



2023 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 Friends and Supporters,

2023 was spectacular for Milagro Center as we celebrated our 26th year of “Making Miracles” for the underserved children and teens in our South Florida community attending our year-round afterschool and summer camp programs. Our organization continues to transform these young lives and, with each and every year, we achieve important new milestones. Here are just some of our many significant 2023 achievements:

- Our Milagro Center Alumni Association (MCAA) is growing with our 2023 high school students now joining this alumni group. The MCAA is designed to help all of our graduates successfully navigate through college, trade school, apprenticeships, or military service and prepare to embark on productive, self-sufficient futures.
- In the summer of 2023, Milagro Center awarded our very first “Rising Stars” Scholarships to our graduates attending Penn State University, Middlebury College, University of Florida, Florida State University, University of Central Florida, Palm Beach State College and other fine colleges and universities.
- Our “Then and Wow” success stories are simply amazing! Dina, who is an alum of Milagro Center’s Teen Leadership Program, made the Dean’s List at the prestigious Middlebury College this year. She is also planning to study abroad in Spain during the Spring 2024 term. And speaking of our alumni, we now count five of them among our full-time professional staff, paving the way for our next generation of Milagro leaders!
- Our list of community collaborations continued to expand adding The Symphonia, First Tee Golf, Palm Beach Opera, NCCI, Flipany, iThink Financial, the Norton Museum, among others.
- SouthTech Schools and Milagro Center partnered for an innovative 10-week summer camp program for Middle and High School at-risk youth which included 2 hours of mandatory academic classes each day. As a direct result, all students made academic gains over the summer!
- We created and implemented the “Become a Champion for Every Child’s Bright Future” monthly giving program with great success in attracting and gaining additional donors.
- New and exciting funding came from the Jim Moran Foundation to support our Junior Teen Leadership Program and Impact 100 Men to launch the “STARS StoryMakers Project”, focusing on enhancing literacy and language arts skills for our K-5th grade students.
- Milagro Center held our annual gala at the beautiful Lakeside Terrance in Boca Raton, where we celebrated our most successful fundraising event yet, the “Heart and Soul Celebration”.

• As a reflection of our ongoing commitment to excellence, Milagro Center was successfully reaccredited by the Council On Accreditation (“COA”) and by Nonprofits First for Excellence in Nonprofit Management in 2023. We also maintained our Gold Seal Quality Care Program status with the Department of Children and Families. In addition, we proudly earned a 4-star rating with Charity Navigator and received GuideStar’s Platinum Seal of Transparency.

• Our Board of Directors implemented our 2023-2025 “Positioning Milagro Center for Success and Organizational Health” Strategic Plan focusing on the objectives and goals of advocacy and expansion for our organization.

• And, we continued to “make the grade” with our 2023 program outcomes including 98% of our students successfully advancing to the next grade at the end of the academic school year; 100% of our high school seniors successfully graduating from high school; and 99% of the graduates immediately attending college, trade school, or entering military service.

Another year has passed and with it many, many Milagro miracles made!

We deeply appreciate and thank you - our funders, donors, volunteers and mentors, community and corporate partners, the City of Delray Beach, our students and families, and our amazing passionate and professional staff. All together, we are truly making the most vital and paramount difference - we are changing lives!

Kurt Knaus

Barbara J. Stark



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 academic enrichment, cultural arts instruction, Living Values education, and one-on-one mentoring in a year-round 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 recently added intensive reading remediation and instruction to its daily program, employing a Reading Specialist and utilizing a phonics-based reading curriculum, with the goal of ensuring that all of our students are reading on or above grade level. Milagro Center’s S.T.A.R.S. innovative integrated curriculum has resulted 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. In 2023, our high school students achieved the highest GPAs to date, with 85% of our students earning a 3.0 GPA and above! 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 in 2012, 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 and now graduating from college and trade school, becoming apprentices to local professionals, and completing military service.

THE MILAGRO CENTER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Milagro Center excitedly announced the formation of our newest program last year: The Milagro Center Alumni Association (MCAA), with greater than 70 Alumni participating! Now that we are in our 26th 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 are 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 held so that all of our proud Milagro Center alumni can reconnect in meaningful ways. Milagro Center is proud to boast that we have 5 alumni as members of our professional staff!

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.

