



**2017 Great Charity Challenge presented by Fidelity Investments®**

**ONE NIGHT – ONE COMMUNITY - \$1.5 million to Palm Beach County Charities**

## **SECOND FUND USE REPORT**

**Number of benefiting organizations: 48**

**Total number of individuals helped: 196,627**

**Number of contributing sponsors: 84**

Report contains 1<sup>st</sup> through 35<sup>th</sup> place,  
Additional Grant (starting on page 40)  
& Grand Prix Society: Ziegler Family Foundation Grants (starting on page 44)



# GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

Presented by **Fidelity**

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### Grand Prix Society:

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Mershad Family

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Ziegler Family Foundation

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Arden  
Markman, Sarah  
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## COMPETING CHARITY FUND USE REPORT (1<sup>st</sup> through 35<sup>th</sup> place)

### 1<sup>st</sup> place: Urban Youth Impact

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.urbanyouthimpact.com>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$150,000



The Leadership Academy After School Program thanks you for your commitment to reaching and impacting Kindergarten - 9th-grade inner-city youth living in the Tamarind Avenue and Pleasant City communities. The continued support provided has made it possible for us to reach school-age youth who would otherwise be at increased risk for violence, drug use and abuse, teen pregnancy and academic difficulties both after school and during the summer.

182 students were enrolled in both The Leadership Academy and our Summer Jam summer camp. This continued increase over last year was made possible because of your partnership.

#### **The Great Charity Challenge's partnership helped the following accomplishments to occur this year:**

- 1) 144 youth ages 5-15, grades K-9 participated in our Leadership Academy after school program, which included academic tutoring, homework help, computer-based literacy software, character development, STEM-based scientific learning, field trips, mentoring, arts, and recreation. This number continues to rise as space permits and Next Level, which is just for our middle and high school students, has become a safe haven year round from the continued violence that plagues our community.
- 2) We provided 13,668 hours of tutoring to the students in reading and general homework help.
- 3) We provided daily transportation to and from our program from the immediate area.
- 4) Nine caring and consistent classroom based Team Leaders and a newly added Literacy Coach worked with the students on a daily basis for 4 hours each day and sometimes evenings and weekends. During the summer, the Team Leaders are with the students 6.5 hours a day. We also had volunteers from the community, as well as Palm Beach Atlantic University Work Study students.
- 5) We purchased various supplies, including recreational equipment, reading materials, board games, and books for the students.
- 6) Youth creativity was expressed through arts and crafts projects, as well as exploring their world through field trips to bowling, skating, swimming pools, beaches, the zoo, local restaurants, museums and parks.





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- 7) All of the youth received character development lessons throughout the year on topics such as self-awareness, servant leadership, service learning, and responsibility. We also provided enrichment and instruction on Black History Month, Women's History Month and Earth Day. We also used a variety of curriculum and allowed staff to develop and incorporate games, crafts, and discussions based on those themes.
- 8) Students continued to be involved in piano, violin lessons, drumming and other arts-related extended learning opportunities such as theater, ballet, soccer, basketball, painting, Legos, robotics, coding, videography, and photography. This is provided through our SMART program, where Science Meets Art and is our very own in-house STEAM initiative which incorporates Science Technology Engineering, Arts, and Math into our regular program.
- 9) Team-building activities continued to a part of regularly scheduled programming as was reflecting and journaling on thoughts, feelings, and observations.
- 10) We provided snacks for the students each day when they came to the Dream Center. We also leveraged resources by maintaining partnerships with Lost Tree Village, First Presbyterian of North Palm Beach and Royal Poinciana Chapel to provide healthier snacks for our students. We also maintained business partnerships with Whole Foods, Aldi, PDQ and Chick-il-a to provide more wholesome food to our students and their parents. We implemented Fresh Food Fridays and provided Food in a Backpack as supplies became available.
- 11) We used Reading Plus, a computer based-reading software, which is also used by the Palm Beach County School District. This evidenced based program provided us with an assessment, tutorial, homework and post assessment for each enrolled student. Previously, 84% of our students increased their reading levels, became proficient readers, or actually began reading on grade level. However, as a result of an intentional and strategic effort brought about by our caring and dedicated staff, we saw this number climb to 90% and reported this to you last year. This year as the result of our continued efforts and the addition of a Literacy Coach, we saw that number climb to 93%!
- 12) Discipline incidents sharply declined this past year. We credit this decrease with not only the continued influence of our Discipline Coordinator, who works one on one with the students who are having behavior issues and attempts to get to the heart of the behavior but also on in-service training in which the staff participates.
- 13) Students participated in a variety of off-site activities and on-site special events, including open houses, choir concerts, parties, holiday-related events, service learning volunteer projects, guest speakers, baseball games, science activities and our annual Night of the Arts event.
- 14) Construct is one of the newest additions to our programming this year. Construct is a speakers' series geared to our middle school students. The idea behind Construct was to begin to provide these students with an opportunity to learn about and discuss college, career, and life. An additional goal is to prepare them for our Year Round Youth Employment Readiness Program, called Reframe.  
  
Reframe takes 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and prepares them for college and careers; with the creation of Construct, we can begin to introduce these topics several years in advance to plant seeds in the minds of our students, that now is the time to begin thinking about their future. The best part of Construct is that while we do bring in guest speakers, most of the speakers are our very own staff- in-house experts, who have valuable life experience to share.
- 15) We provide books to all of the students in our program during the holidays and at back to school time through a partnership with First Book.



**Thank you! We could not have impacted this many young people without the support**



of the Great Charity Challenge. We hope that we can continue to count on the Great Charity Challenge to partner with us in the future.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> place: Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches, Inc.**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.aafpb.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$125,000

The amazing generosity of the Great Charity Challenge sponsors, the Zeigler Family Foundation, and Adopt-A-Family's incredible fortune of being paired with the second place team has made a significant and immediate impact on the agency. After receiving news of the monumental award, Adopt-A-Family (AAF) identified three areas that would greatly benefit from and maximize the impact of the Great Charity Challenge funds. The agency determined that the funds would provide significant programmatic support to an existing program for impoverished elementary school students, strengthen the agency's administrative infrastructure, and expand the agency's capacity to serve low-income families by investing in the creation of a new housing program. The award has already increased the agency's ability to accomplish its mission in Palm Beach County and has paved the way for AAF to combat the county's shortage of affordable housing.

First, a significant portion of the award was designated to support Project Grow, the agency's afterschool and summer program for homeless and impoverished elementary school students. Project Grow (Grow) aims to address the debilitating effects of homelessness and poverty through a holistic curriculum that includes engaging academic lessons, tutoring, mental health services, life-enriching experiences, academic advising, and a safe and supportive environment. During the last three months, Great Charity Challenge funds were used to purchase nutritious snacks to serve to the children during spring break camp and to purchase snacks, t-shirts, and supplies for summer camp which started on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Because many of the students are delayed academically due to their unstable home life, Grow camp takes advantage of the extended time with the students to reinforce academic principles and prepare the students for the next grade level. In addition, Grow camp exposes the students to experiences that ensure that they are not limited or isolated by their disadvantaged economic status. This summer the students will participate in activities like swimming, gardening, story-time soccer, and fishing and take field trips to places like Zoo Miami, Butterfly World, Delray Beach Playhouse, and Lion Country Safari. In addition to breakfast and lunch provided through Palm Beach County's Summer Meal Program, the generosity of the Great Charity Challenge has enabled Grow to provide nutritious snacks, camp t-shirts, and activities free of charge to alleviate any financial burden on their parents.

Second, the funds will be used to enhance the agency's administrative infrastructure to increase AAF's effectiveness in accomplishing its mission. A strong internal infrastructure is critical to maintaining fiscal excellence and executing and managing the agency's nine programs for low-income Palm Beach County families, but it is challenging to secure funds and grants to support administrative systems and endeavors. During the last three months, funds from the Great Charity Challenge were used to fund much-needed Information Technology upgrades for staff of the Finance Department with the purchase of a computer, software, and printing products. The funds were also used in the Finance Department to support the agency's move to cloud-based accounting products. Moving accounting to the cloud has eliminated the agency's reliance on unpredictable servers and enables the department to access real-time file updates to increase the efficiency of accounting processes. In addition, funds were used to hire a Human Resources consultant to update the agency's policies and procedures.

Finally, the substantial and unexpected award from the Great Charity Challenge will allow the agency to increase its capacity to serve at-risk Palm Beach County families by investing in the development, construction, and implementation



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of the agency’s newest housing project, the “A Street Campus.” With the land purchased by a generous donor, the agency designed an affordable housing program and community space for 12 families who will be identified by the program’s partner school, Highland Elementary, as imminently at-risk of becoming homeless. The program will provide case management, financial literacy training, mentoring, tutoring, and most importantly, a stable home. The generosity of the Great Charity Challenge and its sponsors enabled the agency to move up its project timeline. AAF is excited to announce that demolition of the abandoned structures on the project site began TODAY, June 14<sup>th</sup>. The agency is gearing up to break ground on the new construction in the coming months, and the Great Charity Challenge has played a major role in the agency’s ability to execute this unique project that will help fill the need for affordable housing in Palm Beach County.

## SUCCESS STORY

Angelo started Project Grow (Grow) in Kindergarten almost three years ago. His family entered Adopt-A-Family’s homeless housing program, Project SAFE, after fleeing an unsafe living situation. When Angelo started Grow, it was evident that he was a very smart little boy but had challenges with social skills that prevented constructive interaction in the classroom and with peers. Angelo sought attention constantly and had behavior issues in school and in Grow. Grow staff and the family’s Adopt-A-Family caseworker worked with Angelo’s parents to get Angelo evaluated and give him access to counseling so he could process the changes that he and his family had encountered. Angelo participated in small group counseling and developed a love of science through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) lessons at Grow. Angelo and his family always attend Grow’s annual STEAM family night where Angelo has the opportunity to teach his little sister about science. The consistent and supportive environment of Grow gave Angelo the security to relax and share attention with his peers and his behavior improved significantly. Angelo successfully completed second grade and is now in Grow summer camp. Angelo was promoted to third grade and was recommended for the advanced math track at his school. In addition, Angelo’s family “graduated” out of Project SAFE into the agency’s Service Enriched Housing program where his parents are given the opportunity to pursue homeownership.

Children in Project Grow:



Rendering for the “A Street Campus”:



Demolition of the abandoned structures currently on the “A Street Campus” site:





## **3<sup>rd</sup> place: Hepzibah House**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.HepzibahHouse.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$100,000

### **1. Security System for the Safe House**

Safety is a critical issue for women coming out of human trafficking – since threats and physical harm are the tools used to maintain control over them while they were in captivity. In fact, many traffickers view the women they traffic as “personal property” and will go to great lengths to maintain their control, even searching for them to recover them when they escape.

Thanks to the funding received at the Great Charity Challenge we were able to install a video security system in the safe house.

The system installation included:

9 High Definition Security Cameras

Internet Access Hardware/Router

PVC and wiring throughout the house

The total cost of the video security system was \$1230



### **2. CRM Implementation with Salesforce**

Hepzibah House acquired Salesforce to track data such: events, calendar, donations, contacts, volunteers and clients. The price of the plan was \$2824 for one year and includes licenses for 10 users, 1 (one) year of access to 24/7 technical support and training materials. According to the Salesforce account executive 1 year will be enough to get the organization ready using Salesforce. After the year is over Hepzibah House will still have the licenses and access to Salesforce.

Salesforce Non-Profit Success Pack has allowed Hepzibah House centralize the information in one source for all their users. Volunteer Information can be easily accessed and kept up to date. Events and schedules can be logged and accessed by multiple users for a better workflow.

Salesforce also has a mobile app which allows users to access data from their mobile devices. Very useful in keeping track of the house residents appointments and activities.

### **3. Administrative Assistant Services**

Additionally, Hepzibah House was able to hire an Administrative Assistant to manage the Salesforce implementation, provide training to the staff and, to assist the organization in all administrative tasks such as:

- Keeping updated database and internal records
- Provide support in event organization
- Taking Minutes at Board meetings
- Provide the videography for events and trainings
- Filings with the government.
- Assisting people with use of our company website.
- Manage correspondence



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### 4. Therapeutic Services Provided to Survivors

Thanks to our supporters Hepzibah House was able to keep providing Therapeutic Trauma Counseling to house residents and survivors.

