark on a productive, self-sufficient career path; learn important life and financial skills; be matched with business mentors to guide them along their professional paths and offer opportunities for shadowing and internships; and, "pay it forward" by becoming peer mentors to our current students and up-and-coming graduates. We currently have almost 70 MCAA members!
- Milagro Center entered the second year of our Impact 100 Grant. Our Ladies Empowerment & Achievement Program (L.E.A.P) continued to flourish, forming chapter sites and serving 250 economically challenged, academically at-risk middle and high school girls from the most severely underserved communities in southern Palm Beach County.
- Milagro Center received a major grant from United Way Palm Beach County to fund our new Level Up Mentoring Program and become South Palm Beach County's Mentoring Hub Site for 11- to 18-year-olds who are directly involved with or at-risk of entering the Juvenile Justice or Dependency system. The grant will greatly expand and enhance Milagro Center's existing mentoring program.
- The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation supported both our Milagro Music Program and Junior Teen Leadership Program with generous grants.
- We received a 2-year grant from Herizon (formerly Jewish Women's Foundation of the Palm Beaches) for our innovative Girls Go Build Program.

- We received a considerable grant from Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties to support our EmpowerMENT Program, serving economically disadvantaged, academically at-risk boys (ages 12-18) in Southern Palm Beach County.
- We received a 3-year grant from Palm Beach County's Youth Services Department (YSD) to establish Social Emotional Learning (SEL) supports for our underserved high school students.
- Milagro Center was the proud recipient of a wonderful gift from Extraordinary Charities.
- As one of only six agencies in Palm Beach County selected to participate in the Mary Alice Fortin Foundation's "Christmas in July" initiative, Milagro Center presented 7 Milagro families experiencing severe hardships each with a check for \$7,000 at a special ceremony on August 4th.
- We successfully raised the funds through an aggressive fundraising campaign to purchase a second van to provide additional capacity for afterschool and field trip transportation for our Jr. Teen Leadership and Teen Leadership students.
- And, new safety and security measures were implemented at all 3 of our Centers, including the implementation of the SaferWatch app for all staff, exterior video monitoring, buzzer systems for entry doors, and the creation of a "safe" room in each building.

Here's to the first 25 years of making miracles! We appreciate you all for investing in our community's most deserving children and joining Milagro Center in becoming their beacon of hope. We can't wait to see what the next quarter of a century holds for Milagro Center!

*Kurt Knaus*



**Kurt Knaus**  
Board Chair

*Barbara J. Stark*



**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 academic enrichment, cultural arts instruction, Living Values education, and one-on-one mentoring 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. 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 – at our Center at 695 Auburn Avenue in Delray Beach. This highly accredited program encourages creativity, academic achievement, 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 96% annual grade promotion rate. As our 5th grade S.T.A.R.S. students move-up to middle school, they smoothly transition into Milagro Center’s Junior Teen Leadership Program where academic support, cultural arts enrichment, Social Emotional Learning experiences, and mentoring continue throughout their crucial middle school years.

### 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 year-round afterschool, summer camp, and out-of-school time program is uniquely structured for the academic and social and emotional needs of at-risk youth in grades 6 through 8. Providing academic sessions in language arts, math, and science taught by professional educators, cultural arts (dance, art, musical instrument lessons), mentoring, enrichment activities, life skills, and career development, this impactful program now serves over 50 youth with continually growing enrollment. Our exciting program additions include L.E.A.P. (“Ladies Empowerment and Achievement Program”), Boys EmpowerMENT Program, and the Girls Go Build initiative, providing positive role models, career 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 throughout 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, summer camp, and out-of-school time 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 and provides 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, college tours, life skills, and other resources and experiences provided by Milagro Center’s professional staff and complemented by community-based 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. Since the inception of the Teen Leadership Program at Milagro Center 11 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 completing military service.

