



Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, October 19, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Location:

**United Way – Ryder Room
3250 S.W. 3rd Avenue (Coral Way)**





Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, October 19, 2026
3250 S.W. 3rd Avenue (Coral Way)
United Way – Ryder Room
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Board of Directors

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair
Pamela Hollingsworth
Vice-Chair
Hon. Norman S. Gerstein (Ret.)
Treasurer
Luis E. Suarez, J.D.
Secretary

Laura Adams
Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi
Lisette M. Alves
Lesline Anglade-Dorleans, J.D.
Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D.
Alex Auguste
Daniel Bagner, Ph.D.
Hon. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Ph.D.
Hon. Scott Bernstein
Cathy Burgos
Silvia Castellanos
Norie del Valle
Lourdes P. Gimenez
Jackie Gonzalez-Cuba
Valrose Graham
Mindy Grimes-Festge
Hon. Keon Hardemon
Malou C. Harrison, Ph.D.
Layla Jaime
Julie Lynn Kantor, M.D.
Ilia Molina, Ed.D.
Laurie Weiss Nuell
Benjamin Nussbaum
Clara Lora Ospina, Psy.D.
Hon. Alex Rizo
Hon. Isaac Salver
Alfred Sanchez
Miriam Soler Ramos, J.D.

David Lawrence Jr.
Founding Chair

James R. Haj
President & CEO

County Attorney's Office
Legal Counsel

8:30 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair

8:35 a.m. **Public Comments**

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair

8:40 a.m. **Approval of September 14, 2026 TRIM I and September 22, 2026 Board/TRIM II minutes summaries** *(Additional Items Packet) (Pgs. 5-7)*

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair

8:45 a.m. **Appreciation for Outstanding Service to The Children's Trust**

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair

8:50 a.m. **Welcome New Board Member**

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair

- *Lesline Anglade-Dorleans, JD Department of Children and Families Designee*

8:55 a.m. **Inspector General Training/Overview**

Felix Jimenez
Miami-Dade County Inspector General

9:10 a.m. **Brand Awareness Campaign Update**

James R. Haj
President & CEO

9:20 a.m. **Finance & Operations Committee Report**

Hon. Norman S. Gerstein (Ret.)
Committee Chair

The public is allowed to comment on a specific agenda item but must register with the Clerk of the Board prior to being allowed to comment.

Consent Agenda Resolutions 2027-01 through 2027-04

Resolution 2027-01: Authorization to renew and execute contracts with two vendors, identified herein, for event planning services related to the 2027 Children's Trust Signature Events, in a total amount not to exceed \$655,000.00 for a term of 12 months, retroactively commencing on October 1, 2026, and ending on September 30, 2027, with three annual renewal options at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust and to waive, in part, the formal competitive procurement process solely as to individual procurements exceeding \$50,000.00 **[2/3 vote]**. *(Pgs. 8-11)*

Resolution 2027-02: Authorization to accept a contribution of up to \$232,420.00 from Miami Beach Education Chamber Foundation, Inc., the fiscal agent for the City of Miami Beach and neighboring municipalities, and to negotiate and execute a contract with Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc., a funded school-based health provider, to provide behavioral health enhancements in eight Miami-Dade County Public School system schools in Miami Beach, at a cost equal to the same dollar amount, for a term of 12 months, commencing retroactively on October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027. *(Pgs. 12-14)*

Resolution 2027-03: Authorization for the payment of membership dues to the Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trusts (FACCT) in an amount not to exceed \$85,000.00, inclusive of training and analytics tools to support public policy initiatives, for a term of 12 months, commencing retroactively October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027. Authorizing The Children's Trust staff to advocate in accordance with FACCT policy priorities, and other related policy priorities that benefit children and families served by The Trust. *(Pgs. 15-17)*

Resolution 2027-04: Authorization to renew services and execute a related agreement with the Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trusts (FACCT) for participation in the Services and Activity Management Information System (SAMIS) in an amount not to exceed \$64,700.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing retroactively to October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027. *(Pgs. 18-19)*

9:30 a.m. **Program Services Committee Report**

Pamela Hollingsworth
Committee Chair

Consent Agenda Resolutions 2027-05 through 2027-10

Resolution 2027-05: Authorization to enter into a match service agreement with Miami-Dade County to support Miami-Dade Public Library System's STEAM-based programming and academic tutoring, in an amount not to exceed \$225,000.00 for a term of 12 months, retroactive to October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027. *(Pgs. 20-24)*

Resolution 2027-06: Authorization to negotiate and enter into a funder collaboration contract agreement with Catalyst Miami, Inc. for Future Bound Miami, a Children's Savings Accounts program, in a total amount not to exceed \$140,000.00 for a term of 12 months retroactive to October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027. *(Pgs. 25-30)*

Resolution 2027-07: Authorization to negotiate and enter into a funder collaboration contract agreement with Miami Homes For All, Inc., to support partnerships to end youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County through service linkage, advocacy, and engagement, in an amount not to exceed \$325,000.00 for a term of 12 months, retroactively to October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027. *(Pgs. 31-36)*

Resolution 2027-08: Authorization to negotiate and enter into a funder collaboration contact agreement with Key Biscayne Community Foundation to support Fab Lab Miami in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 for a term of 12 months, retroactive to October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027. *(Pgs. 37-40)*

The public is allowed to comment on a specific agenda item but must register with the Clerk of the Board prior to being allowed to comment.