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.**

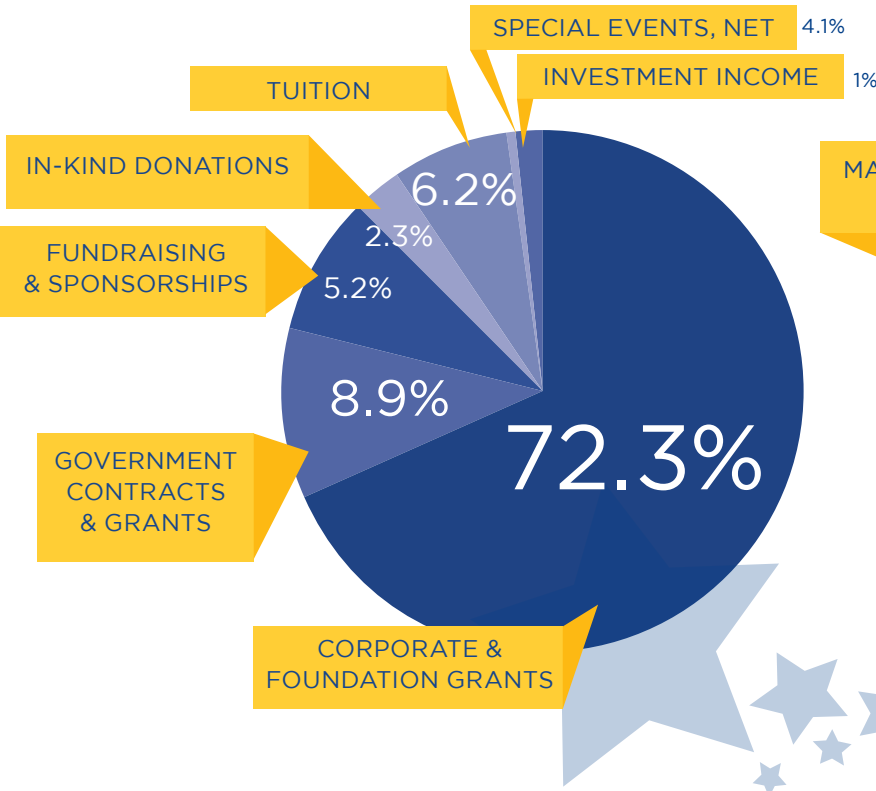
High school dropouts cost our community in multiple ways. An at-risk youth who becomes a career criminal costs society between **\$1.4-\$1.7 million** over his/her lifetime. The average drug abuser can cost society more than **\$1 million.** Even those **22%** who don't turn to crime often cost society more than a **quarter of a million dollars** individually over the course of their lifetimes.

OUR RESULTS REFLECT PROGRAM EXCELLENCE!

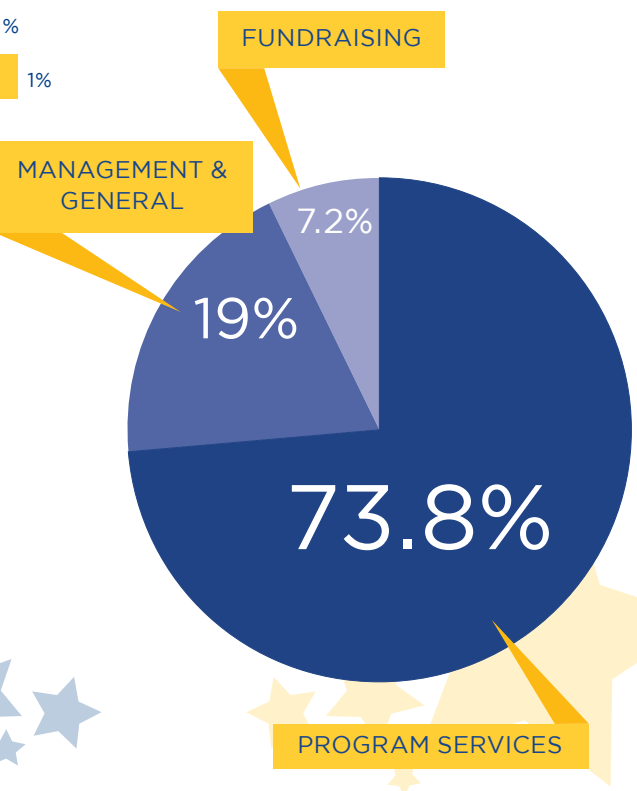
- More than **170** underserved children and youth in South Palm Beach County were exposed to cultural arts, academic enrichment, and Living Values lessons through Milagro Center's programs in 2023.
- We continue to operate our licensed and accredited S.T.A.R.S. (K-5th grade) program at **100%** maximum enrollment capacity with a perpetual waiting list.
- Our S.T.A.R.S. students enjoy a **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.
- **100%** of our students maintain satisfactory school attendance, as measured by report cards.
- **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.
- **100%** of the middle and high school students who attended the joint SouthTech/Milagro Center 10-week Jr. Teen/Teen Leadership summer camp program experienced no learning losses and in fact greater than 88% of these students returned for the new school year having made academic gains
- Our Teen Leadership Program students have had **100% grade promotion** in each of the last 12 years
- **85%** of our Teen Leadership Program students have earned a 3.0 GPA or higher
- **100%** of the high school seniors who regularly attend our Teen Leadership Program have achieved high school graduation
- **99%** of our high school graduates immediately enroll in college, trade school, or military service.
- Milagro Center's 2023 high school graduates are **attending FAU, FAMU, University of Florida, UCF, FIU, 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 fine colleges and universities.
- In 2023, Milagro Center paired greater than **50 students** with adult mentors through our Mentoring Miracles program.
- Milagro's musical instrument instruction program set new record levels in 2023 by providing private instrument lessons to more than **70** Milagro students. Our S.T.A.R.S. Ensemble and Teen Band performed multiple times for our parents and throughout the community at such venues as the Capital One Café and Spady Museum and at various community events. Our advanced Teen Ensemble received professional performance training with many members playing multiple instruments. Thanks to generous grant funding supporting this program, our students are 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.