### THE MILAGRO CENTER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



In 2022, Milagro Center excitedly announced the formation of our newest program: The Milagro Center Alumni Association (MCAA), with greater than 65 Alumni participating! Now that we are in our 25th year of providing k-12th grade afterschool and summer camp enrichment programs to our community’s underserved and academically at-risk children and teens, this impactful new program will continue to provide support and resources to our Milagro Center high school graduates who are navigating college, trade school, and other post-secondary education paths. The goal is to help them successfully launch into careers, reversing their generational cycle of poverty. Our Alumni will be provided with important life and career tools and business mentoring while also “paying it forward” to our current middle school and high school students, acting as role models and motivating them to also pursue their own career dreams. Twice yearly fun and interactive social events are also being planned so that all of our proud Milagro Center alumni can reconnect in a meaningful way.

### MENTORING MIRACLES

Volunteers and Mentors play a key role in the lives of the underserved children and youth served at Milagro Center. Mentors Center’s Mentoring Miracles program matches a caring adult volunteer one-on-one with a child or youth in our S.T.A.R.S. and Junior Teen Leadership Programs with the simple goal of showing the child or teen that someone cares about them. By fostering nurturing, supportive, and intergenerational relationships, Mentors help build a child’s self-esteem and give them assurance that they are not alone in dealing with day-to-day challenges. Our Milagro Mentors truly make miracles happen for our children and youth. Research shows that students who participate in mentor relationships miss fewer school days, are less likely to participate in negative behaviors, and more likely to graduate on time. Mentors are required to make a minimum one-year commitment and visit with their Mentee for an hour each week on-site at Milagro Center. Virtual visits are also acceptable if the Mentor is unable to come in person. Visits are supervised by Milagro Center staff. All Mentors undergo extensive background screenings, including fingerprinting, and participate in orientations and ongoing trainings to ensure the highest level of performance.

### LEVEL UP MENTORING

Milagro Center, through a major grant from United Way of Palm Beach County, and in partnership with Palm Beach County Youth Services Department and Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County, has become the South Palm Beach County’s Mentoring Host Site for 11- to 18-year-olds who are directly involved with or at-risk of entering the Juvenile Justice or Dependency system. This Level Up Mentoring program greatly expands and enhances Milagro Center’s Mentoring Miracles program to better serve at-risk children and teens in the most economically challenged neighborhoods of our community. The Level Up program’s goals are to match these at-risk teens with long-term positive role models, make referrals to community-based services, and provide opportunities to continue education or career exploration. With all that our world is facing today, it’s more important than ever for kids to have a caring adult in their life who will encourage and empower them through real life decisions. Right now, in Palm Beach County, 1,050 kids are waiting to be matched with a Mentor. Being a Mentor is being a listener, a guide, a support, a cheerleader, providing insight, and fostering success in others. Level Up Mentors must undergo background screenings and meet with their Mentee in-person or through virtual means when necessary.

### ARTreach

Milagro Center is committed to introducing and engaging at-risk children, youth, and the underserved community at-large to the arts. Milagro Center’s ARTreach Program utilizes its on-site “Blueprint Gallery” and outdoor “Community Art Garden” to host rotating schedules of art and sculpture exhibits by local emerging artists, Milagro’s professional art team, and our very own talented students. 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. In addition, the Community Art Garden has provided the beautiful backdrop for our annual “Women’s Garden Tea Party” and our very popular community “Goodstock Festival”. Both the Blueprint Gallery and the Community Art Garden are available for community-based childcare centers, schools, youth activity centers, local organizations, companies, and local art groups and art leagues to participate in the art and hold meetings and retreats in these venues. 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 **21.4%** poverty rate among African Americans; and **23.72%** for those without a high school education. (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 the 3rd grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success. Yet, in Delray Beach public schools, **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

More than **160** underserved children and youth in South Palm Beach County were exposed to cultural arts, academic enrichment, and Living Values lessons through Milagro Center's programs in 2022.

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 **13-year 96% average** for successful annual grade promotion.