Resolution 2027-09: Authorization to execute a match contract agreement with the U.S. Soccer Foundation to support the Soccer for Success program and Just Ball Neighborhood League program components of the Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative, in a total amount not to exceed \$300,000.00, for a term of 12 months commencing retroactively to October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027. *(Pgs. 41-45)*

Resolution 2027-10: Authorization to negotiate and enter into a match contract agreement with Miami Youth Garden, Inc. for the "Well Community Initiative" in a total amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 for a term of twelve months, retroactive to October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027. *(Pgs. 46-50)*

9:55 a.m. **CEO Report**

James R. Haj
President & CEO

- Media Highlights *(Pgs. 51-61)*
- *2026 Spooky Symphony, at the Moss Center's Halloween Event*
Friday, October 23, 2026, 7-9 PM
Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center (The Moss Center)
10950 SW 211 St.
Cutler Bay, FL 33189
- Champions for Children Selection Committee Meeting - November 16, 2026
- Miami Book Fair – November 15-22, 2026
- Champions for Children Ceremony, April 15, 2027

10:00 a.m. **Adjourn**

Reminder:

Next Board Meeting: *Monday, January 25, 2027



**First TRIM Public Hearing
Summary of Actions Taken
September 14, 2026
5:01 p.m.**

These actions were taken by the Board of Directors of The Children's Trust meeting held on September 14, 2026:

***Please note that the number of board members fluctuate based on arrival and departure of some of them throughout the meeting.**

Resolution 2026-54: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Hon. Norman Gerstein and seconded by Dr. Daniel Armstrong. Resolution of The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopting the tentative millage rate for levying of ad valorem taxes for The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida, for fiscal year 2026-2027; and declaring the percentage change in the property tax levy as defined under section 200.065, Florida Statutes; providing for an effective date.

Roll call vote. The motion passed: 27 in favor. None opposed. Judge Scott Bernstein abstained per section 125.901, Florida Statutes. 28 board members were present.

Adopted at 5:28 p.m.

Resolution 2026-55: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Hon. Norman Gerstein and seconded by Dr. Clara L. Ospina. Resolution of The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopting the tentative budget for fiscal year 2026-2027; providing for an effective date.

Roll call vote. The motion passed: 28 in favor, none opposed. None abstained. 28 board members were present.

Adopted at 5:31 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.



**Board of Directors Meeting
Summary of Actions Taken
September 22, 2026
4:46 p.m.**

These actions were taken by the Board of Directors of The Children's Trust meeting held on September 22, 2026:

Please note that the number of board members fluctuate based on arrival and departure of some of them throughout the meeting.

Public Comment – none

Motion to approve June 15, 2026, Board minutes summaries was made by Hon. Norman Gerstein and seconded by Dr. Daniel Bagner. Motion passed unanimously, 21-0.

Motion to approve recommendation from the Nominating Committee to appoint the new At-Large Board member Dr. Julie L. Kantor was made by Dr. Daniel Armstrong and seconded by Laurie W. Nuell. Motion passed unanimously, 26-0.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.



**Second TRIM Public Hearing
Summary of Actions Taken
September 22, 2026
5:01 p.m.**

These actions were taken by the Board of Directors of The Children's Trust at the meeting held on September 22, 2026, with a quorum of members physically present:

Resolution 2026-56: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Hon. Norman Gerstein and seconded by Alfred Sanchez. Resolution of The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopting the final millage rate for levying of ad valorem taxes for The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida for fiscal year 2026-2027; and declaring the percentage change in the property tax levy as defined under section 200.065, Florida Statutes; providing for an effective date.

Roll call vote. The motion passed: 26 in favor. None opposed. Judge Scott Berstein abstained per section 125.901, Florida Statutes. 27 board members were present.

Adopted at 5:15 p.m.

Resolution 2026-57: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Alex Auguste and seconded by Hon. Norma Gerstein. Resolution of The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2026-2027; providing for an effective date.

Roll call vote. The motion passed: 28 in favor. None opposed. None abstained. 28 board members were present.

Adopted at 5:18 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: October 19, 2026

Resolution: 2027-01

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Community Engagement, Awareness and Advocacy: Public Awareness, Outreach and Program Promotion.

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: This investment supports all headline community results.

Recommended Action: Authorization to renew and execute contracts with two vendors, identified herein, for event planning services related to the 2027 Children's Trust Signature Events, in a total amount not to exceed \$655,000.00 for a term of 12 months, retroactively commencing on October 1, 2026, and ending on September 30, 2027, with three annual renewal options at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust and to waive, in part, the formal competitive procurement process solely as to individual procurements exceeding \$50,000.00 **[2/3 vote]**.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$655,000.00 is available in FY 2026-2027.

Description of Services: This resolution authorizes The Children's Trust to renew and execute agreements for event planning services for its annual Champions for Children Awards Ceremony and Family Expo signature events. This resolution authorizes The Children's Trust to contract with the vendors identified below.