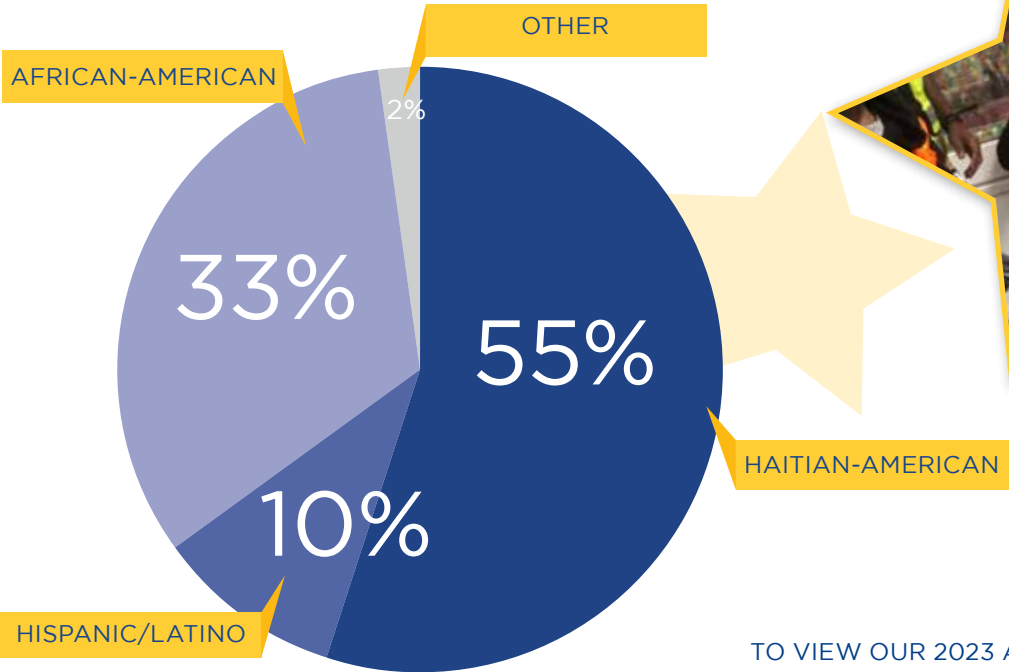
2023 REVENUES



2023 EXPENSES



2023 DEMOGRAPHICS OF



2023 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 2023!

- 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
- Be Noticed Productions
- Beach Keepers
- Bell Rock Capital
- Birth to 22, Palm Beach County
- 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
- Brave Man Media
- 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
- Delicious Spoonfuls
- 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 Fire Rescue
- Delray Beach Playhouse
- Delray Beach Police Department
- Delray Beach Public Library
- Delray Beach Rotary Club
- 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
- 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 Memorial College
- Florida Power & Light
- Florida Women Business Center
- Frank’s Bowling
- Freedom Chiropractic
- Future Leaders Palm Beach County
- Genesis Community Health & Dental
- GFA International
- Girls on the Run
- Girls Voice Taskforce of PBC
- Glenmede
- Grieco Automotive Group
- Grieco Youth Soccer program
- Habitat for Humanity
- Health Council of Southeast Florida
- Healthier Delray Beach
- Home Depot
- In Jacob’s Shoes