**100%** of the middle school students enrolled in Milagro center's Jr. Teen Leadership Program were promoted to the next grade.

**100%** of our Jr. Teen Leadership students saw improvements in their grades in one or more subjects through Milagro Center's "Grades Up Initiative".

**100%** of our Jr. Teen Leadership and Teen Leadership Program students participated in S.E.L. (Social Emotional Learning) classes, learning how to develop healthy identities, manage emotions, and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

Our Teen Leadership Program students have had **100% grade promotion** in each of the last 11 years AND **100%** of the high school seniors who regularly attend our Teen Leadership Program have achieved high school graduation and are involved in post-secondary education and training.

Milagro Center's 2022 high school graduates are **attending FAU, FAMU, University of Florida, UCF, Everglades University, Palm Beach State College, and Palm Beach Atlantic University.**

Milagro Center's alumni are currently **attending Penn State University, Howard University, Middlebury College, FAU, UCF, UF, FSU, and many other colleges and universities.**

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

**100%** of our S.T.A.R.S. students involved in Milagro's 10-week summer camp enrichment program returned to school reading at or above their previous term's reading level, experiencing no summer learning loss.

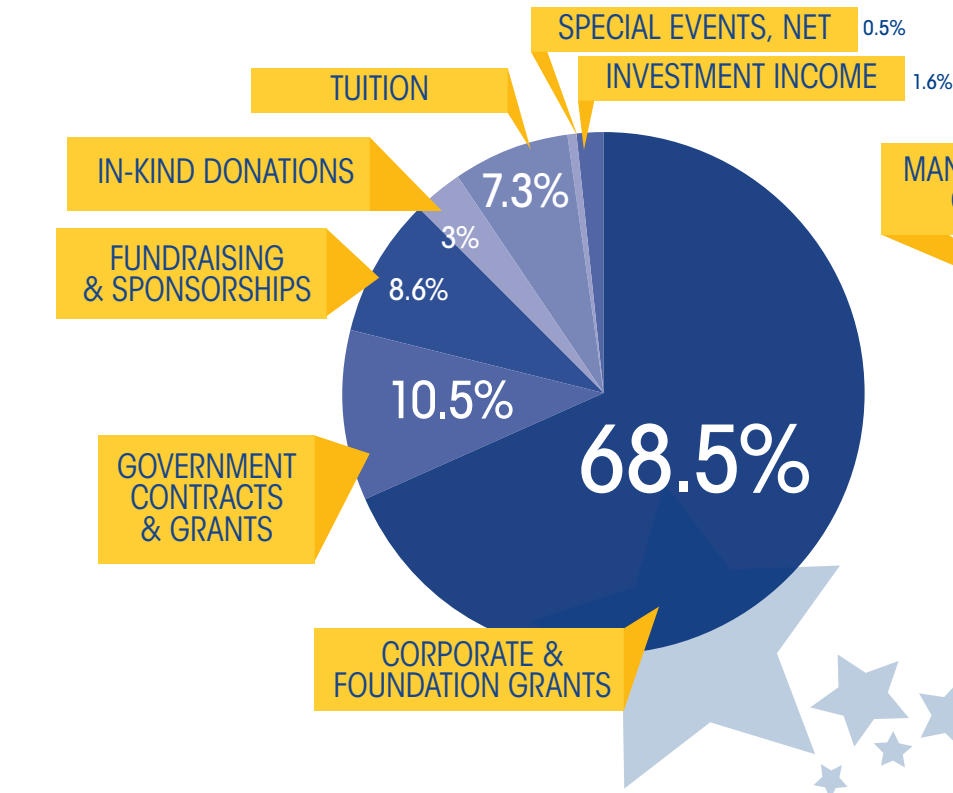
In 2022, Milagro Center paired greater than **50 students** with adult mentors through our Mentoring Miracles and Level Up Mentoring programs.