The cost for the services of a Licensed Counselor are \$2000 per month.

### 5. Safe House Renovations Project

The Safe House currently accommodates 2 residents and there's space for up to 3 residents. However, we are in the process of having a live in Assistant Resident to help overseeing the Safe House.

The project is to build a double closed garage in the current garage space, a closed Porsche patio area and, a living space with private bathroom and bedroom for an Assistant Resident. The estimated cost for renovations is around \$5000.

Once the construction is finished, the rent in the house will go up from \$1300/month to \$1500/month and the funds received at the GCC will be used to cover the rent.

We would like to share a Thank you note from one of our residents that we posted it in Facebook

May this be a way we can say : "Thank You For Your Financial Support"



### 4<sup>th</sup> place: Paws 4 Liberty, Inc.

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.paws4liberty.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$85,000

These funds received were allocated to support our efforts to screen, train, and place service dogs with veterans who are suffering from post-traumatic stress (PTS) due to service-related trauma. In the Service Dogs for Veterans program, each service dog/veteran pair costs the organization as much as \$15,000, with the largest program expense being training (up to \$8,400 per pair). Other expenses include veterinary costs, food and supplements, boarding and kennel care, and a 3-week intensive team training. In the TYOD program, each pair can cost up to





\$6,000 with the largest expense being training (up to \$4,200 per pair) and other expenses such as supplies and boarding and kennel care when needed. According to our most recently available Profit & Loss Statement, we have spent \$14,893.73 on the service dog program(s).

Additionally, GCC funds are to be allocated for outreach expenses, helping us to educate the public about the needs of returning veterans, and the benefits of service dogs. Per our most recent P&L\*, we have spent \$731.33 on outreach expenses. For example, our board president, Joe Rainey, along with his service dog Tanker, recently visited a classroom at Elbridge Elementary in Wellington to share information about service dogs (see picture below).

The primary purpose of our organization is to successfully match highly trained service dogs with the veterans who need them. We are pleased to report that we had our first graduation ceremony of 2017 where we graduated 7 service dog/veteran teams. We are deeply appreciative of the role the Great Charity Challenge plays in supporting our mission!

## **5<sup>th</sup> place: Florence Fuller Child Development Centers, Inc.**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.ffcdc.org>

### **FUNDS RECEIVED: \$75,000**

Summer has begun and it is a great time to be a child at FFCDC! Summer camp is up and running and there are many fun and exciting activities happening each day! Additionally, the preschool children continue to learn and grow as they participate in a number of activities both at the Centers and in the community.

### **PRESCHOOL:**

- Graduation is August 3, 2017 at St. Andrews School. The children are practicing and getting ready for their BIG day! We hope you can all join us for this very special day culminating the end of one chapter and the beginning of a new journey for our children.
- Our preschoolers participated in “Kindergarten Round up” as part of their transition process making the jump into kindergarten as smooth as possible.
- 5 classes our children went to the Boca Children’s Museum and excitedly played at the new Scallywags Falls exhibit as well as participated in art, culture, and yoga classes.
- Other field trips occurred to expand our children’s knowledge base and experiences; visits included the library, Home Depot, and the Palm Beach Zoo.
- Many volunteer activities continue to happen daily on each campus engaging the community in our mission; Keller Williams carnival day, Spanish class, library time, and many other activities to enrich our children and assist in their learning.

### **SCHOOL-AGE/SUMMER CAMP:**

- Summer Camp began Monday, June 5, 2017 and will run through August 11, 2017. Summer Camp orientation was hosted at the east on Wednesday, May 31, 2017. Our goal is to enroll 120 children each summer at the East and at the West. We have exceeded our goal and are running waiting lists for both campuses.
- We continue to activity recruit a new Director for the Afterschool position at the West Campus. An interim director has been put in place and things are running smoothly.
- The Kindness Givers and Peace project continued their work with our children at the West site providing programming and positive project based learning activities.



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- Children will participate in Tennis Lesson sponsored by Boca West Foundation June 12-16.

### Success Story

Andrew is working hard towards a bright future!!

Andrew and his sister Theresa started Florence Fuller Child Development Center as infants. Both youth are currently enrolled in our amazing summer camp program.

Andrew will continue his endeavors at Boca Raton Middle School. He was accepted into their “Pre- Medical and Mathematics Program”. Andrew has exemplified a desire to learn new things. He has participated and excelled in the following areas of programming at the Florence Fuller Child Development Center: Piano Lessons, American Sign Language, Tennis lessons, Fishing Club, Spelling Bee and I-Theatre and so much more.



### Parent Testimony

“Florence Fuller has helped my children and my family since 2004, when I registered my first son Angel at the West Boca Center in the toddler class. In 2012 my second son Ayden entered the learning program at the East Boca Center in the toddler class and in 2016 I registered my baby Amelia at the East Boca Center. She is currently in the infants and she is learning so much already.

Overall, my experience at Florence Fuller has been the best. I really appreciate the effort and dedication from the teacher and the staff to work with my kids, teaching and caring for them. Preparing them for kindergarten and helping with homework. In the afterschool program I love all the activities and field trips, because the kids have the opportunity to explore and learn new things every day.”- Stanley

### Program Pictures



## 6<sup>th</sup> place: The Unicorn Children’s Foundation, Inc.

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** [www.unicornchildrensfoundation.org](http://www.unicornchildrensfoundation.org)

**FUNDS RECEIVED: \$65,000**

**Our recent accomplishments, thanks to the support of the Great Charity Challenge:**

- Added 41 new members (total 312) to the Palm Beach County Special Needs Advisory Coalition (SNAC) to support, advocate, navigate and connect families with community-based resources.



- Increased Facebook page following with 89 new followers to a total of 142 followers who receive updates on special needs programs, events, and funding opportunities.
- Convened 4 monthly SNAC meetings featuring guest speakers on “Safety and Children with Disabilities”, “Braided Funding”, “Able Trusts”, and “Priority Action Plans to Improve the Community for Individuals with Special Needs.”
- 6 Priority taskforces convene monthly to execute action plans related to the following areas: Transition and Education; Respite; Housing; Employment; Advocacy & Future Planning; and Family Navigating.
  - A Summer Pre-Employment Academy will be hosted at Unicorn Village Academy for students with special needs between the ages of 13 and 22 from June 26 – August 4
  - A supportive housing summit is being planned for November, 2017.
  - Project SEARCH, a collaborative pre-employment training program for students with intellectual/developmental disabilities in their last year of high school, is being planned with a tentative launch in August, 2017.
- Hosted a Funders Forum with 12 large funding agencies in Palm Beach County to educate them on the community-identified priorities to ensure individuals with special needs are included and meaningfully engaged throughout the community.
  - 2017 Miss South Florida Teen who was diagnosed with Asperger’s Syndrome at the age of 16 shared her experience with “invisible disabilities,” having felt as if she never fit in, and her attempts at suicide with the Funders to emphasize the need for more supports and services and increased awareness.
- Coordinating local, State, and philanthropic funding requests to increase available funding for special needs programs, services, and supports.
- Finalizing an agreement with REST, a National evidence-based training curriculum to enhance the quality of care of respite care companions. The first train-the-trainer course is tentatively scheduled for December, 2017 or January, 2018.





## **7<sup>th</sup> place: Achievement Centers for Children & Families**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** [www.AchievementCentersFL.org](http://www.AchievementCentersFL.org)

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$55,000

The Great Charity Challenge supports all Achievement Centers' services including toddler, preschool, afterschool, summer learning and family strengthening programs. Funds support a safe and secure environment for nearly 800 children, allowing their families to work or go to school.

The Great Charity Challenge supports structured and engaging afterschool and summer camp programs for students, free meals for children, professional development for our teachers, and project materials for educational programming.

Due to our considerable award this year, we were able to continue the expansion of our social and emotional learning component layered within our programs. The children we serve are bright and full of potential. Given opportunity and a healthy learning environment with caring mentors, they are capable of fulfilling their dreams and meeting the education needs of tomorrow.

School is out for summer and our summer camp is in full swing where students will participate in fun learning experiences centered on literacy skills in order to stem summer learning loss. See some of our academic achievers pictured below.

Preschool graduation was held Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> where preschoolers donned their cap and gowns to walk across the stage in celebration of their kindergarten readiness. See graduation pictures.



## **8<sup>th</sup> place: Wycliffe Charities Foundation, Inc.**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.wycliffecharities.com>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$50,000

The mission of Wycliffe Charities Foundation, deeply rooted in Wellington and Palm Beach County, is to financially assist nonprofit groups in our area that engage in educational, health and children related programs as well as support for the local EMS/Fire Rescue.



WCF is made up wholly of unpaid volunteers who live in Wycliffe Golf and Country Club. Our expenses are minimal and are only incurred in the staging of yearly fundraisers such as our golf tournament, bike/walkathon, raffle drive, our shredding event and tribute cards.

Our charter requires that all funds we distribute go to local Palm County 501c(3) non-profits. Each year we accept written grant requests from local groups. Each group then goes through a vigorous vetting process. Once selected and money has been granted, our foundation monitors the use of these funds and maintains a close ongoing relationship. Based upon the good works achieved, some of the organizations have received distributions for multiple years.

This year we were fortunate to have been selected to participate in the Great Charity Challenge and granted \$50,000. We are grateful to our team sponsors, the Wight Family and Valliere and the Bellissimo family. The money we will be receiving will enhance our ability to continue our support of exceptional local charitable causes.

This year (and in previous years), we identified 18 worthwhile groups as recipients of our grants.

Mental Health Association of PBC - promotes mental wellness in our community.

Caridad Center - upgrades the health, education and living standard of underserved children and families.

Hospice of PBC – provides a great healthcare experience to patients and families by caring for everyone who needs and wants our services.

Speak Up for Kids – dedicated to the Guardian and Litem Program.

HomeSafe – provides comprehensive programs preventing new cases of violence, protecting victims of child abuse and domestic violence.

Children’s Home Society of PBC – embraces children and inspires lives to break the generational cycle of child abuse.

Albert Jewish and Family Services – provides a wide range of social services.

Palm Beach Habilitation Center – provides all people with disabilities the best environment in which to learn, live and work.

Sari Asher Center for Integrative Cancer Care – supports cancer patients and their loved ones.

Quantum House – provides a caring and supportive home to families whose children are receiving treatment in PBC for a serious medical condition.

Grandma’s Place – an emergency foster shelter caring for abused and neglected children, ages 0 -12 who have been removed from their homes.

Kids Cancer Foundation – provides hope and support to children and families battling childhood cancer.

Clinics Can Help – provides access to quality medical equipment to those in need.

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse – offers alternative choices to end violence and domestic abuse.

Families First - provides an environment to ensure that children have a chance to develop happy and healthy lives free from abuse and neglect.



Faith Hope Love Charity, Inc. – provides services to homeless and at risk veterans.

Horses Healing Hearts – helps children who have been affected by a family member with addiction to heal emotionally, build self-esteem and learn life coping skills by working with horses.

Local EMS/Fire Rescue – committed to assuring the residents, visitors, and guests of our local community a secure and superior quality of life, maintaining the highest state of readiness, dedication and compassion in order to minimize emotional, physical, and economic loss.

The Great Charity Challenge grant of \$50,000 has enabled us to expand our support of worthwhile projects in education, children and adult health programs. With the added winnings from the Great Charity Challenge Wycliffe Charities is now supporting:

*West Palm Beach Library Foundation* – our grant will allow for the hiring of a certified teacher for weekend homework assistance

*Palm Beach School for Autism* – our grant will help fund their technology assistance program for students

*Center for Trauma Counseling* – our grant will enable trauma counseling for adolescents and young adults

*Center for Child Counseling* – our grant will support the Childhood Trauma Response Program helping very young children heal and recover from abuse or neglect

*Paws 4 Liberty* – our grant will provide service dogs for veterans coping with Post Traumatic Stress

*The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County* – our grant will support the Building Better Readers program

## 9<sup>th</sup> place: Grandma's Place, Inc.

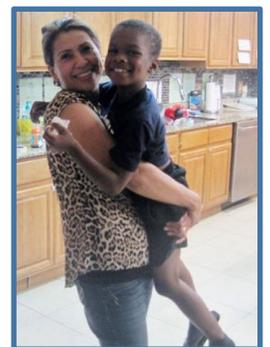
**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.grandmasplacepb.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED: \$45,000**

The \$45,000 grant from the **Great Charity Challenge** was used to help Grandma's Place alleviate the pain, neglect, and isolation of the 100 abused, neglected and/or abandoned children in our care by providing them with shelter, loving care, food, clothing, therapy and supplies.

