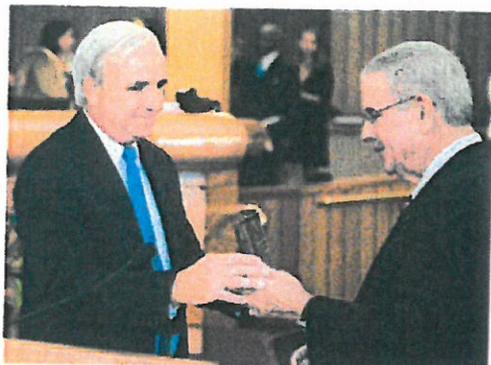




# Miami-Dade County & United Way 2012-2013 Annual Partnership Report

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## **Community Listening Sessions**

County employees provided input through United Way's 2013 Listening Sessions. United Way met with County staff at the Miami-Dade Public Library System on May 6, 2013. Participating employees shared their ideal vision for our community in the areas of Health, Education and Financial Stability. They described their greatest concerns and ways they'd like to see the community change. Input from County staff has been combined with the results of other community listening sessions. Together, community input continues to inform United Way's ongoing planning process toward a goal of achieving greater impact in Health, Education, and Financial Stability.

## **Expert Roundtables**

County employees participated in two United Way Expert Roundtable discussions. They discussed their health-related insights and experiences with others convened by United Way including health experts and practitioners from universities, nonprofit agencies, and philanthropic partners. Staff from Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services (elderly issues and domestic violence) participated in the Home Violence Expert Roundtable on May 2, 2013. Staff from Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces participated in the Healthy Lifestyles Expert Roundtable on May 3, 2013. Information from the Roundtables continue to inform Health planning at United Way.

## READINGPALS

- ReadingPals is a three-year program which brings together community volunteers to help young children improve their literacy skills. Research shows that children who are reading on grade level by fourth-grade have a better chance of graduating from high school. In Miami-Dade County public schools 47% of third graders cannot read at grade level; at low-performing Miami-Dade County public schools, 73% of third grade students cannot read at minimum levels of proficiency.
- United Way of Miami-Dade is one of 10 United Ways in Florida participating in this three-year initiative, funded through a private grant from Carol Jenkins Barnett, chairman and president of Publix Super Markets Charities, and Barney Barnett, Publix vice chairman.
- Last year (2012-2013 school year), volunteers committed to hour-long reading sessions each week at a participating early learning center or elementary school for 24 weeks. Each week, classrooms received the benefit of:
  - weekly readings by volunteers in Pre-Kindergarten classrooms
  - books comprised of titles that support the pillars of early literacy
  - small group intervention (1:3 ratio) focusing on one of the pillars of early literacy
  - post reading extension activities led by the volunteer that address VPK components
  - take home books for each student
  - reading tips and extension activities for parents to accompany take home books
- 10 County employees took advantage of this volunteer opportunity and participated in ReadingPals
- Kathleen Woods Richardson, a County employee and former WLC Chairperson spearheaded ReadingPals efforts by encouraging her staff to participate and speaking publicly about the benefits of the program at many meetings and presentations. She also helped lead a book drive that resulted in the donation of 2,500 books for the program. Children received these books as part of a "Transition to Kindergarten" summer packet.
- This year (2013-2014) 200 ReadingPals volunteers will spend 30 minutes per week at one of more than 50 different early learning classrooms at low-performing schools throughout Miami-Dade County. Volunteers are matched with pairs of children to help build vocabulary and other literacy skills by reading high quality books and engaging them in interactive learning. We are still recruiting volunteers.
- The program offers trainings for participating teachers and volunteers that utilize the VPK assessment to identify intentional interventions for children.

- The MDCPLS is one of our partners for ReadingPals. In Year One, they provided 1,500 literary resources for parents that we added to our "Transition to Kindergarten" summer packets that was given to every student who participated in our ReadingPals program (approx. 1,200 students). This year, they will continue to provide parent resources for the four take-home packets we will be distributing to all 200 students. In addition, this year they are helping us with recruiting volunteers by distributing our ReadingPals information card at all County library branches.