Milagro's musical instrument instruction program set new record levels in 2022 by providing private instrument lessons to greater than **65** Milagro students. Our S.T.A.R.S. Ensemble and Teen Band performed throughout the community, and our advanced Teen Ensemble received professional performance training with many members playing multiple instruments. Students were also provided with free loaner instruments for home practice!

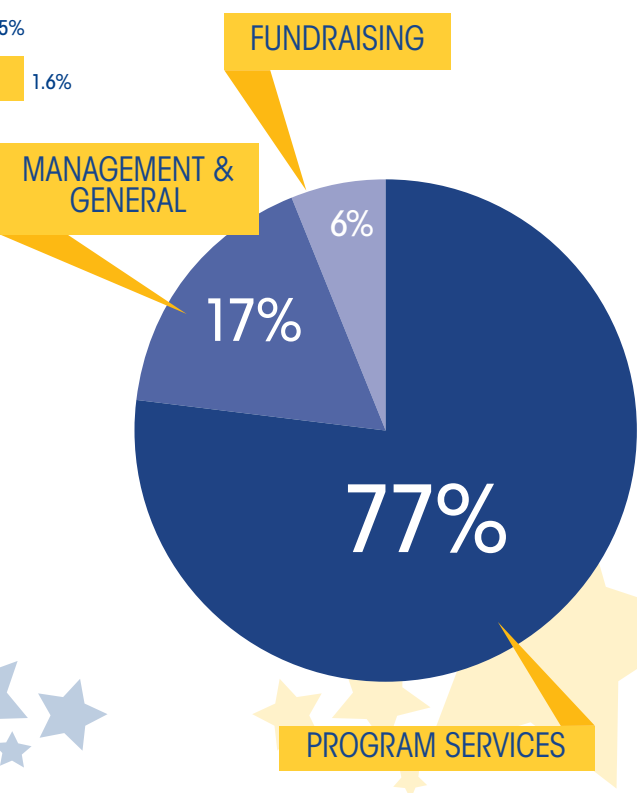
*Milagro Center's many programs benefit our local community, including the promise of future productive residents; parents who are engaged in their children's lives and futures and can maintain their own employment knowing their children are in a safe, nurturing, enriching environment after school and 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.*