Grandma's Place is only a temporary home until the child can be reunited with their family or until a suitable foster or adoptive home was found. We offer a myriad of therapeutic behavioral programs including yoga, karate, art, and music therapy. Although the total number of children we provided service to decreased, the length of stay of some of the children increased. This is due to us having more sibling groups and children with behavioral problems who are both harder to place.

Grandma's Place is funded by a small hourly reimbursement (less than \$5 per hour) for the care of each child from the lead agency, Child Net. As this does not even pay for the hands-on staff, let alone the cost of utilities, insurance, food, and all of the other necessary items to run the shelter. Additional funds are actively solicited from foundations, corporations, special events, individuals, as well as in-kind gifts of supplies and





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time.

Since most the children we get are behind in their grade level, education is a key component of our program. We have retired teachers who tutor the children in math and reading and help them with their homework and school projects. Staff members work with the younger children on learning colors, how to count, and other things that they need to know prior to entering Kindergarten. Volunteers come in and read to the kids hoping to instill the joy of reading in them. The children are taken to the Library a couple times a week. Benjamin Franklin said it best “*An investment in knowledge pays the best dividends.*”

We don’t often know what happens to the children we care for after they leave our care or when we do know that we get approval to tell their story. Fortunately, the grandmother in the story below gave us her permission to tell their story and use their pictures.



Andre (the little boy in the picture) who stayed with us for 18 months and had serious anger management issues was finally placed with his grandmother in Atlanta. When Andre was with us, his behavioral was so out of control that he had a one-on-one (a person assigned to watch him every waking hour). Andre was one of the reasons that we initiated the behavioral program in the first place and was one of the first to go through the program. In one of his first therapy session, he physically attacked the counselor. While he was with us, he participated in the sand tray, play, music, and art therapy as well as yoga and karate. His grandmother finally got custody and is happy to report that Andre’s behavior has greatly improved, he has put on weight and he is doing great in school... he even made the honor roll. What a big difference from the little boy who beat up on our staff. A few months later when he came back with this Grandmother to visit us, we almost didn’t recognize him... he was a nice, polite, and smiling young man. What a difference therapy and a loving Grandparent can make in a child’s life. We are honored that we could be there for Andre until he could be placed with his Grandmother.

Once again, our heartfelt appreciation for your support of Grandma’s Place and the abused, neglected and/or abandoned children we serve.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Place: Children’s Home Society of Florida

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.chsfl.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED: \$40,000**

The funds from the Great Charity Challenge have provided ongoing support for the care of the young ladies residing in the Nelle Smith Group Home. The girls have continued to have all of their basic needs met and have continued to receive life skills trainings, employment skills trainings and exploration of the arts and cultural programming. We are excited because two of the young ladies residing in the home have graduated from high school and are all ready to start college in the fall. The program provides for all the children’s daily needs, including food, housing, utilities, supervision, transportation and other supports.

Without support from people like the Great Charity Challenge, the girls at Nelle Smith would not be able to be so successful in their lives and would not be able to experience the wide away of things they have been able to participate in this year.

The photos are of Shirlenna, a Nelle Smith resident who has recently





moved into her own apartment, graduated high school and will be starting Palm beach State College in the fall.

## **11<sup>th</sup> place: Nonprofits First**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.nonprofitsfirst.org/>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$37,500

Nonprofits First is thrilled to announce that our request for participants for the second installment of the “101 for the 501” program yielded applications from thirty (30) Palm Beach County nonprofit organizations! The range of services provided by the nonprofits applicants varies from those serving people with disabilities to community development groups to hunger-relief programs. They are looking to strengthen the infrastructure of their organizations and they are eager for the information!

One applicant said, “We view this program as a lifeline for our agency's success right now and for the future. Even the additional benefits, after course completion, would continue to solidify the professionalism of our agency with the families we serve in Palm Beach county, as well as our fellow nonprofits locally.”

Another said, “We are a new charity organization conceived to provide weekend packs of food, to children and teens, for quality nutrition kids enjoy eating. We need help with setting up the organization from square one. We would benefit from expertise in the areas of board recruiting and governance, volunteer management, fund development, and fiscal management. We welcome the opportunity to network with other nonprofit professionals as well as the Nonprofits First educators. Looking forward to learning best practices of our business to ensure the best organizational outcomes for our hungry students, donors, volunteers, sponsors and community at large. Thank you for the opportunity.”

The 2017 “101 for the 501” classes started June 15<sup>th</sup>. The nonprofit organizations represented in the class this year included EJS Project, Digital VibeZ, Inc, Grandma's Place, Live Fresh, Living Hungry, Path2College, Resource Depot, SOMSistahs, Talented Teen Club Inc., Common Ground Community Development, Emanuel C. Jackson Sr. Project, Family Promise of South Palm Beach County, Haitian Empowerment Foundation, Jack The Bike Man, Kundalini Yoga South Florida, Parent 2 Parent Group INC, Pine Ridge Holistic Living Center, and West Palm Beach Police Athletic League.





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### **12<sup>th</sup> place: Wellington Cares, Inc.**

**CHARITY WEBSITE** [www.WellingtonCaresOrg.com](http://www.WellingtonCaresOrg.com)

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$32,500.00

Wellington Cares is extremely grateful for the funds received, and they will be utilized to expand our services and offset many of our annual expenses we incur while serving the residents of Wellington.

Due to an increase in donation to our new food pantry, we are moving \$2,000 from food pantry and adding \$1,000 to volunteer trainings/background checks and \$1,000 to annual meeting/volunteer appreciation.

We originally proposed To help with our two largest expenses, \$5,636.50 would go towards liability insurance and \$14,763.50 would help to fund our two part-time employees. We recently started a food pantry and \$5,000 of funds would go to purchase items our participants request. \$3,000 will be used to purchase Publix and Walmart gift cards. These gift cards are for participants to purchase items that can't be purchased with food stamps such as: pet food, soap, paper products, household supplies, vitamins, medicines, hot foods, grooming items or cosmetics. Wellington Cares has a hospitality program that routinely contacts participants and conducts visits throughout the year to let participants know they are thought of. \$3,000 would be used to purchase items for participants such as cookies on Valentine's, flowers on Mother's and Father's Day, cards and flowers on birthdays, etc. Each month we offer trainings to our volunteers so they are up to date on regulations, new programs, trainings; and \$700 would go to cover these trainings as well as background checks for new volunteers. Lastly, each December we hold an annual meeting to highlight Wellington Cares accomplishments, thank our volunteers, and treat our participants to lunch. \$400 would cover participants' meals at the event.



### **13<sup>th</sup> place: Holy Ground Shelter for Homeless, Inc.**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <https://holygroundpbc.org/>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$30,000

Holy Ground has been busily and gratefully putting our Great Charity Challenge grant monies to work to further our mission of empowering young women by providing them the skills to be self-sufficient.



As of June 5, 2017 (when these numbers were calculated), we had applied the money towards our program as follows (also see details below):

### **Figures**

\$1639.22	Housing (furniture, supplies and household repairs for two new clients)
3286.08	Direct client services (Life Skills training, childcare, holiday gifts)
225.00	Support services (office assistant)
10,000.00	Partial deposit on our own apartment building
<b>\$15,150.30</b>	<b>Total funds used thus far (as of 6/5/17)</b>

### **14<sup>th</sup> place: The Light House Café Ministries of the Glades**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <https://thelighthousecafe.org/>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$28,000

The Light House Cafe and its ministry Ella's Closet continue to be incredibly blessed by the funding we received from the Great Charity Challenge.

For our second fund use update, we have included the major ways that the funding continues to impact our organization and the many people we serve. In addition, as a result of the money that we received, we have been able to extend out outreach and serve more people within the Western Glades Communities.

#### **Original Funding Use Plan:**

- General Fund = \$10,000
- Walk-in Freezer/Refrigerator Project = \$10,000
- Our Family & Mother Outreach Focused Ministry, Ella's Closet = \$8,000

Specifically, below is an outline of how funding has been used from the date of the first funding update to date.

#### **Amounts Used to Date:**

- Food Supply for Our Patrons for the Months of March, April, & May = \$3,665.35
- Walk-in Freezer/Refrigerator Project Cost was \$59,095.93 = \$10,000 was applied to this project.
- Ella's Closet Fund Usage to Date = \$2,687.43 used of the \$8,000 allocated.

To date, we have used \$16,352.78 of the \$28,000 awarded to impact many lives throughout the Western Glades Community.



Collectively, we are extremely grateful for this amazing blessing and are beyond appreciative for the generous people who come together to make the Great Charity Challenge possible.



### 15<sup>th</sup> place: Children's Case Management Org, Inc. (dba Families First of PB County)

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.familiesfirstpbc.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$26,000

**Identified Problem, Need, Situation:** To provide family driven therapeutic service as one component of a behavioral health system of care and utilize the wrap around team approach to provide more comprehensive and effective intervention.

**Program Goal(s):** To increase children and families access to a family driven therapeutic approach and linkage to team-based collaborative services, with the goal to properly assess, ameliorate risk and increase protective factors necessary for a child's ongoing healthy development.

**Therapeutic Services:** 48 clients were served.

**Most Notable Key Accomplishments:** 1. One of the major accomplishments in the Western Communities has been in partnering with Communities in Schools. CIS has graduation coaches in several schools in Belle Glade and Pahokee and have started to make referrals to the behavioral health services of Families First. Staff continues to attend the S.T.A.R. meetings in the Glades and have been very active in the initial meetings started by the Healthier Together Initiatives which have been focused in the Glades and Riviera Beach, two communities that the agency staff is actively working in and collaborating with Communities in Schools. 2. The agency became a Medicaid provider and began to bill Medicaid for services in February 2017. 3. The therapist connected to the Achievement Centers for Children and Families in Delray Beach began a support group for Haitian families and also implemented an evidence-based restorative justice programming in his work. There are a minimum of 20 participants in every group conducted.

**Program Outcomes:**

1. 80% of children will maintain placement stability - Program exceeded this outcome at 92%
2. 80% of children will demonstrate an increase in social and emotional functioning – Program exceeded this outcome at 94%
3. 80% of children will maintain stability in school – Program exceeded this outcome at 87%

**Client Story:** JP is a 20 year old that is currently attending an alternative High School in Riviera Beach and where he is actively pursuing his HS Diploma. He has a long history with the Juvenile Justice Department and also has a history of having used and abused drugs. It is not easy for him to trust anyone, and one of the first things he said to the therapist when services were initiated was that he has been asking for someone to talk to and he is really happy that he finally had a



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therapist that he believes he could trust. The therapist knows some of his history, but “there are many more things that he has not yet shared, but is opening up more and more to her. He can appear to have a “tough shell”, but this is more of a protective factor for him; he’s really a “teddy bear” according to the therapist. A few weeks ago, he was playing basketball with some local teens from his community and was a victim of a drive-by shooting. He was not hit, but it truly frightened him. He came to school on Monday and couldn’t wait to see his therapist to tell her all about it, but he was more excited to tell her that he passed his FSA exam. He is excited about graduating in May and securing his HS Diploma. He is on the honor roll at school, and is performing very well academically. Recently, he received word that he was admitted to an out of state community college with a full scholarship, and reported that he would most likely accept the invitation to relocate to this school in order to get a “new start”. If he can secure some funding to get him started and to purchase a computer, he plans on relocating to this school. He will be the first member of his family to attend college, and although he is anxious about this, he is also quite excited about the prospects of changing his life. This client graduated in May and has accepted the scholarship and will begin his college career.



