

THE EDUCATION FUND
40 YEARS

FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Celebrating 40 Years of The Education Fund
TASTE OF EDUCATION

A FOOD, WINE AND CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL



Lynn & Louis Wolfson II
Family Foundation





FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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In honor and memory of members who
profoundly influenced The Education Fund

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Celebrating 40 Years of The Education Fund
TASTE OF EDUCATION



A FOOD, WINE AND CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

The Taste of Education supports culinary arts within Miami-Dade County Public Schools by teaching students food preparation, presentation, service, and safety, while also providing leadership, communication, and employment skills. Students are learning to be the chefs of tomorrow.

At this signature event, more than 200 students from Miami-Dade's public school culinary programs create 30+ dishes to compete for top prizes and impress more than 500 top business executives and community leaders, but that's not all.



The Taste of Education also:

- **Showcases all of our programs**
- **Celebrates a successful Teach-A-Thon**
- **Provides a valuable career development opportunity for M-DCPS' culinary students**
- **Raises money for public school culinary programs**





THE EDUCATION FUND THANKS ALL OUR SPONSORS AND UNDERWRITERS*





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THANK YOU

As of 2/16/2025

TASTE OF EDUCATION

VENUE SPONSORS

**Mr. John Brunetti Jr. &
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Owners of the
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Hialeah Park is eternal: Her beauty has no imperfection; her history is like no other. This is the Park about which Sir Winston Churchill uttered one word, "Extraordinary!"



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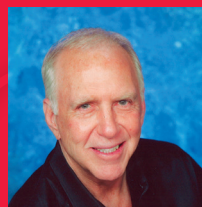
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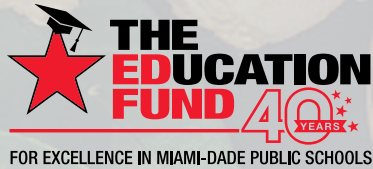


Kenny Tang
TK Hospitality



Monty Trainer
Coconut Grove Arts Festival





Featured Menu

Presented by



We invite guests to vote for the
"People's Choice" Awards, sponsored by



Lynn & Louis Wolfson II
Family Foundation

MEAT

"K.P.B." Burnt End Sliders

Parmesan-Crusted Lamb Skewers

Slow-Roasted Mock Tender served
with Garlic Mash

Jamaican Jerk Chicken

German Potato Pancake topped
w/ Chorizo & Crème Fraiche

Cubs Ropa Vieja Paw Bites

Mini Birria Tacos
w/ Made-From-Scratch Corn
Tortilla & Mozzarella Cheese

Traditional Brown Stew Chicken

Cafe Rubbed and Smoked Pork
Tenderloin

SEAFOOD

Shrimp & Chorizo Skewers with
Red Pepper Soup

Salmon Sphere

Carolyn's Conch Salad

Snapper Sliders

Tropical Ceviche

Salmon Wellington

Vietnamese Spring Roll with
Redland Secret Sauce

VEGETARIAN

Veggie Layer Surprise

Spinach Quiche

Hialeah Havana Bites

Roasted Vegetarian "Chiles
Rellenos"

Garden Lasagna Bisque

Vegetable Medley Bites

Soul Food Vegetable Egg Rolls
w/ Sweet & Tangy BBQ
Dipping Sauce

Miso-Glazed Mushroom Scallops
w/ Congee

DESSERT

"A Night in Paris"

Hazelnut Crunch Bar

OG Cuban Dessert Staple

Pierre Hermé's Ispahan Macaron

Sticky Toffee Pudding & Dulce De
Leche Ice Cream

"Purple Glaze" Raspberry/Blackberry
Flan on a Chocolate Tart

Mango Cardamom Mousse

Torta Chaja

TASTE OF

Special Thanks



TO PARTICIPATING CULINARY TEACHERS AND THEIR STUDENTS, WITH GRATITUDE TO M-DCPS CULINARY ADMINISTRATORS

Jeffrey Acosta
Henry H. Filer Middle School

Dwight Barnes
American Senior High School

Christina Coupet
Homestead Senior High School

Cristina DeArmas-Johnston
North Miami Beach Senior High School

Eida Delafuente
MAST Academy

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Jose De Diego Middle School

David Strickland
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Yolanda Washington
Miami Central Senior High School

Deja Whitehead
Miami Northwestern Senior High School

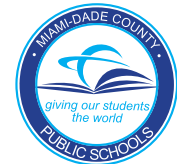
Wayne Worthley
Redland Middle School

At the Department of Career and Technical Education:

Lupe Ferran Diaz, Ph.D.