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

## 2022 REVENUES

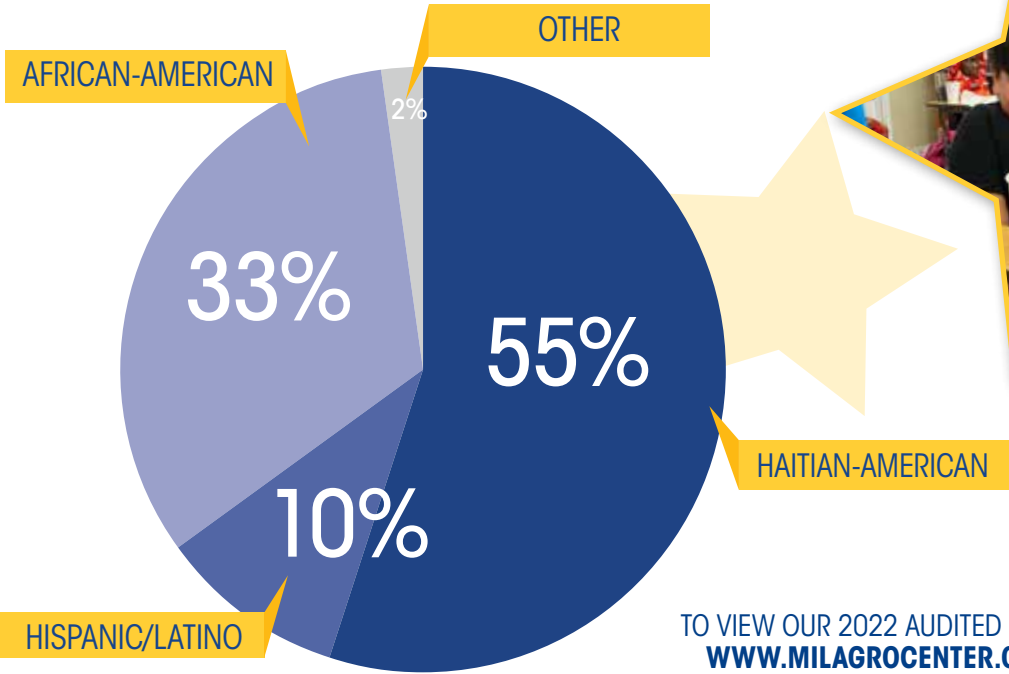


## 2022 EXPENSES



## 2022 DEMOGRAPHICS OF POPULATION SERVED

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



TO VIEW OUR 2022 AUDITED FINANCIALS AND 2022 990, PLEASE VISIT: [WWW.MILAGROCENTER.ORG/ABOUT/#FINANCIAL-STEWARDSHIP](http://WWW.MILAGROCENTER.ORG/ABOUT/#FINANCIAL-STEWARDSHIP)

# 2022 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 2022!**

Abbey Delray  
ABC Institute  
ACHIEVE Palm Beach County  
Afterschool Programs, Inc.  
Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness  
Allstate  
Almost ABBA  
Amazon Hub  
American Heritage School  
American Red Cross  
Atlantic Avenue Magazine  
Atlantic Community High School  
AVDA  
Bak Middle School of the Arts  
BatCat Media  
Be Noticed Productions  
Beach Keepers  
Bell Rock Capital  
Best Vet Animal Hospital  
Birth to 22, Palm Beach County  
Boca Greens Country Club  
Boca Museum of Art  
Boca Pointe “Clowns on Call”  
Boca Raton Observer  
Boca Raton Resort  
Boca Raton Tennis Club  
Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach County  
Cape Universal  
Capital One  
Capital One Café Delray Beach  
Carabba’s Italian Grill, 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  
Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at FAU  
Chick-fil-A  
Children’s Bereavement Group  
Children’s Services Council  
Chipotle  
City of Boynton Beach  
City 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  
Connect To Greatness  
Cornell Art Museum  
Costco  
Cultural Council of Palm Beach County  
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 Landtrust  
Delray Beach Nonprofit Council  
Delray Beach Orchid Society  
Delray Beach Police Department  
Delray Beach Public Library  
Delray Beach Youth Tennis  
Delray Community Wellness Center  
Delray Morning Live  
Delray Sun  
Digital Vibe  
DJ Nacho Productions  
DPR Construction  
Dress 4 Success Palm Beach County  
Dress For Success  
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 Horizon  
First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach  
First Tee Palm Beaches  
Flipany  
Florida Association of Women Lawyers  
Florida Atlantic University  
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  
GFA International  
Glenmede  
Grieco Automotive Group  
Grieco Youth Soccer program  
Habitat for Humanity  
Health Council of Southeast Florida  
Healthier Delray Beach  
Herizon  
Home Depot

Horses Healing Hearts  
Hyatt Place, Delray Beach  
In Jacob’s Shoes  
Jack and Jill of America, Inc. (Palm Beach chapter)  
Jay Valor and His Band  
Joshua’s Heart Foundation  
Junior League of Boca Raton  
Karisma Dance Company  
Katz Yeshiva High School of South Florida  
Keter  
Kindness Matters 365  
Kiwanis Club Delray Beach  
KOP Mentoring Network  
Lake Ida Park  
Leadership Delray  
Leadership Palm Beach County  
LexisNexis  
Lifestyle Media Group  
Live Nation  
Living Hungry  
Living Skills in Schools  
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge  
Lynn University  
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  
National League of American Pen Women  
NCCI  
NCCI WINS  
Nerdy Cares  
Nonprofit Chamber  
Nonprofits First  
Norton Museum  
Office Depot  
Pace Center for Girls  
Palm Beach Accounting & Financial Services  
Palm Beach Atlantic College  
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 Substance Abuse Coalition  
Palm Beach Zoo  
Palm Greens Women’s Club  
Palm Health Foundation  
Pediatric Angel Foundation  
Pine Crest School