MEDIA – County related

On Tuesday, Sept. 3, Gladys Montes and ReadingPals volunteer, Loretta Gabe-Charles, promoted ReadingPals on NBC 6's Six in the Mix 11 am show, if you missed it you can watch it here <http://www.nbcmiami.com/video/#!//Reading-Pals/222381201>

Loretta Gabe-Charles is a County employee. She is the Senior Bureau Commander at Central Records Bureau.

## **Center For Financial Stability Wells Fargo Financial Coaching Program**

- 2 'Countywide' trainings and orientations provided to managers and HR representatives
  - May 2012 – 11 departments expressed interest in materials, trainings or services
  - November 2012 – 15 departments expressed interest in materials, trainings or services
- Reached out to eight (8) of the departments who had expressed interest in receiving coaching on-site for their teams (provided information and materials to the other departments that only requested those items)
  - Five (5) departments participated in planning meetings to evaluate how to provide services to their teams
  - Two (2) departments (Port of Miami, Solid Waste/Public Works) have cooperated to actually conducting trainings and coaching intakes
  - Five (5) departments (MDPLS, RER, PHCD, Animal Services, Parks and Rec) are in some level of discussion presently to provide services to their teams.
- 17 presentations have been made directly to County employees at the two departments' various locations
- 447 County employees have participated in the presentations
- 161 have completed client forms (don't have up to date data on number of clients already coached since many of these came on in July)
- Clients have been accessing a variety of services and some have already secured additional financial tools (secured credit cards, free life insurance etc)

## **Public Policy**

Lisa Martinez is a member of our Public Policy Committee and advises us on the County's positions as we develop our legislative agendas. She also engages the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and other county departments as needed, depending on the issue to ensure that United Way's legislative positions are aligned with the County's as much as possible.

## **Head Start**

United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education's Demonstration School, Educare of Miami-Dade, has been a Head Start and Early Head Start grant recipient since 2008. We provide Head Start services to 30 children and Early Head Start services to 24 children. In addition, we serve 8 children through Home-Based Early Head Start. One representative of our Parent Policy Committee attend meetings at the Parent Policy Council.

## **Age Friendly Initiative**

United Way of Miami-Dade (UWMD) and the Office of the Mayor, represented by Lisa Martinez, are part of the steering committee for the Age-Friendly Initiative led by the Health Foundation of South Florida. UWMD and the Office of the Mayor lend their expertise to make informed decisions regarding the focus and activities of this Initiative.

### Mayor's Initiative on Aging/Elder Issues Subcommittee

UWMD participates in the Mayor's Initiative on Aging/Elder Issues Subcommittee monthly meetings. UWMD staff helps this committee to plan, develop and implement activities that benefit older adults and older adults service providers in Miami-Dade County. UWMD staff supports the work of Beatriz Jimenez, co-chair of the committee and senior advocate of Miami-Dade County, by helping promote the Mayor's work through UWMD branding experience.

### Older American Month Celebration

In May, 2013, Mayor Carlos Gimenez hosted a fair to celebrate Older American month. The Mayor invited several local organizations serving older adults to participate. UWMD featured a table at this event that included information about UWMD's FamilyWize program and UWMD's Center for Financial Stability, both of which directly benefit older adults.

### Older Adults in the Workforce

UWMD partnered with the Office of the Mayor, ReServe Miami, the Elder Issues Subcommittee, the Alliance for Aging and other organizations to prepare an event called "Leveraging Your Assets: The Value of Boomers in Your Workplace." The event was hosted by Mayor Carlos Gimenez at the County building, and it gathered community leaders in the not-for-profit, private and government sectors to learn and initiate the discussion about the benefits and the need of employing older adults in Miami-Dade County.

### Older Adults Initiative Advisory Group

Representatives from the Office of the Mayor and Miami-Dade County participated in the initial Advisory Group that helped in the planning and development of the UWMD's Older Adults Initiative.

## **Youth Safety**

United Way of Miami-Dade is an active member of the Joint Roundtable on Youth Safety. This community level initiative is led by MDCPS and MDC. United Way has signed a memorandum of understanding and is part of the ongoing planning efforts focused on youth services. United Way has attended several planning meetings led by the Director of the Miami Dade Juvenile Services Department, Morris Copeland and has provided the task force with information on the programs funded in the identified zip codes. United Way will continue to be an active partner in this initiative.