1. City of Belle Glade – Proclamation for May as Mental Health Awareness Month – May 15, 2017
2. City of Wellington – Proclamation for May as Mental Health Awareness Month – May 23, 2017
3. May 25, 2017 – Get Your Green on Campaign for Mental Health Awareness

### **16<sup>th</sup>: Palm Beach Habilitation Center**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** [www.PBHAB.com](http://www.PBHAB.com)

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$27,000

During the period from March 17, 2017 through June 9, 2017 (60 business days), we utilized \$6,720 of those funds to serve 34 unduplicated clients (on average 16 clients per day) and provide them with 1,920 free meals (generally one breakfast and one lunch per day per client served).

Meet two of our clients receiving this assistance:



#### TISH

Tish is a 40 year old woman with an intellectual disability and other limitations who lives with her mother in a small two bedroom apartment. Tish’s mother is the sole provider for the family who has been employed as a kindergarten teacher in a local school. This family has faced many financial problems over the years that include a home foreclosure and having an old car in need of extensive repairs that Tish’s mother needs for transportation to work.



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Tish and her mother have many chronic health conditions that require ongoing medical care and costly medications. Tish's mother is very appreciative that her daughter is receiving a nutritious breakfast and lunch each day.

### JAMES

James is a 52 year old married man who lives with his wife in West Palm Beach. He has an intellectual disability and other medical issues. One of these health issues hampers him from obtaining full time employment and driving a car. He is dependent on Palm Tran Connection for his transportation needs. James has been working on work crews provided through the Palm Beach Habilitation Center where he can work and receive the supports he needs in order to earn some wages. James' Employment Specialist and Supported Living Specialist worked with him to develop a budget to assure that he was able to meet his financial needs. After paying housing expenses, James had only \$200 per month to use for food. His Employment Specialist submitted a request to the Palm Beach Habilitation Center to go on the free meals program. Through this program, funded in part by the Great Charity Challenge, James was able to get breakfast and lunch provided to him. Having access to proper nutrition helps James maintain his physical and emotional health. The free meals has helped James to meet his family's financial needs in that the money he saves can be used to provide healthier food choices for his family. Through access to proper nutrition, James is experiencing a better quality of life and is able to meet the physical demands of his job on the work crew.



### **17<sup>th</sup> place: Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** [www.goldcoastdownsyndrome.org](http://www.goldcoastdownsyndrome.org)

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$24,000

Funding from the Great Charity Challenge has allowed the Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization (GCDSO) to continue our impactful program of parent education, which teaches families to vision high expectations for their children with Down syndrome, and gives them the tools to help their children succeed. It has also allowed us to continue to be a respected and forceful voice in the community for the inclusion of persons with Down syndrome, particularly within the school district. This spring, our Director of Education expanded her schedule to include more parent teaching. Gold Coast also expanded our educational outreach to Spanish speaking parents through a special Learning Program session conducted in Spanish.



The Learning Program (LP) finished the 2016-2017 academic year with the following achievements:

- 83 Families were enrolled in the program
- 74 Families completed LP
- 8 Families received support in Spanish
- 82% of children participating in LP were in Gen. Ed. classes
- 95% of surveyed families said that participation in LP had a high impact in improving their children's





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education

- 97% of families indicated an appreciable growth in knowledge
- 91% of families surveyed use LP materials and techniques with their children at home once or multiple times a week. Learning Program Classes resume in the fall.



### Educational Advocacy

- 75 Families received Educational Advocacy Assistance in the academic year
- 100% of IEP meetings attended by our GCDSO advocate resulted in students being included.
- Due to GCDSO advocacy efforts with the Board of Education and the School District of Palm Beach County staff, the district changed the:
  - Policy on school observations, allowing parents to observe classrooms
  - Application process for transition program to remove elements that discriminated against students with intellectual disabilities (effective 2018)
- Gold Coast Director of Education served as the Chair of the District Diversity and Equity Committee, ensuring that students with disabilities are considered in all school district decisions.
- Gold Coast Formed partnerships with two new Project Search High School Transition Programs

## **18<sup>th</sup> place: THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BOCA RATON**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.JLBR.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$23,500.00

The mission of the Junior League of Boca Raton's Community Garden is to cultivate the spirit of community and enhance quality of life by creating and sustaining an organic garden of vegetables, flowers, plants, and trees.

- Expansion of the **Wildflower Walk** (budget \$5,000): to include more native wildflowers and shrubbery with durable signage that identifies the species and importance to the ecological systems. We are working with our native plant grower, to design an enlarged wildflower and native plant collection on the site. Native coontie plants would circle existing plants and they will attract the very interesting red/black Atala butterflies, which are threatened by development. We will design simple signage throughout the wildflower section for education purposes. We will also require additional irrigation and maintenance for the enhanced foliage in the garden. We will enlarge the area in the same circular design with native shrubs at the outer edge, filling in towards the boundary with Library Commons. Plants of interest to add to the Wildflower Walk will include partridge pea, dune sunflower and Jamaica caper, just to name a few. Bids requested for the following:
  - Coontie Border – Coontie plants, labor for circular bed construction, soil and irrigation expansion
  - Educational Signage – species and habitat information signs
  - Coconut Palms
  - Labor & Installation
- Further development of the **Food Forest** (budget \$5,000): we require more fruit bearing foliage, trees, herbs and vegetables plants. Permaculture shows us that if we design using observation and bio-mimicry of nature, land can be restored to an abundance that supports all living things. Bids to be requested from Zimmerman Tree Service.



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- Building a **Hydroponic Garden System** (budget \$13,500): to serve as a teaching garden to provide instruction for children and adults on how to grow produce and manage a garden using energy and space efficient technology. The hydroponic garden produces several times the amount of edible vegetables than a similarly sized soil garden would be able to produce, due to highly efficient delivery of nutrients and space-saving design. Bids requested for the following:
  - Verti-Gro® 10 Tower System
  - 50-100 watt solar power panel and inverter for pump
  - 44 gallon covered container
  - Miscellaneous parts/replace as needed
  - Installation setup/training
  - Education signs & materials related to each station
  - Automated nutrient technology
  - Specialized seedling and nutrient station

There are also several plots to be replaced; the committee will purchase the lumber in June and the plots will be built by August. Please note that these dollar amounts were based upon estimates received last year and may need to be modified with implementation.

### COMMUNITY GARDEN PHOTOS



Food Forest – Banana Circle



Area Available for Expansion

Pictured to the left is the area between the Wildflower Walk and Permaculture Food Forest. There is a lot of room for expansion.



Wildflower Walk



Food Forest



Food Forest – Papaya Circle



The garden fosters environmental sustainability and stewardship, advances horticultural and nutritional education, provides a beautiful and natural retreat, and produces a healthy supplemental food source for its gardeners and the hungry in our community. With this grant, the JLBR is working on **expanding** the pounds donated through the gardener produce donations and food drive events held at the garden from 1,200 pounds towards our long-term target of 2,000 pounds annually.

### **19<sup>th</sup> place: The Soup Kitchen of Boynton Beach**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.thesoupkitchen.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$23,000

We have put these funds to use in our Meals on Wheels program for low income, homebound seniors throughout Boynton Beach. The first part of 2017 brought an influx of requests in for this service, taking us to a waiting list. In an effort to ensure service to the seniors with the least access to other resources and in the most severe need, our Program Coordinator went through our entire roster of meal recipients to re-evaluate everyone and re-register them for the program. Additional volunteers were needed to complete these deliveries and to take over in the summer when many volunteers go on vacation. We used funds to help offset the expenses of volunteer recruitment and training, as well as to pay for more materials needed to supply the meals to the recipients.

There is a woman now on our roster of clients who is a neighbor of an existing meal recipient. She is in such need - so disconnected from her community as a homebound senior with limited mobility, low income and severe chronic illness – she only became aware of our program by seeing the volunteers delivering meals to her neighbor through her kitchen window. One day she asked her neighbor about the volunteers, and learned about our program. The neighbor actually managed the registration for her, recognizing the severe need. There is just NO WAY we could turn down this woman, your funds helped us say YES! She lights up for her daily visits and enjoys the meals thoroughly.

### **20<sup>th</sup> place: The Arc of The Glades, Inc.**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.arcglades.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$22,500

The Arc's Community-Inclusion/Employment Simulation Project uses volunteerism as a device to give individuals with developmental disabilities experience in work environments in a community setting. This project does not fit the funding model of The Arc's primary revenue source (Medicaid Waiver), but is essential to the path from dependence to self-reliance for our clients. Developing relationships with community Not-For-Profits like Food Banks, Soup Kitchens and Red Cross, having program participants choose where they would like to volunteer their time and providing transportation (vehicle and driver) and on-site staff supervision are essential elements of the project. Funding for this endeavor must be generated every year. Great Charity Challenge funds have been applied to expenses relating to staffing, transportation costs and coordination of the Employment Simulation Project. The following are pictorial examples of our western community clients volunteering to make The Glades a better community.

Photos on next page.



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*From left to right: clients working at the Food Bank in Pahokee, sorting Produce and prepping Family Food Packs;  
Clients assisting Lighthouse Café Soup Kitchen to feed the hungry and clean their facility in Belle Glade*



### 21<sup>st</sup> place: Step by Step Foundation

#### **CHARITY WEBSITE:**

<http://www.stepbystepfoundation.com>

#### **FUNDS RECEIVED: \$22,000**

The funds received will enable Step by Step Foundation to deliver 1,000 school backpacks filled with supplies as well as hygiene products. We will be working directly to support the following organizations: Back to Basics, Estelle's Brilliant Bus, Hanna's Home, Kids Cancer Foundation, Place of Hope, RCMA and YWCA Harmony House

We are waiting for many items to come on sale but have purchased so far 1,000 Back Packs, 1,000 Erasers, 3,000 Pencils, 240 Baby Shampoo, 120 Baby Powder, 1,200 Tooth Brushes, 250 Tooth Paste, 900 Soap and 120 Bandanas.

The next fund use report will show the backpacks being distributed to 1,000 children locally; we look forward to sharing these photos with you.

Pictured to the right are our first 2 distributions to the Kids Cancer Foundation and Children's Home Society of Palm Beach.

Step by Step Foundation is proud to announce our first two donations to Kids Cancer Foundation and Children's Home Society Wellington chapter, thanks to Fidelity Great Charity Challenge...and a special thanks to Anne Caroline Valtin and Mark Bellissimo!. Thanks to our volunteer Jose Aguilar for helping with the delivery.





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### 22<sup>nd</sup> place: Helping Hands Assistance Program, Inc.

CHARITY WEBSITE: <http://www.helpinghandspbc.org>

FUNDS RECEIVED: \$21,500



Severe, life threatening, medical challenges brought this vibrant woman to receive a hand up from Helping Hands Assistance Program. Ellen Murphy is a single mom, raising 2 children, on a fixed income. Despite her medical challenges, Ellen is a member of our ASSIST Program. (Achieving Self Sufficiency through Integrated Services and Training.) Due to a situation beyond her control, Ellen is unable to receive food stamps now. The ASSIST program focuses on healthy, nutritious food. Ellen receives fresh fruit, vegetables and meat to feed her children. Ellen's smile brightens the days of other members and volunteers. Ellen utilizes what she receives from Helping Hands Assistance Program. She often shares her cooking tips with other members. Our program also helps clients navigate community resources to work towards self-sufficiency. Money received from the Great Charity Challenge enables Helping Hands Assistance Program to retain its infrastructure so Ellen can continue to feed herself and her 2 children.



According to Marie, "Helping Hands Assistance Program saved my life" Marie is 90-year-old member of our INSIST program. (Increasing Nutrition Stability in Seniors Training). After her Husband died, she was forced to live on a fixed income and was diagnosed with cancer. As a member, Marie receives nutritious food such as meat, fruit and vegetables. The INSIST program provides monthly food to our ever-increasing senior population. "I can't afford food. Helping Hands Assistance Program helps me survive every month. Despite having additional medical challenges, Marie looks forward to visiting Helping Hands Assistance Program. Her energetic personality motivates other INSIST seniors. Like Marie, members receive wellness training and assistance with community resources for seniors. Money received from the Great Charity

Challenge has enabled us to maintain our delivery truck. This ensures Marie will receive fresh vegetables, fruit and meat every month.