Pine Jog Environmental Education Center  
Plastridge Insurance  
Plumosa School of the Arts  
Pompey Park  
Posh Properties  
Prime Time Palm Beach County  
Printer’s Choice  
Project FACT  
Prom Beach  
Publix  
Right Way Plumbing  
RN Network  
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  
Schmidt College of Medicine  
Seagate Country Club  
SEEDS of Fortune  
Shawmut Construction  
Sickle Cell Foundation  
SOMOS (Office Depot’s Latino/Hispanic Associate Resource Group)  
SouthState Bank  
SouthTech Prep and SouthTech Academy  
Sow Share  
Space of Mind  
Spady Cultural Heritage Museum  
Spirit of Giving Network  
St. Vincent Ferrer Church  
State Farm Insurance  
Strawberry Lane Band  
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 Coastal Star  
The Law Office of David A. Beale, P.A.  
Timeless Media  
Toshiba  
Touch a Heart Foundation  
Town of Palm Beach United Way  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Twin Star Home  
United Way of Palm Beach County  
Universal Engineering Sciences Company  
University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine  
US Soccer Foundation  
Village Academy  
Village at Delray  
Viner Foundation  
Wise Tribe  
Women’s Club of Delray Beach  
Women’s Foundation of Palm Beach Community Giving Circle  
WPTV  
YMCA of South Palm Beach County  
Youth for Tennis  
Zimmerman Advertising



# 2022 MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- 211 Palm Beach and Treasure Coast  
Afterschool Alliance  
After School Programs (ASP)  
Atlantic Ave. Magazine  
Boca Museum of Art  
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 for Palm Beach and Martin Counties  
Council on Accreditation (COA)  
Cultural Council of Palm Beach County  
Delray Art League  
Delray Beach Fire Rescue  
Delray Beach Police Department  
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  
NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children)  
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 Sheriff’s Department  
Palm Beach County Youth Services Department  
Palm Beach Mastermind  
Palm Beach State College  
PayPal Giving Fund  
Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc.  
Rewards for Causes  
Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM)  
Spirit of Giving Network  
Sunbiz.org  
The Children’s Forum  
The Coastal Star  
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



# 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Lisa Cody  
Board Secretary  
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Palm Beach County Schools  
Silvia Evans  
Palm Beach Accounting & Financial Services  
Carla Lovett  
SouthTech Schools  
Janet Meeks  
Community Volunteer

- Sarah Santangelo  
DPR Construction  
Nancy Singer  
Community Volunteer  
Joseph Sontz  
Community Volunteer  
Brad Straka  
CreativeDrive

## 2022 EXECUTIVE STAFF

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Laura Davis  
Director of Volunteers & Mentors  
Louis Elostá  
Accountant  
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B.F.A. Director of Creative Arts  
Anthony Talton  
Junior Teen Leadership Program Director  
Andre Thoddies  
Teen Leadership Program Director



# 2022 AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Milagro Center celebrated its 25th year of providing exceptional afterschool and summer camp programs to the community's most at-risk children and youth and celebrated with its successful "Sip, Sip, Hooray!" Celebration fundraising event in May of 2022.

In 2022, Milagro Center served greater than 160 underserved and academically at-risk children and youth living in South Palm Beach County through its accredited afterschool, summer camp, and out-of-school time academic, cultural arts, mentoring, and life skills programs.

Milagro Center has maintained its accreditation by the Council on Accreditation (COA) since 2011

Since 2006, Milagro Center has been certified by Nonprofits First for "Excellence in Nonprofit Management"

Milagro Center has been named an "Extraordinary Charity" since 2013

For the last 15 years, Milagro Center has maintained its Quality Gold-Seal Provider status through the Department of Children and Families.