Signature Event	Recommended Event Planning Vendor	Funding Not to Exceed
Champions for Children	305 Communications and Events, LLC	\$200,000.00*
Family Expo	Armstrong Creative Consulting, Inc.	\$455,000.00*

**Annual sponsorship campaigns, as well as ticket sales, are designed to make the Champions for Children event fully cost-neutral. Some sponsorship packages bundle Champions and Expo, also reducing the net cost effect of the Family Expo.*

Event Planning for Champions for Children Awards Ceremony – This awards luncheon celebrates inspiring honorees through videos fostering a collective commitment to improving children's lives. Notably, The Children's Trust is reimbursed 100 percent of expenditures for this event through ticket sales and annual sponsorships, ensuring no taxpayer dollars or core program funds are used to support the luncheon. All revenues generated are specifically allocated to cover costs such as venue rental, catering, audio-visual production, and event staffing. This cost-neutral approach reflects The Trust's commitment to fiscal responsibility while maintaining a high-quality event that advances its mission and public engagement. The event has experienced significant growth, with more than 800 attendees in 2026.

The selected vendor is responsible for securing key services in accordance with best business practices in event planning procurement, collaborating with The Trust to develop the event's vision and theme, managing all logistics and vendor communications, and coordinating meal selections and audiovisual needs. Additional responsibilities include procuring, paying for, and overseeing the production of the honorees' videos, managing RSVPs, developing seating charts, and handling on-site parking logistics. The vendor also facilitates online ticket sales and ensures smooth registration on the day of the event, as well as supervises setup, production, and breakdown. The vendor reconciles event expenses and ensures the overall execution aligns with The Trust's mission and vision for the Champions for Children Awards Ceremony.

The vendor's scope of work may include scouting, procuring, and paying for the venue - covered within the total event budget of \$200,000.00 - following current best business practices in procurement that align with The Trust's procurement policies. This includes securing at least three quotes within the limits set by The Trust's procurement policy. Trust staff review the quotes and make the final determination on any procurement of more than \$50,000.00. Trust staff also make the final determination on the event date, meals, and venue location. In the event that a procurement exceeds \$50,000.00, the procurement waiver authority within this resolution will allow Trust staff to select and award bids that best serve the best interest of The Children's Trust. Trust staff will also determine if there is a cost savings by paying the venue or other vendors directly, and if that is the case, this resolution authorizes direct payment by The Trust.

Event Planning for Family Expo - The Children's Trust Family Expo serves as a vital community resource gathering in Miami-Dade County, drawing thousands of families and children each year. The selected vendor manages the planning and execution of The Trust's annual Family Expo event and Pop-Up series, with oversight from The Trust's Communications Department.

The Trust secures corporate and community sponsorships for the Family Expo to partially offset the cost of the event. By leveraging external partnerships, The Trust enhances the scope and quality of the Expo while ensuring the efficient use of public funds and broadening its outreach to families across Miami-Dade County.

The selected vendor is responsible for securing key services in accordance with current best business practices in event planning procurement, collaborating with The Trust to develop the event's vision and theme, and managing all logistics and vendor communications. Trust staff make the final determination on the event dates and venue location. In the event the procurement exceeds \$50,000.00, the procurement waiver authority within this resolution will allow Trust staff to select and award bids that best serve the best interest of The Children's Trust. Trust staff will also determine if there is a cost savings by paying the venue or other vendors directly, and if that is the case, this resolution authorizes direct payment by The Trust.

The selected vendor provides comprehensive event planning services, including managing and tracking exhibitor registration, coordinating all event sponsors, securing venues and all necessary permits and inspections. Additional responsibilities include hiring security,

managing audiovisual services, entertainment and food vendors, producing on-site signage, overseeing all event staff, and coordinating up to 100 volunteers.

Furthermore, the vendor is responsible for all logistical components of the event, including venue coordination, acquisition of insurance documentation from exhibitors, and resolution of any operational challenges that may occur.

The Children's Trust secures sponsorships for the Family Expo to provide additional resources, entertainment, and activities that enhance the events at no cost to The Trust. The vendor reconciles event expenses and ensures the overall execution aligns with The Trust's mission and vision for the Family Expo and Pop-Up Series.

Background: In The Children's Trust's more than 24-year history, community outreach has been a key component to ensure public awareness of the programming and resources available from The Trust. The ability to highlight The Trust's mission and role in the community, to honor those who exemplify this mission, and to bring essential resources and information to the public is critical to the success of The Children's Trust. Community outreach efforts connect funded services, programs, and resources with the children and families of Miami-Dade in an accessible manner.

It is imperative that The Children's Trust ensures the community recognizes that their local property dollars directly fund local impact in the community.

The total funding between the two events is the same as budgeted for the prior fiscal year 2025-2026.

Procurement Policy: On November 18, 2024, The Children's Trust Board approved resolution #2025-16 to release a request for proposals (RFP) for event planning services related to The Children's Trust Signature Events. On February 27, 2025, The Children's Trust released the RFP, and applicants were invited to apply for one or both events. On October 20, 2025, The Children's Trust board approved the funding recommendations from the competitive requests for proposals for event planning services related to The Children's Trust Signature Events, for a five-year funding cycle. This request for approval represents the second contract year in the current funding cycle. Recommendations for renewal are based on successful performance in the first contract year.

Request for Procurement Waiver (requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of board members present): Per the procurement policy, Section 2001, purchase of operational goods and services greater than \$50,000.00 requires a formal competitive procurement process. However, because this resolution is presented to the Board well in advance of the events' dates, and given the fact that some individual costs may fluctuate above the \$50,000.00 threshold due to market conditions or attendance numbers, a partial procurement waiver is requested solely for individual costs exceeding \$50,000.00. This limited waiver would grant staff the authority to select and award bids that best serve the interest of The Children's Trust when an individual cost exceeds that threshold..