Rani Khanuja

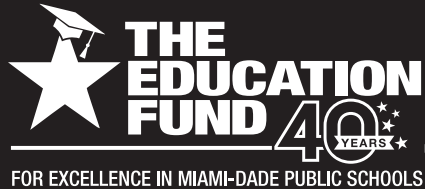
Donald Cole



ABOUT THE EDUCATION FUND WHERE INNOVATION IS FUNDAMENTAL

A Taste of What We Do

- Impact all 337,000+ students annually, in all 470+ Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- Offer support and professional development to all 20,000+ educators annually
- Involve the private sector in designing and implementing new initiatives that improve public education
- Direct resources where they are needed most
- Operate up to a dozen model programs at any given time
- Evaluate pilot program effectiveness to improve outcomes
- Help all children in public schools reach their full potential



T A S



A Taste of Our Accomplishments

- \$86+ million raised for public schools
- 34% increase in students' college enrollment
- 71% of students increased science achievement
- 75% of students improved math knowledge
- 203,000+ students and teachers recognized for their artwork
- \$27+ million in classroom supplies donated, benefiting 3.8+ million children
- 278,500+ harvest food bags provided to low-income students' families
- 7,000+ Food Forest harvests served in students' cafeteria meals
- \$3.1+ million provided for projects in 5,400+ classrooms
- All 420 M-DCPS principals and 360 counselors trained in resiliency strategies
- 3,000+ business professionals recruited to teach for a day and become teacher advocates



Food Forests for Schools



Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials

EDUCATION



Lynn & Louis Wolfson II Family Foundation



celebrates 40 years of The Education Fund's transformative impact at Taste of Education!



FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

of Miami-Dade County Public Schools

In Honor of The Education Fund's 40th Anniversary

DEAR FRIENDS OF EDUCATION,

As we celebrate the remarkable milestone of The Education Fund's 40th anniversary, I am honored to recognize the enduring partnership between Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and this extraordinary organization. The Education Fund is a leader in innovation and investment in public education, dedicated to ensuring that every student has the tools, opportunities, and guidance needed to succeed.

Through The Education Fund's commitment during the past four decades, hundreds of millions of M-DCPS students and educators have benefitted from groundbreaking programs and vital resources.

Just one shining example from this partnership: A resilience-building initiative trained all 420 M-DCPS principals and 360 counselors and mental health professionals in 2023-24, thanks to our partnership with The Education Fund. This initiative equips our school leaders and counseling staff with the tools to support students' emotional well-being environments where they can thrive academically and personally.

In addition, The Education Fund:

Brings hands-on, real-world learning experiences in math, science, nutrition, and now resiliency to 25,000+ students across 51 of our elementary schools through the Food Forests for Schools program.

Provides free supplies for classrooms (\$28+ million to date), starting in the wake of Hurricane Andrew and continuing today, providing 3+ million students with the essential resources they need.

Recruits business professionals (3,000+ to date) to teach for a day in our classrooms and advocate for teachers, while opening children's eyes to new futures.

Recognizes, trains, and provides grants to teachers (\$3.1 million to date) to implement innovative teaching methods, impacting more than 5,400 classrooms and driving student achievement.

Ensures high school students (8,000+ annually) have access to additional college and career activities and counseling.

Affords students (5,000+ to date) in the culinary and visual arts with career experiences and provides their classrooms with additional resources to improve learning.

Launched innovative programs including a principals' training program that received national accolades, and an initiative that provided 10,000 computers to students for home use, which laid the foundation for the district's ability to ensure every student had a home computer during the pandemic.

In all, The Education Fund has raised \$86+ million dollars for Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

The Education Fund's visionary leadership and collaborative spirit have made a lasting impact on Miami-Dade County Public Schools, ensuring students and educators have the resources and support they need to excel.

Thank you to The Education Fund for 40 incredible years of service and to all those who have supported their mission. As we look to the future, I am confident that our partnership will continue to transform lives and strengthen our community.

With gratitude,

*Dr. Jose L. Dotres
Superintendent*

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

FIND BUSINESS & CAREER HELP

here

CareerSource South Florida is a proud sponsor of **The Education Fund** and **The 2025 Taste of Education Event**

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**CONNECTING THE WORLD
TO SHARE FOOD AND CARE
FOR ONE ANOTHER**



Assurant
Cares

Protecting. Connecting. Inspiring.