Thanks to the stability that the generous winnings from the Great Charity Challenge gives us we can increase our partnership outreach and participate in events like the 2017 City of Greenacres Eggstravaganza, where we gave away Easter Baskets.

We were also excited about participating as a partner with The Red Cross, Palm Beach Fire Rescue, Palm Beach Sheriff Office and others in installing free Smoke Alarms in the Pick Wick Park Mobile Home Community, ensuring the safety of families, especially the little ones.





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Over 200 smoke detectors were installed. Thank you for making this possible.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> place: The Glades Initiative, Inc.

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.gladesinitiative.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$26,000 (\$21,000 + \$5,000 costume bonus)

Your funding supports the services we provide in the community, specifically salary for program staff and operational supplies and expenses for our services.

The Glades Initiative serves hundreds of children and their families through our Connecting the Glades Program which provides access to health care, insurance and access to supplemental nutritional assistance (Food Stamps) and food for low-income residents in the Glades. Our Community Resource Educators are bi-lingual in Spanish & Creole and assist families with limited English, low literacy, and limited or no access to computers with enrollment in programs such as Medicaid/Medicare, SNAP, and Kidcare.

This past quarter, we have assisted 648 residents with applications for assistance. Over 405 individuals now have access to affordable medical coverage, and 400 residents received needed assistance of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, of 288,178 this past quarter.

From January 2017 through March 2017, our Glades Area Food Bank supported 14 member food distribution sites, including two on-site feeding centers. Those sites provided 7,509 Households (duplicated) with food, serving 24,468 extended family members within those households (duplicated). In addition, our soup kitchens/on-site feeding

The Glades Initiative Cooking Matters Class





centers served 14,119 meals. The total value of food purchased and distributed by The Glades Initiative for the period is \$23,739.98.

The Glades Initiative offered several trainings in Quarter 2. We had 20 participants completing the five-day Medical Interpreter training held on Jan. 24, 26, 31, Feb. 2, and 7. All of the participants spoke English, and of the 20 who completed the training, 13 spoke Spanish, 6 spoke Haitian Creole, and one spoke Spanish, French and Haitian Creole. Geared toward healthcare professionals, health and human service providers, students and others who want to learn more about Medical Interpreting, the program featured sessions focused on medical terminology, cultural sensitivity, and understanding the role of an interpreter in a patient/doctor relationship.

Our Financial Literacy Training was a huge success. We offered 14 class sessions, seven in Haitian Creole and seven in Spanish. We had 79 residents attending a minimum of 5 class sessions. There is great need for basic financial literacy information among our clients. We held three The Cooking Matters Nutrition Education Classes for 67 participants who learned to shop on a budget, with emphasis on nutritional content in food and healthy food preparation skills.

Our focus is on communication, collaboration and connecting residents to services. We implement effective responses to the needs identified in our community. Our services are designed to bridge the gaps identified in the health and human service system of care and meet the needs of our residents here in the Glades.

## **24<sup>th</sup> place: The Rotary Club of Wellington Foundation, Inc.**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.wellingtonrotary.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$20,500

The Rotary Club has used \$5,000 of the funds to expand upon its existing scholarship program. We were able to use the funds to increase the amount of money given and add additional years of the award. Attached you will find photos of the dinner where we presented the scholarships to two deserving Wellington students.



The club is also in the process of working out a plan to use some of the funds to help provide meals to children in Wellington schools. While there is a federal program in place, there are many hungry children who fall between the cracks. Since this program would not start until the academic year begins, this plan will likely launch in the fall. We will be providing additional updates in our next report.



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### 25<sup>th</sup> place: Equestrian Aid Foundation

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.EquestrianAidFoundation.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$20,000.00

We are pleased to provide you with the second update as to how the funds you so generously provided are being put to use. As you know, our fantastic team and corporate sponsors of Kerkorian/Treacy and Palm Beach Equine won a grand total of \$20,000.00 to help benefit our Palm Beach County recipients:



**Joe** - is a physically and financially paralyzed farrier, consumed with pain and the fear of losing his home. Funds from the 2017 Great Charity Challenge literally keep the roof over his head, food on his table and lights on! Joe extends his appreciation of you by saying, "it's overwhelming when you don't expect something, and someone does something so generous."

**Jack** - is a renowned trainer, rider and coach, who ran a successful show operation for over 30 years. Earlier this year, Jack was hospitalized for an extended period of time due to complications from previous multiple strokes and coronary heart disease. Recently home from the hospital, Jack requires round the clock nursing care and numerous medications. We are able to fulfill the old adage, "we take care of our own" because of your generous support.

**Rob** - is a successful trainer and competitor. After being diagnosed with a rare and usually fatal viral disease, he spent several weeks in the hospital in a coma. He was not expected to survive, but miraculously, he began to show signs of improvement. Due to your generous support, Rob has been able to undergo several life improving therapies, not covered by his medical insurance, which have allowed him to become more physically able. He is in the process of endeavoring to branch out into a different equestrian profession; one which can hopefully sustain him in the future. Your generous support has helped him tremendously to improve to this extent.

**Meribeth** - the wear and tear of being a career groom necessitated back surgery for Meribeth almost 20 years. So when her doctor recommended a repeat in 2014, she didn't think twice. That surgery forever changed her life! During surgery, a major artery was severed and she almost bled out on the operating table. Fortunately for Meribeth, her family and friends, she was revived, but not without suffering permanent kidney, neurological and psychological damage. There was so much death and damage to her intestinal tract that much of it needed to be removed resulting in her requiring an ostomy bag. Meribeth is typical in our industry, a tough horsewoman. Though she still lives with constant pain, neurological and kidney deficit, she no longer has the ostomy and is fighting her way to a new life. Gone is her lifelong passion of caring for the horses that she loves, but Meribeth fought hard and has reinvented herself to the extent that she no longer needed assistance from the EAF after May of this year. The funds from the Great Charity Challenge helped Meribeth with her



living expenses and to maintain her medical insurance so she could continue to receive proper care during her recovery. "Without hope, you have nothing", states Meribeth. You provided her with the peace of mind to have hope --and to keep fighting for her life, health and healing. Thank you!

**Jane** - a highly successful dressage trainer and competitor was temporarily sidelined due to a devastating diagnosis of multiple myeloma. She underwent many months of chemotherapy, then stem cell treatment, which required her to be isolated. Isolation makes it very hard to make a living when one is accustomed to standing in an arena giving lessons and riding multiple horses every day. Despite her diagnosis, she is another horsewoman made of sterner stuff. Because of the funds we received from the Great Charity Challenge, we were able to assist Jane with her mortgage payments, groceries, health insurance premium and supplements. In just one short year, Jane became well enough to begin to be self supporting. There is no way she could have done this without you!

**Christine** - is a lifelong equestrian with an eclectic, yet impressive resume. She has foxhunted, trained top jumpers, been a groom and barn manager to some of the most elite competitors in our sport. In addition, she has done event management, real estate and trained search and rescue and personal protection dogs. She is also the sole provider for her adult, disabled son. During 2016, Christine experienced a number of untoward injuries and mishaps, however late in the year a freak accident severely injured her cervical spine rendering her completely disabled and unable to work. Once again, the Great Charity Challenge saved the days and weeks and months for this multi-talented equestrian. Because of the support we were able to provide to Christine from our Great Charity Challenge winnings, she has improved so much that in a few short months, she will no longer need our assistance. For this, Christine can't thank you enough!

The Equestrian Aid Foundation has coined a new motto this year, "show you care". All of you have gone above and beyond showing how much you care for our recipients and for the entire equestrian and Palm Beach County communities. Thank you for your vision and your generosity! We are immensely grateful to all of you for all that you do!

## **26<sup>th</sup> place: JARC Florida**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.jarcfl.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$19,500

*The donation that was ear marked for our Community Works Program (details in original fund report). Hayley Joffe is a client in this program. She works 2 days a week at Grand Lux Caf . Her mother, Brenda, prepared a statement for you.*

“This program has been the utmost beneficial to us as a family and more importantly to Hayley herself.

Hayley’s self-confidence has risen as well as the way she speaks about herself. Hayley is generally a very quiet person but now we are hearing a lot more from her when we are in the company of others (not with her family). My feeling for this is due to various contributing factors one of which this program has played a great part. She talks about her employment with confidence and often says at Grand Lux we do it this way.

Hayley is exceptionally proud that she has three jobs: one at JARC, one at Grand Lux and one at Cheese Cake. She boasts about how she attained these. She talks at length about the relationships she has, the things she sees as well as the lessons she has learnt, most importantly she boasts about “putting my money in the bank”. The abundance of confidence that Hayley is now exhibiting is parallel to the start of this program.

I would like to end off with a little story (which I still get tears in my eyes when I relate it); it was in November, her birthday was on the Friday and I picked her up from JARC on the day before, as I always do. I was greeted with the happiest lady and when I asked what prompted this huge, gorgeous smile she replied “mom, they (Grand Lux) gave me a



surprise dessert with a candle and sang Happy Birthday to me. She felt so good about herself and Grand Lux. Two things arose from this. One, was that a co-worker mentioned to the staff about Hayley's birthday and the staff listened to her and secondly they made two ladies feel so confident.

Anyone who has the honor of raising a special adult will know and understand how much these Programs assists the individual and families and we as the Joffe family thank you for this money my beautiful blessed daughter, as it continues to help her and co-workers flourish in life.”



### **27<sup>th</sup> place: Horses Healing Hearts, Inc.**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.hhhusa.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$21,000

Horses Healing Hearts has a goal of increasing the children we serve to 100 kids in the year 2017. We have forecasted meeting this goal with the addition of a second location, set to open on July 15<sup>th</sup>. This new location will allow us additional 2-hour sessions each week and weekend, allowing us keep each group size at a maximum size of 12 children per HHH session.

The funds received have assisted us and will continue to assist us in opening our second location on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, allowing us to continue to work towards our goal of growing our census of children in our program to 100 participants. In addition, this year we have focused on growing our Mentor Program for our middle and high school aged children. We have increased the number of “mentors” to allow for individual pairing with each child, giving them a positive role model to reach out to at any time. The funds have also allowed us to take our Mentor Program to year-round, continuing through the summer months, giving our “mentees” continued guidance and support during the entire year.

Enclose please find photos from a recent trip with our HHH participants to Victoria McCullough's farm in Wellington last month. Victoria was kind enough to host the HHH children one Sunday at her property. It was a great day for everyone involved, as well as a change for our kids to experience her amazing animals and property, which they would otherwise not get to enjoy. Below are some photos from a few of our sessions with the participants and horses.

*Photos on next page.*



## GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

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### **28<sup>th</sup> place: Palm Beach County Motorcyclists Toys For Tots, Inc.**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.pbtoyrun.com>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$18,500.00

We serve over 10,000 Children yearly with a toy distribute through U.S. Marine Corps Toys For Tots Program. All toys are distributed in Palm Beach County through the Program.

This grant will enable us to do an advance toy buy prior to the start of the holiday Season and should enable us to distribute to an additional 1,000 children.

Our organization is assisted by this grant is assuring that we have a cushion to continue to fund our annual toy run toy drive for years to come.

### **29<sup>th</sup> place: Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.literacybc.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** 18,000

The funds were used to teach adults in our Village Readers Family Education program how to read and speak English. It also helped their elementary school age children improve their reading skills.

#### THE DONATION AT WORK:

Wilson moved to the United States in 2012 after filing for political asylum when it became unsafe for his family to remain in Haiti. An accountant by training but lacking English language skills, Wilson got a job at the Miami airport. Wilson knew that in order to find a better job, he needed to learn English and in 2015 he enrolled in Village Readers. He entered the program struggling to understand his teacher and hesitant to speak. A devoted student, Wilson attended consistently and worked hard. In May 2017, Wilson obtained a job as a bagger at Publix Supermarket and can now communicate with his boss and co-workers in





English. He is excited to have gotten the job, knowing that Publix often promotes from within. Wilson plans to continue attending classes until his “English is 100%.” He then wants to learn about accounting in the United States so he can resume his career.