Geographic Area: Countywide

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **19th day of October 2026**.

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: October 19, 2026

Resolution: 2027-02

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Health & Wellness: School-based health: nursing and mental health.

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: Regular use of medical, dental, and behavioral health care services.

Recommended Action: Authorization to accept a contribution of up to \$232,420.00 from Miami Beach Education Chamber Foundation, Inc., the fiscal agent for the City of Miami Beach and neighboring municipalities, and to negotiate and execute a contract with Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc., a funded school-based health provider, to provide behavioral health enhancements in eight Miami-Dade County Public School system schools in Miami Beach, at a cost equal to the same dollar amount, for a term of 12 months, commencing retroactively on October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027.

Budget Impact: This item is cost neutral. Funding in the amount of \$232,420.00 is allocated in the FY 2026-2027 budget, expenditure of which is contingent upon receipt of external funding in the same amount from Miami Beach Chamber Education Foundation, Inc. and the City of Miami Beach.

Description of Services: The City of Miami Beach has long prioritized student behavioral health. It has raised funds to staff all eight Miami-Dade County Public School system (M-DCPS) schools in the city with two licensed mental health professionals who:

- promote school-wide wellness initiatives;
- implement protocols that ensure behavioral screenings are administered efficiently and respectfully;
- support identified students and their families by linking them with appropriate clinical interventions and supportive services;
- collaborate with various clinical teams at participating schools and in the community; and
- deliver culturally competent services and support systems.

These services will continue to be implemented through this funding during the 2026-27 school year based on satisfactory performance.

In agreement with The Miami Beach Chamber Education Foundation, Inc., Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc. will provide mental health services on a 5-day rotating schedule, visiting each of the schools below two days in every 5-day period, except for Treasure Island Elementary, which will be visited once every 5-day period. Services on all school days include access to mental health services via telehealth.

Resolution 2027-02 - Health & Wellness, School-Based Health (Private Grant-Cost Neutral)
October 19, 2026

- Biscayne Beach Elementary School
- Feinberg-Fisher K-8 Center
- Miami Beach Senior High School
- Nautilus Middle School
- North Beach Elementary School
- Ruth K. Broad/Bay Harbor K-8 Center
- South Pointe Elementary School
- Treasure Island Elementary School

Background: In 2013, the City of Miami Beach and the Miami Beach Chamber Education Foundation, Inc. spearheaded a health taskforce with several community stakeholders. The city sought guidance from The Children’s Trust, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, M-DCPS, and other school health stakeholders to plan for the health care needs of students attending the eight public schools in Miami Beach listed above.

Once funds were realized to support student behavioral health, The Children’s Trust offered to manage and monitor the services within its currently funded school-based health contract to serve the Miami Beach schools.

The Miami Beach Chamber Education Foundation, Inc. serves as the fiscal agent responsible for collecting funds from all participating municipalities in Miami Beach and dispersing these funds to The Children’s Trust to provide behavioral health services at the eight schools.

During the 2025-26 school year, 300 students received 2,985 services including counseling, consultation, and psychosocial/behavioral assessments. Programmatic highlights include:

- Individual Counseling Sessions: 416
- Behavioral Health Screenings: 226
- Behavioral Health Assessments: 226

Procurement Policy: Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc. was awarded the Miami Beach M-DCPS feeder pattern through a competitive solicitation approved on March 17, 2025, under Resolution #2025-33.

Geographic Area: City of Miami Beach, North Bay Village, Town of Bay Harbor Islands, Town of Surfside, and Bal Harbor Village.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **19th day of October 2026.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: October 19, 2026

Resolution: 2027-03

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Community Engagement, Awareness and Advocacy: Public policy priorities, advocacy and youth civic engagement.

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: This investment supports all community results.

Recommended Action: Authorization for the payment of membership dues to the Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trusts (FACCT) in an amount not to exceed \$85,000.00, inclusive of training and analytics tools to support public policy initiatives, for a term of 12 months, commencing retroactively October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027. Authorizing The Children's Trust staff to advocate in accordance with FACCT policy priorities, and other related policy priorities that benefit children and families served by The Trust.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$85,000.00 for this resolution allocated for FY 2026-2027.

Description of Services: The Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trusts (FACCT) is a statewide non-profit organization whose members consist of ten Children's Services Councils (CSCs) and Trusts:

- Children's Board of Hillsborough County
- Children's Trust of Alachua County
- CSC of Broward County
- CSC of Leon County
- CSC of Martin County
- CSC of Palm Beach County
- CSC of St. Lucie County
- Kids Hope Alliance (Jacksonville)
- The Children's Trust (Miami-Dade)
- The Children's Trust of Escambia County

FACCT serves as the unified messenger for all member CSCs and the interests of the hundreds of thousands of children and families they collectively represent. FACCT develops an annual legislative strategy for effective public policies benefiting children, youth, and families including the following priorities: Two-generational strategies for children and families, out-of-school-time programs, healthy development, children with disabilities, child protection, juvenile justice, and early learning.