We encourage our employees to volunteer in the communities where we work and live. We enhance their great works through charitable grants from the Assurant Foundation.

We're proud to support **The Education Fund** and the vital support they provide to students and teachers throughout our community.



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The ability to help someone recognize their potential. The opportunity to live life “Your Way” and achieve something iconic. These are the forces that drive all of us at the **Burger King Foundation.**



Scholars




**Crown a
Classroom**



**Emergency
Fund**

**The Burger King Foundation
is Proud to Support
The Education Fund!**

www.burgerkingfoundation.org

A group of four diverse students are gathered around a globe in a classroom. They are looking at the globe with interest. The students are of various ethnicities and ages. The background is a blurred classroom setting. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

The future is built on today's education.

Bradesco Bank proudly supports The Education Fund in its mission to enhance public school education.

bradescobank.com





Adina Brunetti

Hospitality Expert, Entrepreneur

Adina Brunetti is an inspiration to many, known for her dedication to education and community engagement. As the author of numerous books and the Founder of AJMB Hospitality, she has had a significant impact on Miami's hospitality industry.

Adina also leads Adina Creative and the AB 27 Group, managing award-winning restaurants, bars, and international events. Her visionary leadership and generosity make her a key contributor to the success of the Taste of Education event, creating meaningful and memorable experiences for all.

AB AJMB

known for
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generosity
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experience for

JMB





One of the And that's

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Wells Fargo is proud

wellsfargo.com/im

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These is not like the other.
It's a good thing.

By embracing the unique qualities and contributions of others, we can better leverage our differences and work together to create a vibrant, diverse future for the good of everyone.

Learn more about how we help you fund to recognize Taste of Education — The Education Fund.

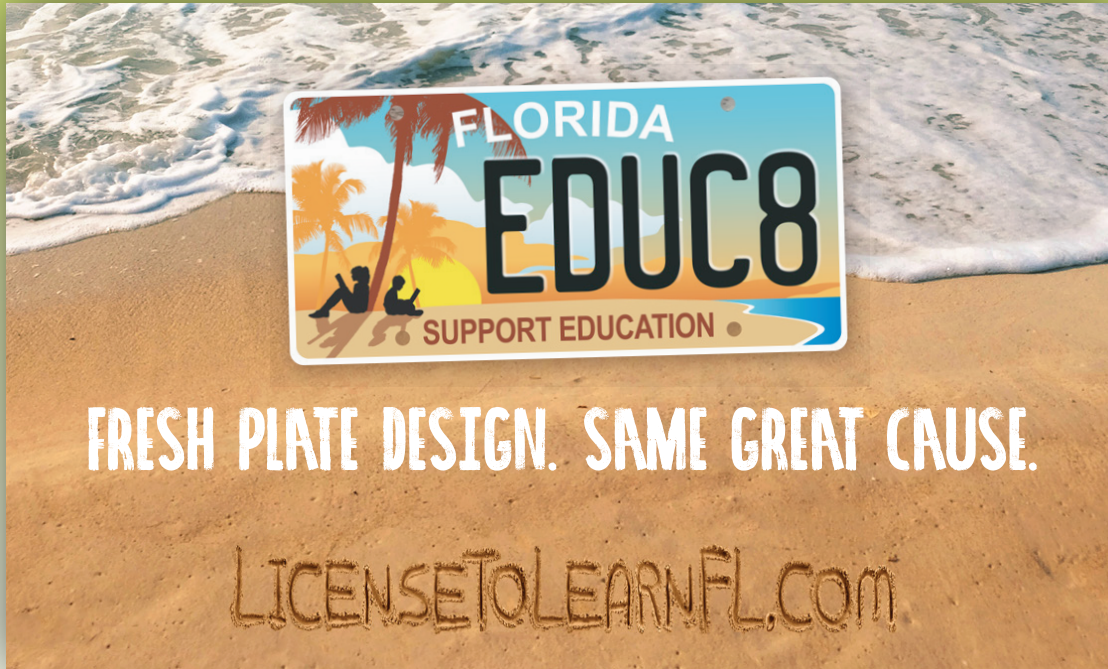
impact

5007

The Wells Fargo logo consists of a solid red square with the words "WELLS" and "FARGO" stacked vertically in white, uppercase, sans-serif font.