As a student at Village Readers, Wilson learned that his son Ryan could receive free afterschool reading tutoring, twice a week, with a Literacy Coalition AmeriCorps member. Ryan, a second grader, started attending tutoring at Village Readers in September 2016, beginning the year at a kindergarten reading level. Since then, Ryan has made significant improvements, ending the school year reading books on his second grade level. Best of all, Wilson reports that now Ryan is happy, confident, and enjoys reading, especially books about superheroes and animals.

**30<sup>th</sup> place: Cancer Alliance of Help and Hope, Inc.**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** [WWW.CAHH.ORG](http://WWW.CAHH.ORG)

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$17,500

Cancer Alliance of Help & Hope is a Palm Beach County not-for-profit Organization that financially assists cancer patients in Palm Beach County with their non-medical bills. Thanks to the Great Charity Challenge, CAHH was able to assist twelve additional families by paying for their rent or mortgage, utilities, health or auto insurance and utility bills. The funds disbursed to the families helped reduce some of their financial burden and stress while they were going through chemotherapy or radiation treatments.

Below is a list of the families that we assisted and two with two clients stories:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Check Number</b>	<b>Vendor Name</b>	<b>Patient and Explanation of funds</b>	<b>Amount</b>
03/07/2017	8270	Michele Barone	Rent for Millicent R.	950.00
03/29/2017	8298	Urban Real Estate	Mona J. April Rent	500.00
03/29/2017	8305	FP&L	Nancy/Luis C. Acct #2930452319	165.64
03/29/2017	8306	Florida Public Utilities	Nancy/Luis C. Acct #431804-4	77.71
03/29/2017	8308	Progressive Insurance	Patricia C. Policy #20907972	209.71
03/29/2017	8309	FP&L	Patricia C. Acct #85484-23246	172.75
03/29/2017	8310	Linda Pierre-Louis	Rent for Diana & Carolos F.	600.00
03/29/2017	8312	Colonial Estates	Rent for Katty B.	688.00
04/26/2017	8354	Progressive Insurance	Carol W.	164.45
04/26/2017	8355	Ditech.com	Carol W	381.79



# GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

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04/26/2017	8356	FP&L	Kimberton W.	106.88
04/26/2017	8360	FP&L	Rock P.	230.26
04/26/2017	8361	Britney Moser	Rent for Kenneth & Sherry R.	600.00
04/26/2017	8362	FP&L	Aldo B.	106.34
04/26/2017	8363	Ford Credit	Aldo B. Act. #53996999	510.39
04/26/2017	8364	Santander Consumer USA	Olidio L. R. act #0747482	299.25
04/26/2017	8365	Capital One Auto Finance	Ovidio L. act #6202144629055	168.00
04/26/2017	8366	State Farm	Ovidio L #C336440E1459B & #C336441E1459A	189.91
04/26/2017	8370	Gateway One Lending	William R. acct #20140150310250	407.34
04/26/2017	8371	Allstate Insurance	William R. Policy #971786983	127.06
04/26/2017	8372	Jamaica Bay, Inc.	William R. ACT. 50003	165.00
04/26/2017	8373	US Bank	Fiore-B.Acct #6800891970	1,060.00
04/26/2017	8374	Residents at Legacy Place	Diane F. Rent	307.00
05/16/2017	8450	Linda Pierre-Louis	Rent for Diana & Carlos F.	600.00
05/16/2017	8451	Colonial Estates	Rent for Katty B.	688.00
05/16/2017	8453	Capital One Auto Finance	Jose S. Acct #6206210932464	242.19
05/16/2017	8455	Infinity Financial Services	Ron K. Acct #008800627564800001	475.00
05/16/2017	8456	Ally Payment Processing Center	Ron K. #673923584814	378.54
05/16/2017	8457	GEICO	Ron K. Policy #4135-22-17-05	503.97
05/16/2017	8458	FP&L	Ron K. Acct #49951-29444	300.86
05/16/2017	8475	Mallard Mobile Home Park	2 month's rent for Lemuel N.	400.00
05/31/2017	8484	Saddlebrook Apartments	May rent for Alma N.	1,000.00
05/31/2017	8378	City of West Palm Beach	Debra T. Acct #373480822-4	256.04
05/31/2017	8488	ELS	Miguel J. Loan #20110907101356	730.41
05/31/2017	8489	Xiaofeng Qi	Rent for Lieu C.	1,000.00
05/31/2017	8490	Humana	Lieu C. Acct #939135722-001-	170.06



# GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

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			939135723	
05/31/2017	8491	Ford Credit	Aldo B. Acct #53996999	510.39
05/31/2017	8492	Showcase Realty and Contracting, Inc.	Rent for Paul B. & Elesbe M.	1,500.00
05/31/2017	8493	FP&L	Paul B. & Ellesbe M. acct #85440-73151	82.94
				<b>17,025.88</b>

## Clients Stories:

Carol W. is 74 years old from Palm Beach Gardens. Carol spent the last 20 years of her life volunteering with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. She was diagnosed with Breast Cancer and Pulmonary Fibrosis. She reluctantly called CAHH after having her electric turned off. Carol is on oxygen 24/7 which became a life threatening situation that added additional stress and a financial burden to her life. Thanks to Great Charity Challenge and the Quantum Foundation, we were able to pay Carol's rent for two months and helped her with the utility bill.

Dylan C is 11 months from Lake Worth with Neuroblastoma Cancer. The mother is not working to care for her son and the father lost his job. While the father is looking for work, they are staying with a relative and paying \$600 a month in rent and utilities. Thanks to the Great Charity Challenge, we paid two month's rent for the family and helped them with their utilities bill. Dylan is being treated at Children's Oncology at Palm West Hospital.

## **31<sup>st</sup> place: Wellington PTO/PTA/PTSA**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <https://www.edline.net/Index.page>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$17,000 to be split between the 12 schools

**HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU SERVE ANNUALLY:** 15,000 students plus teaching staff

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for allowing us to be part of such a fantastic event. The schools of Wellington are so grateful for the support you have given us for the last 7 years. The middle and elementary school students have benefitted each year with classroom support and upgrades to technology. Our two high schools have used the funds to supplement Project Graduation, a lockdown event free of alcohol and drugs to keep our seniors safe on graduation night.

The PTA's, PTO's, PTSA's and PG's of Wellington thank you on behalf of our Principals and especially all the students that will benefit from the funds.



## GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

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### 32<sup>nd</sup> place: Genesis Assistance Dogs, Inc.

CHARITY WEBSITE: <http://www.genesisassistancedogsinc.org>

FUNDS RECEIVED: \$16,500



Genesis Assistance Dogs, Inc. is happy to share that we have successfully completed 2 perfect placements with clients in the past 6 months.

Iggy, our fair-haired 3 year old golden retriever has been paired with Don Chester and is performing his duties with great success while making tons of friends at St. Mary's Hospital where Don is a hospital administrator. Iggy has transitioned beautifully into the role of assistance dog for Don after his former assistance dog retired.

Eagle, our beloved slightly 'rust colored' 2 ½ year old golden has just been matched with Gayle McCardle in the past month and has been welcomed into Gayle's extended family of her daughter, son-in-law and 3 amazing granddaughters. He has settled in without fanfare and works tirelessly to assist Gayle with daily activities. He is the first face that greets her in the morning and he is never far from her side.

Both Genesis Assistance Dogs continue to receive weekly training from our Director of Training, Jen Bielen. At this stage of each dogs' placement, the training provided for our clients is equally important as the training for Iggy and Eagle. Our clients learn how to reinforce behaviors and how to maximize the service Eagle and Iggy can provide.



Eagle requires a special, custom-made harness to be able to provide sufficient assistance to Gayle. The harness has just arrived and Eagle is adjusting well. Both Iggy and Eagle made it to their new homes with appropriate collars, leashes, leads and toys. All of these items, along with the continuing training and on-call services were provided in part by the funds received from the Great Charity Challenge.



*From left to right: Gayle and Eagle hanging with the girls - Don and Iggy out and about. - Meet Oliver - our newest puppy in training. We will update you about him soon!*



## GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

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### **33<sup>rd</sup> place: Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.farmworkercouncil.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$16,000

Funds received from the Great Charity Challenge have helped us continue providing services to our clients on a consistent basis. During the last three months we have been able to provide the following services.

<b>Services</b>	<b>Total</b>
Clients who received assistance for Medicaid and Food Stamps Application	<b>33</b>
Clients who received food from USDA	<b>522</b>
Clients who received food from the pantry	<b>638</b>
Non-clients who received food from USDA	<b>887</b>
Clients who received clothing/household items	<b>489</b>
Clients who received transportation/Bus Pass	<b>109</b>
Clients who received translation/interpretation	<b>601</b>
Clients who were referred out for services	<b>57</b>
Clients who received assistance with rent/utilities	<b>11</b>
Amount distributed for rent/utilities	<b>\$ 11,119.86</b>
*Other services provided*	<b>1,352</b>
<b>Total services provided this Quarter</b>	<b>4,699</b>

#### Success Story

She was the love of his life, the mother of his children, the young woman he met on a visit to his Mexican hometown two decades ago and brought to Belle Glade to start a new life. Three years ago, she gave him a baby daughter, their fourth child, and a few days later she died of complications from the birth.

Since her death, Jose Escobedo and his children have been trapped in a life of poverty and squalor. As an agricultural worker, he spends long days in the fields outside Belle Glade, harvesting spinach six days a week, leaving before dawn and returning home after dusk.



## GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

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It was his wife, Juana, who maintained the home and took care of the family while he worked the fields. In her absence, his trailer, in a mobile home park on the outskirts of Belle Glade, has fallen into severe disrepair. Each day after school, his three sons return to an empty home, while a relative looks after his young daughter.

With little free time and less money, Escobedo, 50, has watched his home fall apart. Water leaks in through holes in the roof, filling the trailer with a pungent smell of mold. The toilet leaks, light fixtures dangle from wires, the window A/C units blow warm. Gaps in the laminate flooring expose buckling plywood.

The four children, who range in age from 3 to 16, suffer from learning disabilities and respiratory ailments. One child suffers asthma, another persistent nose bleeds. One has seizures, for reasons yet to be diagnosed. Escobedo, meanwhile, has his own health problems – high blood pressure that often leaves him unable to work.

The children were deeply traumatized by the death of their mother, who they remember as warm and protective, quick to stick up for them when they were bullied at school. Since her death, two of the children suffer sporadic crying fits and now receive counseling.

Due to the misfortune surrounding this family and the conditions they were living in, the family's case manager elected to submit their story to the Palm Beach Post's Season to Share campaign. Because of this nomination they were able to raise \$31,195.99 which will allow this family to make a significant transformational change in their lives and living conditions. The money they receive will provide the necessary funding for a new trailer complete with furnishings and appliances.

Mr. Escobedo is working to improve his family's lot. He became a U.S. citizen this year and is studying English. He is working on getting a license to become a commercial driver, which would allow him to earn more than his seasonal job offers.



### **34<sup>th</sup> place: Take Stock in Children**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.TakeStockPalmBeach.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$15,500

A total of \$14,500 of the funds received were used towards expenses associated with our college retention department. Funds were matched dollar-for-dollar by a private foundation, doubling our GCC funds to \$29,000 towards the use of better serving our college going students. Students participating in the Take Stock in Children program that are college attending receive ongoing college guidance, educational planning, and assistance throughout their college experience. Our



College Retention Coaches aim to increase college retention rates and foster a more structured and “hands on” approach that help gear college students towards postsecondary success.

The remaining funds were used towards our student workshops, benefiting our Take Stock in Children students currently enrolled in middle and high school. Workshops are hosted on a monthly basis to all students and their families, and they are geared towards financial literacy, good study habits, coping mechanisms for students, goal setting, standardized test prep, etc.

### **35<sup>th</sup> place: Jeff Industries, Inc**

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.jeffindustries.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$15,000

The \$15,000 is being used for training wages/stipends for our clients, allowing them to increase their income and self-sufficiency.