The Children's Trust staff plays a vital and active role in statewide advocacy, which includes advocating directly or in conjunction with FACCT. Additionally, success comes from collaborating with other CSCs to pursue a common legislative agenda on issues such as early

childhood education and care, children's safety, health, the child welfare system, and juvenile justice. FACCT is instrumental in facilitating cooperative endeavors among member CSCs. It has made substantial investments and achieved success by allocating resources to evidence-based services. This positions the CSCs to exert meaningful influence on state policies affecting children and families through statewide advocacy and sharing evidence-based literature. Collaborative efforts with state leaders are key in developing a long-term policy plan to strengthen crucial supports and resources for children and families. In this work, FACCT maintains active relationships with leaders in the executive and legislative branches that further the collective work.

FACCT aims to make a difference in children's lives by strengthening and expanding the work and mission of CSCs. Below is a snapshot of FACCT's annual work.

- FACCT hosts weekly meetings with Executive Directors, including key staff members from the CSCs, to engage in cross-community sharing on essential work areas.
- FACCT hosts multiple affinity groups as part of its membership that include Research, IT, Finance, Policy, Programs, Communications, and HR. This cross-section collaboration allows staff to participate in sessions that support problem-solving, innovation, and information sharing to maximize implementation of best practices.
- FACCT serves as a resource for counties to collect information from other CSCs, conduct presentations on the outcomes and impact of CSCs, provide information and advice on procedural items, and more.
- FACCT continues to work with community and state partners and the National Grade-Level Reading Campaign to create a statewide movement to ensure all children read on grade-level by the end of third grade through promoting school readiness and quality instruction, tackling chronic absenteeism, improving summer learning, and engaging parents as their children's first teachers.
- FACCT serves as the technical expert and leader to research and identify opportunities for more effective public policy supporting children's issues.
- During the 2026 legislative session, FACCT was successful on several fronts, including advocating for issues affecting children such as legislation that supported reduced regulatory burdens for the child care industry and creation of a Center for Early Learning Professional Recognition (SB 1690) that was based off of the work of The Children's Trust's Thrive by 5 Quality Improvement System. Additionally, FACCT advocated for key priorities in the approved state budget (General Appropriations Act FY 26-27/HB 5001), which secured funding for early childhood education, K-12 school safety, child welfare, mental health, and substance abuse, as well as family services. It also advocated for clarification on the Tax Incremental Funding issue as it relates to Children's Services Councils in the state's tax package (HB 7031E).

Background: By engaging in and enhancing the collective strengths of the CSCs, FACCT promotes policies that build effective prevention and early intervention systems of support for Florida's children and families. Among other things, FACCT:

1. Provides an umbrella for leadership, coordination, and centralized management.
2. Promotes and supports the needs of children and their families.
3. Advocates at the state level for policy decisions to help children, their families, and their communities.

In its mission to promote policies that build effective prevention and early intervention systems, FACCT focuses on four key areas:

- Advocacy – Advance a prevention and early intervention agenda for children at state and national levels.

- Awareness – Educate local communities, policymakers, businesses, community leaders, and other organizations about the work and worth of CSCs.
- Relationships – Build productive partnerships with individuals and organizations interested in making smart, strategic investments in Florida’s children and their families.
- Expansion – Help communities maximize their return on investment through peer learning, resource maximization, and the establishment of CSCs in additional counties.

FACCT is based in Tallahassee, Florida. Each CSC membership is assessed dues to support FACCT's operating expenses, including FACCT staff salaries and a small proportional share for lobbying services. The Children’s Trust has been a member of FACCT since 2004. The membership fee structure is tiered and calculated based on the total ad valorem revenues collected by each CSC member. The fee structure is as follows:

- Tier 1: Up \$20,000,000.00, fee = \$20,000.00 per year
- Tier 2: \$20,000,001.00 to \$50,000,000.00, fee = \$40,000.00 per year
- Tier 3: \$50,000,001.00 and up fee = \$80,000.00 per year

The 2027-2028 membership dues for The Children’s Trust are \$80,000.00. The additional \$5,000.00 is to join a shared membership for a bill tracking and analysis database and FACCT staff leadership training.

Procurement Policy: Per the procurement policy, Section 2000 – H-8, Exemptions to Formal Competitive Procurement Process, this expenditure for membership dues is exempt from the competitive solicitation process.

Geographic Area: Statewide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **19th day of October 2026.**

THE CHILDREN’S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: October 19, 2026

Resolution: 2027-04

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Learning and Quality Improvement: Technology Design & Solutions

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: This investment supports all headline community results.

Recommended Action: Authorization to renew services and execute a related agreement with the Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trusts (FACCT) for participation in the Services and Activity Management Information System (SAMIS) in an amount not to exceed \$64,700.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing retroactively to October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$64,700.00 for this resolution is available for 2026-2027.

Description of Services: This resolution seeks funding to renew The Children's Trust's participation in the Services and Activity Management Information System (SAMIS) and to add FLEX Enterprise to the existing platform. SAMIS, which is internally referred to as Trust Central, serves as The Children's Trust's centralized platform for managing program, financial, and operational activities. The addition of FLEX Enterprise provides contract management, grants management, customer relationship management (CRM), and the ability to create customizable business process applications as operational needs arise.