**WELLS
FARGO**

DRIVE SUPPORT TO OUR SCHOOLS!



ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT ONLY:





At **Florida Power & Light Company** we are committed to **working with the educators in our community to enrich their curricula** by providing tools and resources that foster students' interest in STEM.

For more information about our programs, scholarships and energy curriculum, please visit [FPL.com/education](https://www.fpl.com/education).

Knowledge is Power!



A TASTE OF OUR Programs

THE TEACH-A-THON

Presented by Wells Fargo

Great Teachers = Student Achievement

To raise awareness of the needs in our public school classrooms, The Education Fund implements the Teach-A-Thon. During this countywide campaign, business professionals walk in the shoes of a teacher, teaching an actual lesson or two!

It's not career day. Instead, business leaders experience what is happening in our public schools -- seeing the needs, struggles, and joys. Since the campaign began, we recruited more than 3,000+ business professionals to teach in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. This rewarding experience creates empathy for teachers and students, and a newfound respect for the teaching profession and our public schools.



Hector Ponte, Wells Fargo, Dante B. Fascell Elementary

Using a walk-a-thon model, these 'Public School Champions' tell the story of public education to their friends and colleagues to raise funds for the participating classrooms and other programs of The Education Fund. Since the program's inception, our Champions have raised \$700,000+ to support our public schools.



Mabel Morrison, Assurant, Felix Varela Senior High School

Presented by



ASSURANT®



NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE HOLDINGS LTD.



Penelope Pena Mella, World Kinect, Johnnie M Parris Colonial Drive Elementary



Ana-Marie Cain, Bradesco, Wesley Matthews Elementary



Pablo Pino, TD Bank, iPrep Academy North



Nick Tootle, Kaufman Rossin, Sylvania Heights Elementary



Alena Shaw, Wells Fargo, Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8 Center

A TASTE OF OUR Programs

THE EDUCATION FUND THANKS OUR TEACH-A-THON FUNDRAISERS

**Platinum:
\$5,000+**
Pablo Pino
Joseph Natoli

Gold: \$2,500+
Nick Tootle

Silver: \$1,000+
Ana-Marie Cain
Paulette Phillips
Kristina Siddall

Bronze: \$500+
Mabel Morrison
Nataly Santos

Honorable Mention: \$250+
Danielle Ettinger
James Diaz
Yasmine Gahed
Raymond Dueñas
Beatriz Lucki
John Hatzis
Jose Mallea
Leslie Soler
Isabella Paez
Charlyn Stanberry
Piedrahita

Honorable Mention: \$100+
Penelope Pena Mella
Carolyn Pink
Nick Bimonte
Rachel Pinzur
Vanessa Castillo
Hector J. Ponte
Casey Crist
Shivam Sharma
Marko Escalante
Mark Trowbridge
Anurag Gupta

Top Fundraising Team
TD Bank



Ernest Modock, Jr., Ford Motor Company, at Charles R. Hadley Elementary

As of 2/13/2025



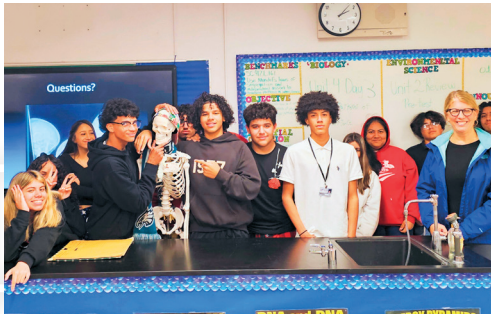
Ana-Marie Cain, Bradesco, Wesley Matthews Elementary



Joe Natoli, Baptist Health South Florida, Sunset Elementary



Paulette Bilsky Phillips, The 305 Chef, Miami Jackson High



Kristina Sidall, Bayview Imaging LLC, American Senior High School



Lynn White, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, Miami Palmetto Senior High School

A TASTE OF OUR Programs

FOOD FORESTS FOR SCHOOLS

This pioneering initiative puts 28,000+ students in the center of sustainable seed-to-table eco-labs, teaching them to plant and cultivate superfoods used in school meals and at home. Children learn nutrition, resiliency, math, biology, environmental science—and have the test scores to prove it.

In collaboration with the Florida Department of Education and Miami-Dade County Public Schools, The Education Fund also created and piloted an entirely new Resiliency component to the Food Forest for Schools model to teach persistence, teamwork, critical thinking skills, empathy, and other protective factors that help children as they progress into adolescence.