#### **Success Story:**



“Luke was referred to Jeff Industries by his psychiatrist, as a step in helping him become an employed self-sustaining member of the community. At Jeff Industries, he participated in an active on-the-job training/work experience in a normalized business environment. The program allowed him to earn an income while working on his personal barriers to employment which prevented him from securing or maintaining competitive employment. At Jeff Industries he was assigned to work at the “*Tropical Sun Signs and Woodworking*” Company. The emphasis during this work/training period included adhering to an assigned work schedule, organizing his time, receiving and responding to direct supervision from vocational instructor, working in a team/crew that produces a variety of high quality, handmade wood products, and maintaining his own mental and physical health. In April, after collaboration with our Job developer, Luke secured a community position at a local home fashion retail store and officially transitioned out of our woodshop. He will now work closely with Ilana to maintain his community position and continue towards his goals which include becoming a behavioral health tech to assist others.”

The funds received through the 2017 Great Charity Challenge allowed us to pay wages earned by 42 adults who suffer severe and persistent mental illnesses. Participants had the opportunity to work on their barriers for competitive employment through our agency owned businesses. They participated in the development and manufacturing of products.

For over 30 years, Jeff Industries continues to help adults and youth integrate into the community by providing social, leisure, networking, employment and affordable housing so that they can live a productive and stable life and have a “*reason to wake up in the morning*”.



## GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

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### **ADDITIONAL GRANTS FUND USE:**

**CHARITY NAME:** Place of Hope, Inc.

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** [www.placeofhope.com](http://www.placeofhope.com)

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$25,000 "Outstanding Charity Award"

As a growing non-profit organization in a challenging economy, our programs are increasing in response to the need for comprehensive child welfare programs in Palm Beach County; however, there are still many children who are being placed out of county because the local child welfare system is over-capacity as well as many youth who are transitioning out of foster care, have been emancipated from foster care, or are homeless. In order to continue to meet this growing need, we need help with our general operating support.

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**CHARITY NAME:** Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.

**WEBSITE:** [www.legalaidpbc.org](http://www.legalaidpbc.org)

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$10,000

These funds will assist in funding a staff attorney position in our Domestic Violence Project. This attorney will provide representation to survivors of domestic violence at restraining order hearings.

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**CHARITY NAME:** YMCA of South Palm Beach County

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.ymcaspbc.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$7,500

The Y's Teens have had an amazing year already because of the funding from the Great Charity Challenge. Over 300 teens convened in Boca Raton focused on the service and leadership. Y Leaders of middle and high school ages gathered this spring to celebrate leadership in their communities and bring service to our YMCA. The teens focused on their commitment to the community by boxing food care packages with Meals for Hope who partners with Feeding America food banks across the nation. They were able to successfully pack 18,144 meals that weekend, which feeds 108,864 people. Additionally, the funds were used to launch the Y



Leader's Club at our DeVos-Blum Family YMCA of Boynton Beach. To date the club already has 25 teen members and were a part of the weekend rally in Boca Raton.

Lastly, the remainder of the funds will be spent so that all exemplary teens that are a part of the Y Leader's Club will be able to attend Blue Ridge Leader's School from June 17-24, 2017 in Black Mountain, NC. This annual national conference explores each individual's potential through learning in leadership and physical fitness classes, by agreeing to a code of conduct that each teen swears to uphold and honor, collaborating and discussing a life that includes compassion, leadership and service. This is our largest group to attend and we look forward to sharing their experience with you during the next fund use report.

We could not have done this without the Great Charity Challenge. Our Y and our teens are incredibly appreciative of this funding which is enabling us to serve our community and provide amazing experiences for our Teen Leaders.

Please see quotes from our teens on what the program is doing personally for them:

"Being in teen leaders makes me happy by helping others and gaining higher morals. The program helps me gain more confidence in myself since I'm a part of a fun and new program." By Emily P. Age: 15

"I love being a teen leader because it helps me learn how to take charge, learn responsibilities, and most importantly to have fun! I have learned to become more open to people and to not be afraid of who I am." By Brigitt P. Age: 15

"Being a teen leader makes me feel like I am a part of something and it makes me feel better when I help people. This Club is something that I love doing, helping people. I learn how to be responsible, respectful, honest, and caring which are all of the Y's core values. The Leaders Club is a serious group that I have to commit to, but we also have fun. The Leaders Club at the Y teaches people how to be confident of who you are and not to care about what others think of you. This club encourages me and other people to be who they want to be." By Anya D. Age: 13





## GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

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**CHARITY NAME:** Feed the Hungry Pantry

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** [www.feedthehungryvillagebaptist.org](http://www.feedthehungryvillagebaptist.org)

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$5,000

Due to your gift, we have been able to take in additional hungry families which we would have had to turn away otherwise.

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**CHARITY NAME:** KidSafe Foundation

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.kidsafefoundation.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$5,000

The funds received from the Great Charity Challenge Grant will allow KidSafe to expand our geographical and educational reach into the community by giving us the opportunity to participate and provide KidSafe's 2 award winning children's books to 450 families at a Community Back to School Bash in August 2017.

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**CHARITY NAME:** Area Agency on Aging Palm Beach/Treasure Coast Inc.

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.youradrc.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$2,500.00

More than helping our organization, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve more individuals in our community.

This grant will allow us to expand the number of individuals served and reach those caregivers who, without respite services, would not have the ability to attend a workshop thereby missing valuable information on how to better care for themselves and their loved one.

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**CHARITY NAME: Junior Achievement of the Palm Beaches & Treasure Coast**

**CHARITY WEBSITE: <http://juniorachievement.com/>**

**FUNDS RECEIVED: \$2,500**

Funds awarded will help to purchase program material for approximately 125 students at Equestrian Trails Elementary school.

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**CHARITY NAME: Delray Students First**

**CHARITY WEBSITE: <http://www.delraystudentsfirst.org>**

**FUNDS RECEIVED: \$1,000**

These funds were utilized to take a group of high school kids from low income backgrounds on a college tour to the University of Central Florida and the University of South Florida in May. These students are in our ACT and SAT tutoring classes and are high achieving, highly motivated and ambitious young people who deserve more opportunities in life.

For the most part, none of them have left their neighborhoods, much less seen a college campus. In our experience, we have found that the students who are exposed to college tours, field trips and other enrichment activities develop a strong interest in pursuing a higher education and ultimately a rewarding career in life. We rented a bus and provide the kids with lunch on campus while we were at both schools. The cost of the bus is roughly \$1000 per day with a nonprofit discount and the meals over two days cost approximately \$1500 total for 30 persons (students and chaperones). We stayed in a discount hotel and had 18 rooms at \$50 per night. We are fully insured and all of our volunteers and chaperones have had a full background check. I am including some photos of the tours. The kids had a fantastic time both days.



University of Central Florida

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**CHARITY NAME:** The Arc of Palm Beach County

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** [www.arcpcb.org](http://www.arcpcb.org)

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$1,000

We are thrilled that with this grant! We were able to offer low income students in our tutoring classes a tour of University of Central Florida in Orlando in May. The funds received covered \$1000 of the approximately \$1100 cost of the trip.

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## **GRAND PRIX SOCIETY: ZIEGLER FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANTS**

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**CHARITY NAME:** Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches, Inc.

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.aafpb.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$5,000

The entire award generously given to Adopt-A-Family by the Ziegler Family Foundation has been designated to support Project Grow, the agency's afterschool and summer program for elementary school children from homeless and impoverished households. Project Grow aims to address and reverse the debilitating effects of homelessness and poverty through a holistic curriculum that includes engaging academic lessons, one-on-one tutoring, mental health services, life-enriching experiences, access to a computer lab, academic advising, parental engagement, and a safe and supportive environment for this vulnerable population of students.

The incredible support of the Ziegler Family Foundation made an immediate impact on the agency. First, the funds were used to purchase nutritious snacks for the 60 students who participated in a week of spring break camp. Project Grow is open whenever schools are closed to provide a safe and enriching environment for the children while eliminating the need for their parents to take costly time off from work. Second, the funds were used to prepare Project Grow for summer camp which started on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The award from the Ziegler Family Foundation enabled Adopt-A-Family to purchase nutritious snacks, camp t-shirts, and art supplies. Because many of the students are delayed academically due to their unstable home life, Project Grow camp takes advantage of the extended time with the children to reinforce academic principles and prepare the students for the next grade level. In addition, Project Grow camp exposes the students to experiences that ensure that they are not limited or isolated by their disadvantaged economic status. This summer the students will participate in activities like swimming, gardening, story-time soccer, and fishing and take field trips to places like Zoo Miami, Butterfly World, Delray Beach Playhouse, and Lion Country Safari. Throughout the summer, the funds



from the Ziegler Family Foundation will help Adopt-A-Family provide these exciting activities free of charge to alleviate any financial burden on the parents.

**SUCCESS STORY:**

Angelo started Project Grow (Grow) in Kindergarten almost three years ago. His family entered Adopt-A-Family’s homeless housing program, Project SAFE, after fleeing an unsafe living situation. When Angelo started Grow, it was evident that he was very smart but had social challenges that prevented constructive interaction in the classroom and with peers. Angelo sought attention constantly and had behavior issues in school and in Grow. Grow staff and the family’s Adopt-A-Family caseworker worked with Angelo’s parents to get him evaluated and give him access to therapy so he could process the changes that he and his family had encountered. Angelo participated in small group counseling and developed a love of science through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) lessons at Grow. Angelo and his family always attend Grow’s annual STEAM family night where Angelo loves to teach his little sister about science. The consistent and supportive environment of Grow gave Angelo the security to relax and share attention with his peers and his behavior improved significantly. Angelo successfully completed second grade and is now in Grow summer camp. Angelo was promoted to third grade and was recommended for the advanced math track at his school. In addition, Angelo’s family “graduated” out of Project SAFE into the agency’s Service Enriched Housing program where his parents are given the opportunity to pursue homeownership.

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**CHARITY NAME:** Area Agency on Aging Palm Beach/Treasure Coast Inc.

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.youradrc.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$5,000.00

We remain so grateful to you and the Ziegler Family Foundation for the \$5000 grant we received during the Great Charity Challenge.

Our plan was to use this award to provide Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC) workshops to additional family caregivers by training more volunteer facilitators, ordering more of the very useful Caregiver Helpbook given to all participants, and then of course providing these workshops at no cost to the caregivers.

Since receiving the award in February, we have purchased additional Helpbooks and we trained 14 new facilitators in April (flyer attached-Attachment ending in 1038-1). These volunteer facilitators hailed from various organizations such as the YMCA, Catholic Charities, and Palm Beach County Division of Seniors Services. Volunteers trained included 4 nurses, a social worker, a counselor and one retired military personnel to name a

**PHOTOS:**





## GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

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few of the professions represented.

Finally, we completed six PTC workshops to date with one additional class currently in progress. A flyer outlining the topics covered in this six week workshop is also included (Attachment ending in 1038). This award made it possible for over 60 family caregivers to receive the benefit of self-care tools designed to help them successfully manage the challenges they face while caring for a loved one.

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**CHARITY NAME: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Palm Beach and Martin Counties**

**CHARITY WEBSITE: <http://www.Mentorbig.org>**

**FUNDS RECEIVED: \$5,000**

As of June 2017, there are over 300 children on a “waiting list” wishing to be matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister. Each mentor/mentee match costs roughly \$1,250 to complete. BBBSPBMC Uses an Evidence based practice to ensure program eligibility for all participants. The process begins with initial interviews and background screenings. Followed by the matching process. The match process takes into account mentor/ mentee personality and interests to ensure match satisfaction. Once matched the agency provides support; the match receives training and is provided with opportunities for enhancement activities through the agency. Degreed staff provides continued monitoring of all participants in matches to ensure safety and positive relationship development. Policy dictates that all mentors complete a Level II FBI background screening every two years while matched to a mentee.

Since February 2017, BBBS has served 38 unfunded matches in our classic community based one-to-one mentoring program. Between February and June 2017, the agency made three additional unfunded matches. Unfunded matches occur when a child does not meet the criteria specific to awarded grants, but the agency has deemed the child eligible and in need of a mentor. This occurrence stretches BBBSPBMC resources provided to mentor/mentee matches and overall organizational operational capacity. Services provided by BBBSPBMC are at no cost to the Children, Families and Volunteers served. The funds awarded help support these “unfunded matches.”