- iThink Financial
- Jack and Jill of America, Inc. (Palm Beach chapter)
- Jay Valor and His Band
- Joshua’s Heart Foundation
- Junior League of Boca Raton
- 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
- Morikami Museum
- 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 Opera
- 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
- PNC Bank

- Pompey Park
- Posh Properties
- Prom Beach
- 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 Schools
- 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.
- The Symphonia
- 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
- 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



2023 MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

211 Palm Beach and Treasure Coast
Advancing Leaders, PrimeTime Palm Beach County
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 Chamber of Commerce
Delray Beach Fire Rescue
Delray Beach Police Department
Directors of Volunteer Services of Palm Beach County
Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
Executive Women of the Palm Beaches
Extraordinary Charities
Family Central, Inc.
Flipany
Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations (FANO)
Florida Atlantic University (FAU)
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/Candid
Hands on Tzedakah ("H.O.T.")

Health Council of Southeast Florida
Human Resources Association of Broward County, FL
Human Resources Certification Institute (PHR)
Impact 100 Palm Beach County
Inter-Agency Network of Palm Beach County
Leadership Delray Beach
Leadership Palm Beach County
Little Kids Rock
Lynn University
MentorCore
NAEYC (National Association for Education of Young Education)
National Association of Nonprofit Organizations & Executives (NANO)
Network for Good
Nonprofit Council of the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce
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
SaferWatch
S.Impact
Schmidt College of Medicine at FAU
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

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Board Chair
PNC Bank

David Worthington
Board Vice Chair
Keter

Corey Mitleider
Board Treasurer
NCCI

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Board Secretary
Twin-Star Home

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Law Offices of David A. Beale, P.A.

Latoya Dixon
Palm Beach County Schools

Silvia Evans
Palm Beach Accounting & Financial Services, LLC

Carla Lovett
SouthTech Schools

Janet Meeks
Community Volunteer

Sarah Santangelo
DPR Construction

Nancy Singer
Community Volunteer

Joseph Sontz
Community Volunteer

Brad Straka
Investis Digital

2023 EXECUTIVE STAFF

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Executive Director

Eugenia Harding, PHR, SHRM-CP
Executive Vice President of HR & Operations

Ken Arfa
Music Director

Laura Davis
Director of Volunteers & Mentors

Louis Elost
Accountant

Cristofer Lux
Supervisor Jr. Teen
Leadership Program

Michael Mapp
S.T.A.R.S. Program Director

Glenn Mueller, M.B.A.
Director of Grants Administration

Amura Powell
Supervisor Teen
Leadership Program

Ricardo Rodriguez, B.F.A.
B.F.A. Director of Creative Arts

Anthony Talton
Sr. Director Jr. Teen and
Teen Leadership Programs



2023 AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Milagro Center celebrated its 26th year of providing exceptional afterschool and summer camp programs to the community's most at-risk children and youth

In 2023, 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.

Earned the Council on Accreditation (COA) Recertification and has been COA Certified since 2011

Achieved the Nonprofits First Reaccreditation for "Excellence in Nonprofit Management" , and has been accredited since 2006

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

For the last 16 years, Milagro Center has maintained its Quality Gold-Seal Provider status through the Department of Children and Families.

Again in 2023, 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.

Collaborated with and signed a new contract with FLIPANY to provide the S.T.A.R.S. Program with the Hot Meal Program

Renewed the Palm Beach County Health Department License

Renewed SaferWatch Emergency Notification System

Earned the 2024 Candid GuideStar Platinum Rating

Earned the Charity Navigator highest 4-star rating

Applied for and complied with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and received registration for the Solicitation of Contributions for Charitable Giving in 2024

Our Executive Director/S.T.A.R.S. Site Director successfully renewed her Florida Advanced Director Credential

Our Executive Vice President of Operations and HR maintained her SHRM-CP and PHR credentials.

Sr. Director of Creative Services Rick Rodriguez graduated from PrimeTime Palm Beach County's Advancing Leaders Training Program

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.

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

Enhanced the employee benefits package by offering Aflac insurance and instituting the monthly "My Mental Health Day" program.

Our professional staff has grown to 22 in total, including five Milagro Center alumni.