Seventy-five percent of students in a 2023-24 TD Ready Commitment pilot increased their math knowledge, and 71% increased their science achievement. This was despite pandemic-related learning losses reflected across the country.

“I take my fifth-grade students to the Food Forest every week for their science lesson. As they learned about the water cycle, they brainstormed and came up with ways to show how a plant goes through a cycle. One of my students exclaimed that ‘Being in the food forest makes me realize how everything is interrelated. It is amazing to see how nature can provide for us.’”

More than half increased their nutrition knowledge.

Our district’s new eligibility to provide 100% of students with federal food aid underscores the urgent need for this program. To help students and their families, we’ve distributed 278,500+ harvest bags full of fresh produce.

Food Forests for Schools, an awardee of grants from U.S. EPA, USDA, and many foundations, received the first-ever \$1 million TD Ready Challenge grant, and is a recipient of the prestigious “Sapphire Award” from The Blue Foundation.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Frederick A. DeLuca
FOUNDATION



A TASTE OF OUR Programs

THE OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

This student lifeline solicits surplus inventory from businesses and makes these supplies available — for free — to teachers, schools, and non-profits to help public school students and their families throughout Miami-Dade County. Since inception, more than 3.8 million students benefited from \$27+ million in materials distributed. Teachers in all subjects continually use supplies from the Ocean Bank Center to enhance lessons. Additionally, art teachers enjoy special visit days and unique workshops to teach the art of found objects, transforming the donated materials into amazing pieces of art.



“It is always exciting to visit The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials and see what cool materials I’ll find for the classroom. On my last visit, I was able to get a box of reusable goggles for my scientists in class. Prior to that, I have been able to get poster paper, expo markers, pouches, and so much more. I cannot wait for my six months to pass so I can once again go find new treasures for my students.

Thank you to all the donors for making this possible, every little bit helps!”

Stephanie Trenholm, Dr. Toni Bilbao Preparatory Academy





**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR
OTHER PROGRAM SPONSORS**



Frederick A. DeLuca
FOUNDATION



Lynn & Louis Wolfson II
Family Foundation



School District Education
Foundation Matching
Grant Program



ART OF FOUND OBJECTS EXHIBITION

Annually, we display, jury, and award prizes for student and teacher art, created from recycled materials from the Ocean Bank Center. Many pieces from the **Art of Found Objects Exhibition** progress to our annual **For the Love of Art** Charity Auction. This event raises thousands of dollars that fund participating classrooms, enabling art teachers to provide a better arts education to students.

FOR THE LOVE OF ART AUCTION

This highly successful annual event, presented by Ocean Bank, highlights the essential role of visual arts in stimulating creativity and academic success for children. More than 400 business leaders, philanthropists, and collectors attend, bidding on 150+ one-of-a-kind art pieces created by the extraordinary talent in our public schools, and on 100+ luxury items. Additionally, we honor successful public school alumni, demonstrating how much you can achieve with a public school education.



A student displays her artwork at *The Education Fund's Art of Found Objects Exhibition*. Her piece was made with supplies from the Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials.

Credit - Miami-Dade College, Hialeah Campus

A TASTE OF OUR Programs

SMARTPATH

The Education Fund’s SmartPath aims to embed a college-going culture in high schools, empowering low-income and first-generation students to graduate and successfully prepare for college and careers. SmartPath is changing the lives of students in five public senior high schools in Miami-Dade who attend weekly College Clubs to research colleges and improve study habits. College and technical school field trips inspire students to set career goals, while FAFSA workshops help parents and students apply for financial aid. Our pilot schools achieved a 34% increase in college enrollment, and since our expansion in 2013, there has been a 21% increase in college enrollment rates across all SmartPath schools.