Background: The Children's Trust is a member of the SAMIS Collaborative, which refers collectively to the Statewide SAMIS Management Committee (SMC) and the SAMIS Management Group (SMG). The Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trusts (FACCT), the statewide association of Children's Services Councils and Trusts, serves as the SAMIS Collaborative's fiscal agent. Through the Collaborative, which consists of participating Children's Services Councils and Trusts throughout Florida, The Children's Trust uses SAMIS, a shared platform used to manage program and fiscal operations. The existing SAMIS platform includes Fiscal and Delivery modules that support core operational functions.

The addition of SAMIS FLEX Enterprise will expand the capabilities available to The Children's Trust and other Collaborative members. FLEX Enterprise includes ready-to-use modules for contracts management, grants management, and customer relationship management. It also allows each Collaborative member to create and configure an unlimited number of custom business process applications, such as travel requests, timesheets, purchase orders, and event management tools, without incurring an additional fee for each module.

FLEX Enterprise also includes a searchable knowledge base and AI-assisted help desk intended to provide users with faster access to support information. Each Collaborative member retains sole control over and access to its own data and the configuration of its own

applications while also having the opportunity to benefit from tools developed and shared by other Collaborative members. Access to another member's data is not permitted.

Adding FLEX Enterprise increases the annual SAMIS fee from \$32,000.00 to \$64,700.00, an increase of \$32,700.00. However, the expanded platform will allow The Children's Trust to rely less on the separately hosted applications provided by WebAuthor, the software vendor that developed Trust Central as an extension of the SAMIS platform and currently provides related application hosting and support services. As a result, annual WebAuthor fees are projected to decrease from \$120,000.00 to \$42,000.00. The reduction in WebAuthor fees will offset the increase associated with FLEX Enterprise and result in an overall net savings of \$45,300.00 for The Children's Trust, while providing additional functionality and greater flexibility to address future operational needs.

The SAMIS Collaborative's pricing also provides a substantial cost benefit. The retail cost of the FLEX Enterprise add-on is at least \$5,000.00 per month for each individual instance. Obtaining FLEX Enterprise through the Collaborative allows participating members to share the cost of the expanded platform.

Procurement Policy: The software services license payments are being presented for renewal in accordance with the procurement policy, Exemption to Formal Competitive Solicitation Process, H-9, Licenses and Permits for the operation of The Children's Trust. The board previously approved these services, and their renewal allows for the continued operation of The Children's Trust. SAMIS is the shared data collection and management platform used by participating Children's Services Councils, including The Children's Trust. FACCT serves as the fiscal agent for the SAMIS Collaborative.

Geographic Area: The software services in this resolution are available countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **19th day of October 2026.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

Resolution 2027-04 - Learning and Quality Improvement: Technology Design & Solutions (SAMIS and FLEX Enterprise)
October 19, 2026

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

DATE: October 19, 2026

Resolution: 2027-05

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Areas: Community engagement, awareness and advocacy; Funder collaboration initiatives; and Youth development.

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: Academic success; Good choices for prosocial behaviors in schools, homes and communities; and Successful transition to adulthood.

Recommended Action: Authorization to enter into a match service agreement with Miami-Dade County to support Miami-Dade Public Library System's STEAM-based programming and academic tutoring, in an amount not to exceed \$225,000.00 for a term of 12 months, retroactive to October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$225,000.00 is allocated for FY 2026-2027.

Description of Services: The Children's Trust partners with Miami-Dade County Public Library System (MDPLS) through a match project to:

- (1) increase access to the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) program utilizing the Techmobile (formerly Technobus) by providing stops at various high-need communities, and
- (2) increase access to academic tutoring provided by 105 certified teachers across the county.

The newly purchased 39-foot Techmobile, which replaced the previous 37-foot Technobus, will bring instruction and digital services directly to at least 60 locations in high-need communities, providing access to high-tech programming, tools, and projects in a nurturing environment. The Techmobile will continue to offer a rich learning environment with internet access providing its users with popular software applications and offering emerging technologies in areas such as filmmaking, music production, artificial intelligence in media production, and digital drawing workshops. Program experiences include job searching, resume writing, interviewing skills, macro photography, music recording, podcasting, green screens, and software such as Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Logic Pro, and Premiere Pro. Between October 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, the MDPLS Techmobile visited 262 sites, including 81 of The Children's Trust-supported sites, and served more than 950 children and teens at The Children's Trust-supported sites.

This match project also increases access to homework help and tutoring for children and youth. MDPLS pairs certified teachers with small groups of students in person or through one-on-one virtual sessions for students in grades K through 12, promoting literacy and learning with free tutoring in reading, math, and science. Tutoring sessions are currently offered in one-hour in-person group sessions on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the entire year, and in 30-minute one-on-one online sessions on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. during the school year. Since its inception, the program has increased in

demand every year. The program is implemented by 105 part-time tutors (certified teachers) who provided 48,254 tutoring sessions during the period of October 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The program offers tutoring in various subject areas at multiple branch locations, as noted in the tables below.