Continue to engage and retain the professional staff by providing quarterly staff retreats/socials

Completed a successful annual 2023 financial audit

Our 2023 "Heart and Soul" annual spring fundraising event was the most successful to date, bringing in record-breaking revenue to support Milagro Center's programs

In partnership with SouthTech Schools, we held our 2023 10-week Middle and High School summer camp program, including 2 hours of structure academic classes each day

We received a \$20,000 grant from Impact 100 Men to launch the STARS StoryMakers Project. Through this innovative program, we offer enhanced literacy and language arts instruction and inspire the economically challenged, academically at-risk students in our K-5 afterschool and summer camp programs to become authors by conceiving and writing their own storybooks.

Milagro Center continues to maintain an active marketing and social media presence which has successfully gained increased visibility for the organization.

Our S.T.A.R.S. Program students continue to maintain a 96% average for successful annual grade promotion.

Our Teens have had 100% grade promotion in each of the last 12 years and 100% high school graduation.

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

Milagro Center proudly celebrated 100% of the 2023 high school graduates going on immediately to attend College, Professional Trade School, and the Military.

The Milagro Center Alumni Association ("MCAA") continues to grow with the addition of our 2023 high school graduates.

Our "Then and Wow" stories continue to grow. Dina, who is an alumnus of Milagro Center's Teen Leadership Program, made the Dean's List at the prestigious Middlebury College. She is also planning

to study abroad in Spain during the Spring 2024 term.

In the summer of 2023, Milagro Center awarded our very first "Rising Stars" Scholarships to our graduates attending Penn State University, Middlebury College, University of Florida, Florida State University, FIU, Lynn University, University of Central Florida, and Palm Beach State College.

NCCI held its annual "Day of Giving" at Milagro Center in November

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 and enjoyed a memorable full-day field trip to NCCI headquarters in Boca Raton.

The Symphonia, South Florida's premier chamber orchestra, joined in partnership with Milagro Center to serve as the new home for the orchestra's Virginia and Harvey Kimmel String Orchestra and Self-Esteem Program.

Milagro Center's S.T.A.R.S. Program Director Mychael Mapp was awarded the "Applying Quality Leadership in OST Award" at the Prime Time 2023 Afterschool Symposium.

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 9 years now.

Milagro Center is ServSafe Certified through the National Restaurant Association.

For the 10th 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 2023 Annual Appeal raised far greater than its expected revenue goal.

Milagro Center's "Champion" \$12 monthly giving program continues to grow.

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 Director of Mentors attended the 2023 National Mentor Summit in Washington DC.

Milagro Center's Board of Directors is focused on achieving the goals outlined in Milagro Center's 2023-2025 Strategic Positioning Plan.

Milagro Center's Financed Committee continues to meet monthly to review financial statements and provide financial guidance.

Milagro Center continued to grow its investment account throughout 2023 to build an operating reserve fund that will help with future sustainability and growth of the organization.

Milagro Center continued to implement additional security measures at each of its 3 Centers, including renewing the SaferWatch application, installing exterior and interior video surveillance cameras, entry door buzzers, "safe room" with security doors, and providing safety trainings for its staff.

Milagro Center received a first-time grant from the Jim Moran Foundation.

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.

Milagro Center entered the second year of a 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 received a grant from Cultural Council of Palm Beach County to help support our 2nd annual "Goodstock Festival" in February, 2023. In addition to performances from our students and teens, Crazy Fingers (the premiere Grateful Dead Tribute Band in South Florida) headlined the event.

Milagro Center was honored to be a semi-finalist for the 2023 Men Giving Back SPBC grant awards! We attended the Men Giving Back Golden Ball Awards in November, 2023 at the Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club.



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 two of our proud alumni – who are both reaching for the stars!

THEN & WOW!



Joneldina (“Dina”) Bazou

Ms. Joneldina “Dina” Bazou attended Milagro Center’s Teen Leadership Program until graduating in 2021. She is currently attending the prestigious Middlebury College in Vermont, where (along with meeting Bernie Sanders) she is majoring in Psychology with a minor in Environmental Studies and Spanish. For the latter, she was able to experience a semester to study abroad in Spain! Dina is a proud recipient of a 2023 Rising Stars Scholarship through Milagro Center, making it possible for her to continue her academic studies and strive for excellence.



Cristofer Lux

Mr. Cris is a true Milagro Center success story! He attended Milagro Center's afterschool and summer camp programs for 12 years – starting in 1st grade – and graduated from Atlantic Community High School in 2018. And, now he is proudly employed as our Jr. Teen Leadership Program Supervisor while he simultaneously attends Palm Beach State College pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree.

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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