“Having a connection with the SmartPath College Club program and visiting colleges has really benefited me and empowered me to apply and have a plan for after graduation.” - Student, Miami Senior High School

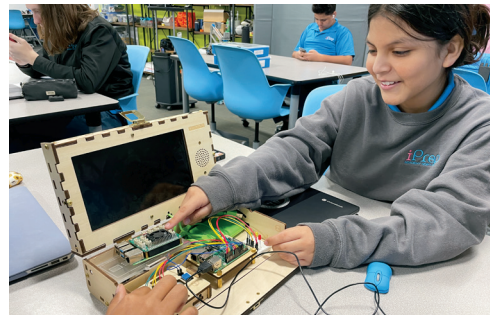


IDEAS WITH IMPACT

This initiative helps teachers raise student achievement! Mentor teachers train their peers at the annual *Idea EXPO Teacher Conference*, attracting over 500 educators for hands-on, teacher-led workshops, featuring innovative ideas with new ways to inspire students. The Idea EXPO includes projects for all grade levels and all subject areas, with free curriculum materials that meet Florida education standards. As a result, 37,000+ students annually receive improved instruction from teachers who attend our Idea EXPO. Ideas with IMPACT also provides grants to teachers for unique, creative classroom projects and materials that enliven and enrich standard curriculum. Most recently, Ideas with IMPACT has provided grants for student-led podcasts and Everglades-related video projects.

“The grants I’ve received helped me purchase robotics kits and create exciting learning activities that my kids absolutely love. My kids are learning programming languages with real-world applications such as cyber defense, game development, virtual reality, problem-solving, and critical thinking - all of which will help them succeed in whatever career they choose.”

Michael Sakowicz, iPrep Academy North.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR IDEAS OF IMPACT SPONSORS



Lynn & Louis Wolfson II
Family Foundation



School District Education
Foundation Matching
Grant Program



ASSURANT®



P.L. Dodge



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The Lucy Petrey Fund

A TASTE OF OUR Giving



FORTY YEARS OF GIVING!

WITH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

As we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of The Education Fund, we look back at 40 years of philanthropy and dedication to our mission: to maximize every child's potential and ensure that each one graduates with every opportunity for success.

The pathway to 40 years of success begins and ends with community, from family foundations, corporations and companies to organizations and individuals. Thank you, to these dedicated

civic and corporate leaders who believe in the power of public education, the ability of our public school educators & leaders, and the work of The Education Fund. You invest in children's dreams.

For more information or to make a pledge, please contact Linda Barrocas at 786-734-6099 or lbarrocas@educationfund.org.

Together, we can ensure Miami-Dade County public schools students thrive.

40 Years of Leadership

Dale Webb, Seth Gordon, Ben Reid, Luis Ajamil, Dennis Klinger, Ted Fernandez, Albert del Castillo, Benigno (Beni) Aguirre, David Nixon, Joanna D. Wragg, Susan (Yaros) James, Barbara Locke, Gary Pappas, Barbara Romani, Patricia Fernandez-Lefebvre, Hector Ponte, Cheryl Rees, Pablo Pino, Gina Craig, Carol Wightman, Linda Lecht



Honoring 40 Years of Partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools

For 40 extraordinary years, Miami-Dade County Public Schools' visionary superintendents, School Board members, staff, dedicated educators, and other committed professionals have worked alongside The Education Fund to ensure every student in Miami-Dade County Public Schools thrives. While too numerous to name individually, their collective impact has transformed countless young lives through our shared mission.



THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR DONORS SUPPORTING OUR GENERAL FUND AND MULTIPLE PROGRAMS OVER 40 YEARS!

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The Education Fund also acknowledges the following major donors whose gifts have helped us meet enormous challenges:

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Cindy Ziff and the Sanford L. Ziff Family Foundation

A TASTE OF OUR Giving



NEW GRANT – NEW DONOR!

The Education Fund is thrilled to announce a \$600,000 grant over three years from Humana Foundation to support our Food Forests for Schools program, operating in 51 public elementary and K-8 schools across Miami-Dade County. Humana Foundation's investment will allow The Education Fund to improve nutritional literacy for students living in disadvantaged neighborhoods via bi-weekly lessons and/or activities in nutritional science at Food Forest & raised bed garden schools. Grant award funds also allow The Education Fund to expand and evaluate its Resiliency Initiative in the Food Forests via Resiliency Stations on Character, Personal Responsibility, Mentorship & Citizenship, and Critical Thinking and Problem Solving installed in all 30 Food Forests, plus bi-weekly lessons for students in their outdoor eco-learning labs.

Humana Foundation gives this grant to The Education Fund's investment in human and

community gain, funding program activities that address health needs and aim to close severe health gaps.

Thank you, Humana Foundation, for joining our other major Food Forests for Schools donors: The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, TD Ready Commitment, The Batchelor Foundation, Braman Family Foundation, Florida Department of Agriculture, and the USDA.