Again in 2022, Milagro Center achieved the highest maintenance level in PrimeTime Palm Beach County's Quality Improvement System (QIS) for both its STARS (k-5th grade) and Jr Teen (6th – 8th grade) Leadership Programs.

In the 2nd year of our Impact 100 Palm Beach County grant, Milagro Center grew its L.E.A.P. (Milagro's "Ladies Empower & Achievement Program") to serve 250 underserved middle school and high school girls from the most severely impoverished communities in south Palm Beach County

Our "Then and Wow" student success stories continue to grow. Kayla, who entered Milagro Center's program as a kindergartener, received a major scholarship to Penn State University and completed her first year with an outstanding 3.8 GPA. Dina, one of our 2022 high school graduates, was accepted into the prestigious Middlebury College in Vermont. Currently we have graduates attending FSU, UCF, FAMU, FAU, and so many other fine universities. We're so proud of our alumni as they continue to make miracles in their own lives!

To further support our amazing graduates, Milagro Center, with gratitude to our many supporters, established our "Rising Stars Scholarship Fund" with our first financial scholarships to be granted in the summer of 2023 to our graduating seniors and past Milagro graduates currently attending college.

Milagro Center established and launched its Milagro Center Alumni Association ("MCAA"), designed to help Milagro Center's graduates make a successful transition to college, vocational school, apprenticeships, or military service; be fully prepared to embark on a productive, self-sufficient career path; learn important life and financial skills; and "pay it forward" by becoming peer mentors to our current students.

Thanks to our collaboration with NCCI's WINS ("Women in Stem") group, our Milagro Jr. Teen and Teen Leadership young ladies were provided with training and exposure inside the IT industry.

Milagro Center's Level Up Mentoring program continued to grow in 2022, matching disconnected youth from southern Palm Beach County with individual and group mentoring and community referrals.

Our S.T.A.R.S. students continue to maintain a 96% average for successful annual grade promotion. Our Teens have had 100% grade promotion in each of the last 11 years and 100% high school graduation.

Our innovative individual and ensemble musical instrument instruction program continued to expand and grow, both in musical instrument offerings and in the number of students taking individual lessons. More than 40% 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 8 years now.

Our professional staff has grown to 22 in total.

Milagro Center is ServSafe Certified through the National Restaurant Association.

Milagro Center proudly celebrated 100% of the 2022 high school graduates going on immediately to attend College, Professional Trade School, and the Military.

Thanks to a successful 2021 fundraising effort, Milagro Center purchased and took possession of a new 2022 15-passenger van in early 2022, expanding our fleet to 2 vehicles.

For the 9th 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.

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 2022 annual appeal raised far greater than its expected revenue goal.

Milagro Center launched its "Champion" \$12 monthly giving program.

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.

Our Mentoring Miracles program maintained its status as a National Mentoring Quality Program through United Way of Palm Beach County and continued to attract new mentors and volunteers who engage weekly with our students.

Milagro Center's Board of Directors held its Strategic Positioning retreat and developed the organization's 2023-2025 Strategic Positioning Plan.

Janet Meeks, previously with the City of Delray Beach, joined our Board of Directors.

Corey Mitleider of NCCI was appointed Board Treasurer.

Milagro Center implemented additional security measures at each of its 3 Centers, including adopting the SaferWatch app, installing video surveillance cameras, entry door buzzers, and providing safety trainings for its staff.

Milagro Center received a Volunteer Grant from Great Charity Challenge/Doyle Family for a video produced by mentor Gerald Black.

On February 5th, 2022, Milagro Center placed 21st at the 13th Annual Great Charity Challenge. We are super proud of our riders and their horses, and thankful to our sponsors and supporters for making this a night one we will not soon forget.

Milagro Center received a major grant from United Way of Palm Beach County to found our Level Up Mentoring Program and become South Palm Beach County's Mentoring Hub Site for 11- to 18-year-olds who are directly involved with or at-risk of entering the Juvenile Justice or Dependency system.