Below you will also find pictures of two unfunded matches; at a baseball game and a concert. Both Matches are very positive and have been matched with their mentor for over a year. The mentors in the pictures have provided support and encouragement not only to the child, but

to the parent. Both children have are being raised by single mothers and have no father figure. Little Brother, Josh, is doing well in school, has recently started a new job and is driving. Little sister, Liami, is also a very good student whose mother has social anxiety and has difficulty getting out into the community. Liami and her Big Sister see each other weekly. Big Sister, Linda, has provided Little Sister with many opportunities to see new things in her community.





**CHARITY NAME:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.bgcpbc.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$5,000

Funding from the Ziegler Family Foundation supported the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County's (BGCPBC) Teen Development Program (previously entitled Teen Employability Program) at the BGCPBC's six, teen-serving clubs located in Palm Beach County's most disenfranchised neighborhoods. The program utilizes a three-pronged approach—education, career exploration, and managed employment (or volunteer positions for teens under age 14)—to prepare teens to compete for jobs, succeed in the workplace, and explore career and educational tracts.

BGCPBC's trained youth development staff delivered foundational education in several different areas to help teens compete for and secure, and thrive in entry level employment. Modules include character and leadership programs, Money Matters (financial literacy), and Career Launch, job etiquette, customer service, and dressing for success. Guest speakers, interest inventories, and visits to businesses, colleges and vocational institutions, helped 375 teens at seven teen-serving Clubs acquire pro-social behaviors, job readiness knowledge and skills; discover their career interests; learn how their existing skills and interests may translate to a career, and explore educational requirements.

Forty (40) BGCPBC teens that participated in the Teen Development Program during the last school year became eligible to apply for volunteer assignments or employment at BGCPBC, which include ongoing coaching from staff to ensure a successful first work experience, which includes food service, sports officiating, counselor-in-training, and administration. As a Junior Staff, the 40 teens are required to attend weekly educational sessions covering all topics mentioned above, with intensive career exploration.

Pre- and post-tests and staff perceptual observations demonstrate consistently favorable outcomes, including increased employability; knowledge of post-secondary educational tracts in fields of interest; and interpersonal competencies that enhance job readiness and the pursuit of career aspirations, including time management and self-esteem.





# GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

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**CHARITY NAME:** Florence Fuller Child Development Centers, Inc.

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.ffcdc.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$5,000

## Program Updates

### SOCIAL SERVICES:

- The average attendance for the month of May was above 85%.
- May 10, 2017- Policy Committee Meeting was held at the West Center  
As always, there was great parent participation. On-going completion of annual contracts. VPK, School Readiness and Children Services etc.
- Active recruitment is open and ongoing for EHS and HS.
- Diapers from the JUNIOR LEAGUE of BOCA RATON DIAPER BANK were distributed for the month of May 2017.
- H.S. has one available space - SW is working with eligible families in EHS who qualified to fill these positions. EHS has four positions available for the month of May.
- FACES held one parent meeting for the month of May 9<sup>th</sup>. The topic was Positive Parenting.
- All Physical and Immunizations are up-to-date for EHS and HS.
- Speech screenings were completed on May 31<sup>st</sup> by Boca Speech for 35 students.
- Interview clothing is still available to families in need, and has been provided to families when requested.





## GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

Presented by  Fidelity

- The Family Services office has hired a new EHS FACES Manager. She has her Master's Degree in Human Services and Child Protection.
- A new partnership is being explored to have Speech/Occupational/Physical Therapy available on site for our children. Preliminary meeting will be held later this month.
- Blessings in a Backpack provided backpacks of food for children in need.

### Success Story

The Jimenez family: Dad arrived in the USA from Dominican Republic one year before the whole family was moved. Mom arrived and placed the kids in FFCDC. Dad has always wanted to have his own business, but was hesitant as he did not speak English and he was new in the Country. Dad was introduced to the ESOL class here at FFCDC West. Dad started attending ESOL classes to better his English. Not only did dad participate in the ESOL class, he also participated in nutrition classes and finance workshops held at the center. Because of his enthusiasm and the help of the Family Services staff, dad has started his own business in maintenance. Dad is very proud of his accomplishments and that he can support his family financially. He also volunteers when needed at the center.

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**CHARITY NAME: Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County**

**CHARITY WEBSITE: [www.habitatpbc.org](http://www.habitatpbc.org)**

**FUNDS RECEIVED: \$5,000**

The funds were used to rehabilitate a house for first-time homeowner, Danielle Mobley.

Danielle Mobley is the proud mother of 9-year-old Darius and 4-year-old Journee. Danielle has been employed with Comcast for over 10 years. She is excited to have a house of her own where she can peacefully raise her children. She wants to set an example for her children and motivate other mothers to follow the dream of homeownership.



**“My mom and my children are my biggest inspiration. They are the reason behind my accomplishments.”- Danielle.** Pictured is Danielle's family. The home is located in the neighborhood of Coleman Park, in the City of West Palm Beach.

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**CHARITY NAME:** Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.literacyabc.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$5,000

YOUR DONATION AT WORK:



The adult students were divided into four classes based on their literacy level. Of the 64 students who were in class for at least two testing periods, 80 percent improved their test scores by at least 20 points. Each spring, the adult students are asked to write an essay about what they have learned during the year. In April, one student wrote, “I have had two children in this school and I especially love the way I learned with them because learning together was incredibly amazing. I enjoy going to school every morning because, more than my school, it is like a second home. I thought I would never learn English and now I can speak with my doctor and the teachers of my children. I have also helped people making phone calls and fill out applications... I am proud of myself and thankful too because my life is easier now. Being part of Glades Family Education is a blessing and it’s the best experience ever because when I was trying to learn English I found a new family.”

The preschool teacher recorded each child’s progress on a checklist of competencies that must be mastered in order for a child to be prepared to read and write. All of the children, except one child who just started the program on May 31, have made significant, age-appropriate improvements in their emergent literacy skills during this period in areas such as knowing the alphabet/shapes/colors, describing stories in their own words and reciting nursery rhymes. Seven of the children, who will start kindergarten in August, graduated from the program on May 25, 2017, although they may continue to attend the program during the summer. They will start kindergarten with the essential early literacy skills that lead to success in school.

Photo: Glades Family Education - Preschool Graduation, May 25, 2017

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**CHARITY NAME:** Palm Beach County Food Bank

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** [www.pbcfoodbank.org](http://www.pbcfoodbank.org)

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$5,000

Thank you to the Great Charity Challenge for your generous support. Because of you, the Palm Beach County Food Bank was able to procure and distribute more than 5 million pounds of food to our hungry neighbors right here in Palm Beach County.

It is staggering to know that more than 200,000 children, seniors and families in Palm Beach County are hungry—they don’t know where they will get their next meal. We have nearly 170 Partner Agencies and programs on the front lines of hunger relief, ensuring that Palm Beach County residents have access to the food they need. Our shared efforts include:





## GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

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- **Food Recovery & Distribution** - The Food Recovery and Distribution program received 3,663,434 pounds of product, with a total of 2,606,391 pounds categorized as non-perishable in the following categories: bakery, dairy, frozen foods, meats, prepared foods, produce and unsorted perishable food items.
- **Food4OurKids** – The Food4OurKids program served 100 children from the Palm Springs Elementary in Lake Worth and Rolling Green Elementary in Boynton Beach with healthy, shelf-stable food each weekend for 35 weeks during the 2016-2017 school year.
- **Nutrition Driven** - The Nutrition Driven program, an educational mobile food pantry in partnership with the University of Florida, graduated approximately 580 participants at 32 partner agencies and distributed more than 65,000 lbs pounds of fresh produce and whole grains.
- **Benefits Outreach** – The Benefits Outreach program assisted individuals and families in applying for federal food assistance benefits. In Palm Beach County, 170,000+ residents depend on SNAP (food stamps) for daily sustenance.



Thank you so much for your generous support, and your shared commitment toward a healthy and food-secure Palm Beach County!

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**CHARITY NAME:** The Arc of Palm Beach County

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** [www.arcpbc.org](http://www.arcpbc.org)

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$5,000

We are so thankful to have received generous funding from the Ziegler Family Foundation this year. As you know, this grant supported The Arc of Palm Beach County's Career Transition Program (CTP). This program is a day program for more than 72 adults with developmental disabilities. The program teaches clients daily living skills, occupational skills and job readiness. The Arc's skilled program instructors create a learning environment that is tailored to each person's individual need. The primary focus is to ensure that every client has the opportunity to live as independently as possible, through skills learned, job placement, or selling artwork at our Art d' \Arc gallery, located in the Courim Center. Two tracks of the Career Transition Program include: Enclave Employment and Artisan.

Through Enclave Employment, The Arc partners with various companies in Palm Beach County to create job opportunities for clients to earn minimum wage. Clients have the opportunity to gain employment skills in an inclusive setting, with a staff member of The Arc present to assist with any questions or skills training. Some current partnerships include, Otis Elevators, Pratt & Whitney and the Gehring Group.



Clients also have the opportunity to participate in the Artisan program that teaches those that are interested in advancing their artistic skills, how to create beautiful mosaic artwork. Every artisan that works on a piece, signs the back and once it sells, they receive a commission. Earning a paycheck is a tremendous accomplishment for our clients in their journey to becoming independent contributors in the community.

Funds from The Ziegler Family Foundation were used for specific program support for CTP. Through this support, we were able to purchase more art supplies such as mosaic tiles, glue, paint and paintbrushes for the artisan program. With these additional materials our clients had the opportunity to sell more of their artwork at festivals. In May, we were invited to participate in Sunfest 2018, so many of the new artwork was showcased at our booth in the Art District. Our clients had the opportunity to not only create their artwork, but also learn how to display and market it.

We were also able to purchase classroom supplies for daily lessons and art projects. Here is the breakdown of the funding:  
Artisan Materials (mosaic tiles and art supplies) \$2,500  
Curriculum, Classroom supplies and artist classes \$2,500

Overall, this generous funding enabled us to increase support for the Career Transition Program creating more opportunities for inclusion, independence and greater educational experiences for our clients.

**Thank you so much for your gift to The Arc of Palm Beach County!**



From Left to Right: Kerry Anne and Patrick working together on a Mosaic Artwork in the Artisan Program; two of our program participants creating another incredible work of art with the new sparkle tiles we were able to purchase thanks to The Ziegler Family Foundation; Ashlyn holding one of the pieces she created with the glass tiles we were able to purchase thanks to the Ziegler Family Foundation. Ashlyn was asked why she enjoyed coming to The Arc every day, she said it's because she is now an artist.

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**CHARITY NAME:** YMCA of South Palm Beach County

**CHARITY WEBSITE:** <http://www.ymcaspbc.org>

**FUNDS RECEIVED:** \$5,000

**HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE YOU ASSISTING WITH THIS GRANT:** 180 children and 180 caregivers  
(Primarily over Summer 2017, June – August 2017)

The funds received from the Ziegler Family Foundation grant are being used to offset the cost of traditional swim lesson instruction and water education for at-risk low-income youth in South Palm Beach County. The lessons will be offered, this summer and fall, at both of our traditional YMCA branches – The Peter Blum Family YMCA in Boca Raton and The DeVos-Blum Family YMCA in Boynton Beach. As the lessons and educational component will occur over the summer months we will provide more detailed information on the third use report in September 2017.

Florida ranks first and Palm Beach County ranks as one of the highest in the nation for drownings. In 2015, thirty-four children were victims of drownings in Palm Beach County. Though drowning is preventable, our reality is that low-income minority families tend to have a fear of water and limited access to water safety programs. This, correlating with generations that are unable to swim, are at a higher likelihood of tragedy as family members are often helpless to assist or drown along with a child trying to save him/her.

As a leading nonprofit, the Y has been a foundational leader in providing swimming lessons for 165 years nationwide and introduced the concept of group swim lessons in 1909. Here in Palm Beach County the Y teaches 15,000 water safety and swimming lessons each year to our community. We are teaching simple skills that save lives.

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***TO THIS YEAR'S 84 CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS:  
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY  
& FOR BEING ROLE MODELS IN THE COMMUNITY!***

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