Library Branch Locations (28 physical + virtual)	
Allapattah	Model City
Arcola Lakes	Naranja
California Club	North Central
Coral Gables	North Dade Regional
Coral Reef	Northeast Dade - Aventura
Country Walk	Palm Springs North
Hialeah Gardens	Shenandoah
International Mall	Sunny Isles
Kendale Lakes	Sunset
Kendall	West Flagler
Little River	Westchester Regional
Main Library	West Kendall Regional
Miami Beach Regional	Virrick Park
Miami Lakes	Zoom Virtual
Miami Springs	

Available Subjects (10)
Reading for Any Grade
Elementary Mathematics
Middle School Mathematics
Pre-Algebra
Algebra 1
Algebra 2
Geometry
Elementary Sciences
Middle School Sciences
Biology

The estimated total cost of the project is \$1,647,472.00. The Children's Trust contributes \$225,000.00, and MDPLS funds the balance. For every dollar The Trust invests in this match program, there is a \$6.32 return on investment.

Background: MDPLS provides services to fulfill Miami-Dade's informational, educational, technological, and recreational needs. The 2.5 million residents of the Miami-Dade Library District service area enjoy access to a collection of more than three million items including physical books, downloadable or streaming eAudio, video and eBooks content, and recurring titles of downloadable digital magazines, music, and music videos, all in a wide variety of formats and languages. MDPLS also maintains a technology infrastructure that provides public access to high-speed Wi-Fi and internet for personal devices, public computer workstations, tablet/ laptop devices, virtual reality, gaming platforms, 3D printers, and a variety of software and hardware that ensure the latest technology is available to the public. MDPLS operates a Main Library, five regional branches, 45 neighborhood branches, three YOUmake Miami locations, two bookmobiles, and the Techmobile computer learning center.

STEAM learning encourages creativity and critical thinking, providing opportunities to support the skills needed to thrive in today's classrooms and workplaces, such as problem-solving, analytical thinking, and working independently. The Techmobile stimulates children's natural curiosity, allowing them a way to explore and learn concepts that will serve them for the rest of their lives. The program is particularly valuable for the children in high-need communities for whom access to state-of-the-art technology is, at best, limited.

Academic support services and tutoring help strengthen subject comprehension, boost confidence, and build essential learning skills through individualized attention. As academic coursework grows more rigorous, parents often seek tutoring services to support their children's achievement aspirations. Often, tutoring services are costly. In response to the need, MDPLS provides tutoring at locations throughout the county at no cost to participants.

Procurement Policy: Per the procurement policy, section 2006 Match Funding and Funder Collaboration, the negotiation and execution of a match contract is exempt from the competitive solicitation process as per section 2000 H-6. Renewal of match and funder collaboration funding beyond the initial contract term is at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust and shall be contingent upon satisfactory performance evaluations, quality program results, outcome achievements, availability of funding, and an ability to maintain the underlying primary funding source(s).

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered **by** _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **19th day of October 2026**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____
SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

Homework Help and Tutoring Program

Impact Report Oct. 1, 2025- August 31, 2026



PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Miami-Dade Public Library System's Homework Help and Tutoring program embodies the vision "enrich and inspire our community through knowledge, creativity and innovation" and exemplifies its mission to "provide extraordinary services, spaces and experiences that promote literacy and learning, personal growth and limitless opportunities." The program promotes literacy and learning by providing certified teachers who meet with students in grades K-12 to provide free homework help and tutoring in reading and math. The Children's Trust enhances the tutoring program through funding which supports increased access to tutoring services. In addition to providing an exemplary benefit to the community, the program inspires all children to a lifelong love of learning and supports student achievement in a safe and nurturing learning environment.



OUTCOMES

October 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026

During its eighth year of operation, the Homework Help and Tutoring Program offered a hybrid model while school was in session to include virtual tutoring services on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and in-person tutoring on Saturdays. In this capacity, the Homework Help and Tutoring Program gave parents different options for tutoring including one-on-one tutoring in reading and math using the Zoom platform and in-library group tutoring. Parents were able to request virtual tutoring appointments for weeknights in 30-minute sessions through an online system. During the summer, in-person group tutoring was offered in 27 participating libraries. During the reported timeframe, the Homework Help and Tutoring Program successfully completed a total of 51,449 tutoring sessions. The breakdown is shown below.

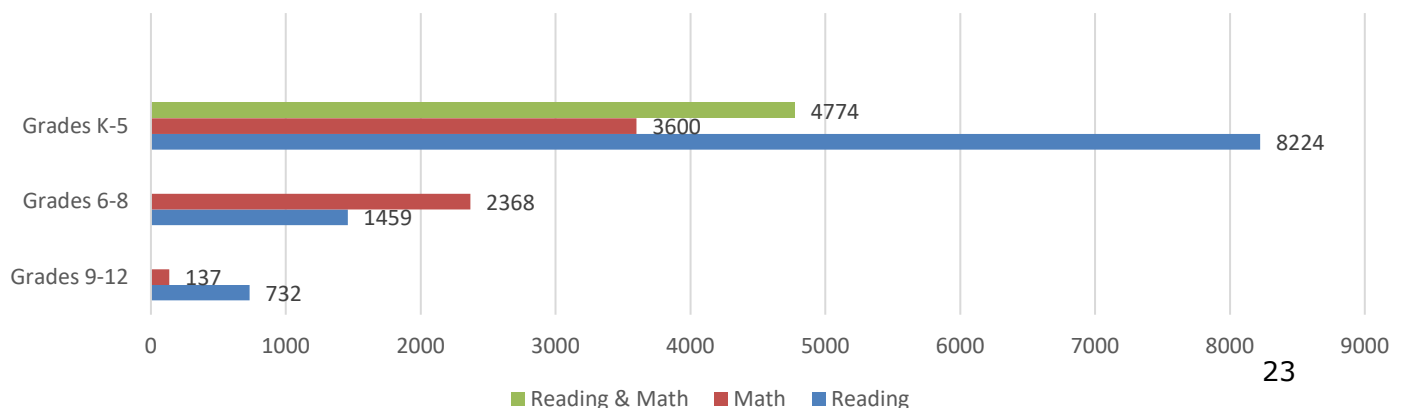
School Year
Wednesdays and Thursdays
online; Saturdays in-person