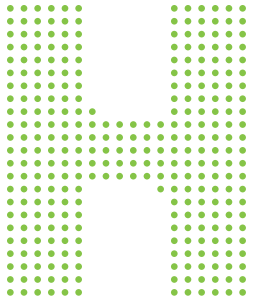
WHERE ELSE DOES THE EDUCATION FUND RECEIVE FUNDING FOR ITS PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS?

In addition to businesses of all sizes and corporate foundations, we collaborate with family foundations, private foundations, government entities (federal, state, and county currently), and with individuals, including YOU!

Please join us in bringing innovation to our public schools and providing resources that open the door for children to learn and to be excited about learning.

Support a program today — online at www.educationfund.org, or by calling Linda Barrocas at 786-734-6099 or emailing lbarrocas@educationfund.org.

Thank you in advance for making a difference for children in our public schools.



We're proud to support The Education Fund for excellence in Miami-Dade County Public Schools

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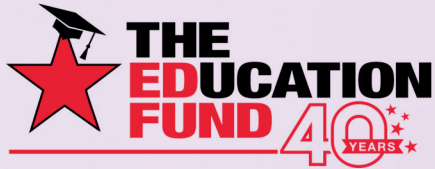
For tickets, silent auction donations or sponsorship opportunities, contact Marilen Marnett at mmarnett@educationfund.org or 305-298-9099.



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FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



DONATE SUPPLIES FOR OUR STUDENTS

The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials accepts most new and slightly used school supply donations.

Donation Options:

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2. Turn your excess business inventory into "treasures" for students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Email: jsalazar@educationfund.org for details.
3. Purchase school supplies from our [Amazon wishlist](#) (use QR code to view).

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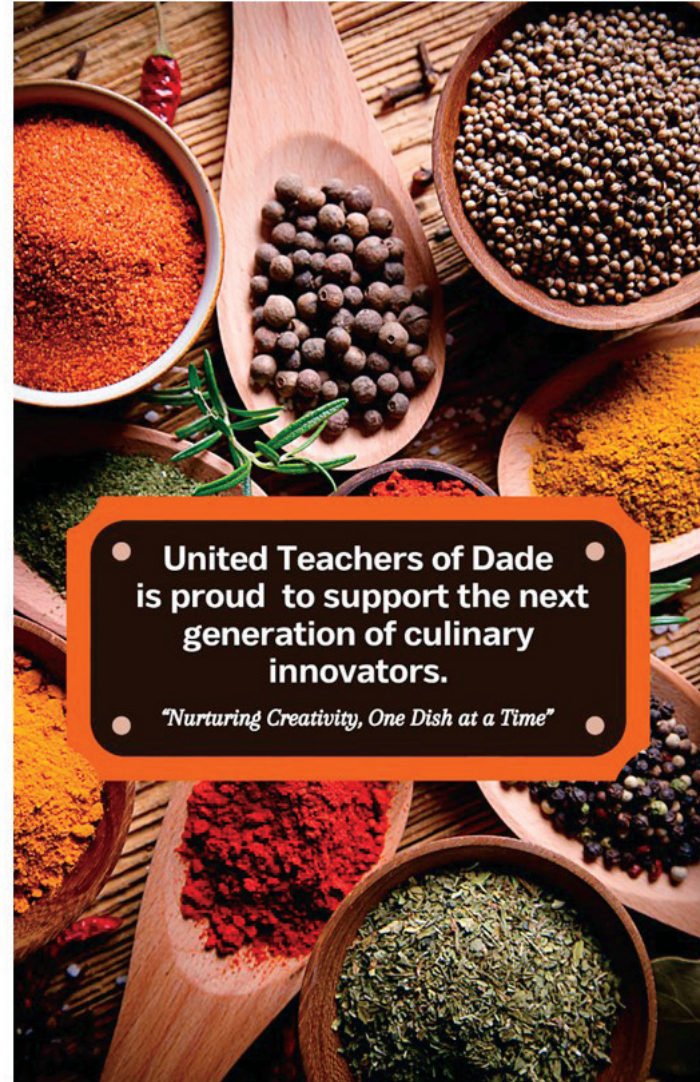
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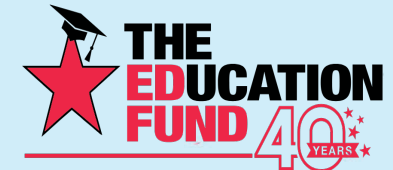
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