Milagro Center and Spady Cultural Heritage Museum were proud to present the Black History Youth Awareness Art Festival on Feb 18th, 2022.

Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties awarded Milagro Center a grant to establish our Boys EmpowerMENT Program. This impactful program is designed to fulfill a critical need to provide guidance, direction, and mentoring to at-risk middle and high school boys.

Thanks to two generous grants from The Frederic A. DeLuca Foundation, Milagro Center will be able to continue and expand both our Music Program and our Junior Teen Leadership Program.

We are now providing music appreciation and awareness to all the economically challenged and at-risk children and teens we serve, we have increased the number of instruments we teach, and we have increased the number of students who are learning to play an instrument. In addition, the Milagro S.T.A.R.S. Ensemble and Teen Leadership band are performing more frequently throughout the community.

We expanded enrollment in our Junior Teen Leadership Program from 40 to 50 economically challenged, academically at-risk middle school students. Milagro Center's Junior Teen Leadership Program, which was founded in 2019, is the first dedicated middle school afterschool and summer camp program in Palm Beach County. This impactful program focuses on the unique academic and social and emotional needs of underserved 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

Milagro Center received a grant from Cultural Council of Palm Beach County to help support our 1st annual "Goodstock Festival" in August, 2022. A BIG shout out to our sponsors, crafts vendors, the Strawberry Lane band, Milagro Center student performers, Frankie-Karaoke, and everyone else who came together to make this event spectacular.

Prime Time Palm Beach County selected Milagro Center's Teen Leadership Program students to participate in the "Youth Voice Opportunity" Grant. As part of the grant, eight of the students in our Teen Leadership Program attended the Youth Powered Forum in Chicago on December 2-4, 2022. These students made their voices heard and had a hand in shaping the future of afterschool programming.

Milagro Center was honored to be a semi-finalist for the 2022 Men Giving Back SPBC grant awards! We attended the Men Giving Back Golden Ball Awards on November 16, 2022 at the Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club.

Milagro Center received a 2-year grant from Herizon Foundation (formerly Jewish Women's Foundation of the Greater Palm Beaches) for our Girls Go Build Program.

Milagro Center received a generous grant from the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation to continue and expand our Social Emotional Learning arts-based "Take Art to Heart" Program.

We launched our Financial Fundamentals for Females (FFF) Program through a grant from Women's Foundation of Florida. This innovative program introduces economically challenged, academically at-risk middle and high school girls to all aspects of financial management, including personal budgeting, spending and saving, employment and income, buying a home, risk management and insurance... and even careers in finance.

Milagro Center received a new 3-year grant contract from Palm Beach County's Youth Services Department to add Social Emotional Learning (SEL) supports for our high school students

Milagro Center received a grant from 100 Women Who Care-South Palm Beach County Chapter.

Milagro Center continued to grow our investment account throughout 2022 to build an operating reserve fund that will help with future sustainability and growth of the organization.

Milagro Center's Director of Mentors attended the 2022 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 childcare, CPR and First Aid, and Florida Statutes relating to licensed childcare 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.

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 WOW!!!

Since 1997, Milagro Center has launched hundreds of at-risk youth onto productive paths for a successful future. Here are just three of our proud alumni!

## THEN & WOW!



Meet Amura, a 2015 Milagro graduate who went on to receive his Bachelor’s Degree from Miles College in Alabama and who is now an outstanding member of Milagro Center’s professional staff as a full-time STARS academic teacher!



Kayla has gone from being a precocious kindergartner at Milagro Center to an outstanding student at Penn State University, completing her freshman year with a remarkable 3.8 GPA! She is well on her way to a successful future and has plans to attend law school after graduation.



Justin is a true Milagro Center success story! Following his senior year at Milagro Center, Justin entered the Marines and, after completing his military service, is now a full-time college student and our very own Operations Assistant at Milagro Center!

# 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 continuing to make Milagro miracles - and for this we thank you!



And thank you to our many Milagro Center “Champion” monthly donors!



# 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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