- **Total Weeks:** 31 weeks (October 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026)
- **In-Person Sessions:** 21,976
- **Online Sessions:** 26,291
- **Total Sessions:** 48,267 completed sessions

Summer
Saturdays in-person

- **Total Weeks:** 8 weeks (June 13, 2026- August 8, 2026)
- **Total Sessions:** 3,182 completed sessions

Online Sessions Completed by Subject & Grade for SY 25-26
10/1/25- 5/28/26



Techmobile Impact Report

Oct. 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026



PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Technobus offered a safe and nurturing environment for young people to learn and experience emerging technologies, multimedia, hardware, and software, while guided by skilled instructors. Patrons had access to high-end Apple MacBook Pro laptops, iPads and cutting-edge technology such as the Adobe Creative Cloud, the Microsoft Office Suite and other software titles. The Technobus also offered digital cameras, audio recording equipment, digital drawing tablets, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Mathematics (STEAM) kits, such as Goobi, Snap Circuits, Cool Circuits and CrunchLabs engineering kits.

During this reporting period, the Technobus began to reach the end of its life cycle due to the age of the vehicle and the difficulty in finding replacement parts for repairs. As the vehicle began nearing the end of its life cycle, the library starting working to procure a new vehicle because it was not cost-effective to maintain the aging Technobus.

In April 2026, the library procured a new vehicle to replace the Technobus and rebranded it as the Techmobile. Like its predecessor, the Techmobile also provides high-quality workshops such as film and photography using digital cameras, audio production, digital drawing using Wacom drawing tablets, resume writing, interviewing skills, basic science and engineering, and 3D printing. The difference between the Technobus and the Techmobile is that the Techmobile provides participants with a more modern design with new features such as high-speed Wi-Fi, a built-in green screen, an outdoor digital television, movable desks, benches, and a mechanical slide-out room that creates a more expansive interior. Other features include removable tables, a closeable rear interior that creates a separate room in the rear of the bus for recording and editing, dual awnings for more shade, a SMART Board, a rear teaching station, exterior speakers, and a wireless microphone system for announcements and workshops. The 39-foot bus is equipped to accommodate 11 students and two instructors.

OUTCOMES

The total number of overall Techmobile stops for the period of October 2025 through August 2026 was 302, and the total overall attendance for this period was 4033, with 462 total overall operating hours. Although the old Technobus suffered from frequent mechanical issues, the library still successfully visited a total of 95 Children's Trust funded service stops, exceeding the benchmark goal of 60 stops for this period. During this period, the Techmobile staffing changed. Two new instructors were brought into the roles as the day-to-day instructors on the vehicle. The new instructors' skillsets supported a new direction with the workshops offered in the vehicle. The new classes included television broadcast, music production, filmmaking, artificial intelligence tools, and digital drawing workshops. The new instructors also provided the youth with opportunities to participate in workshops such as job searching, resume writing, professional development, interviewing skills, macro photography, music recording, podcasting using the Osmo 3 Pocket gimbal camera, Podcaster Studio, green screens, and software such as Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Logic Pro, and Premiere Pro for multimedia production.

Overall Techmobile Totals October 2025 – August 2026

- Total overall Technobus stops: 302
- Total overall attendance: 4033
- Total overall operating hours: 462
- Total overall children served: 1926
- Total overall teens served: 1139

The Children's Trust-funded Visits & The Children's Trust-funded Children & Teens Served

- Total number of CT stops: 95
- Total hours of access to CT programs: 190.5 hours
- Total CT Children served: 932
- Total CT Teens served: 550

Foundational Tools and Positive Impact

During this period, the Techmobile provided exciting opportunities for Miami-Dade children and teens, such as access to multimedia production tools and specialized instructors in a safe, state-of-the-art environment. Youth participated in workshops and activities that expanded their digital literacy, developed their computer skills, critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving as they learned teamwork, creativity and resilience. Throughout this period, they cultivated their skills in using Apple MacBook Pro laptops, iPads, film and audio recording equipment, and cutting-edge hardware and software. They also learned how to use artificial intelligence for research, job searching and multimedia production as well as how to create resumes and do mock interviews as they prepared for the future workforce. During this time, the Techmobile served 1,482 children & teens and completed 95 visits at Children's Trust locations. The Techmobile service has been successful in providing children throughout Miami-Dade with access to technology, instructors and high-end multimedia that most would not have access to without the support of the Children's Trust.

Key Numbers for Children's Trust Locations

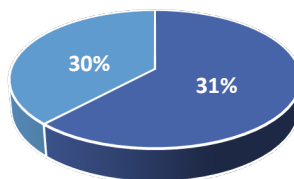
Total Operational Months of Service: 11 months

Participated in Job Searching, Resume Writing & Professional Development:

39 Children 145 Teens

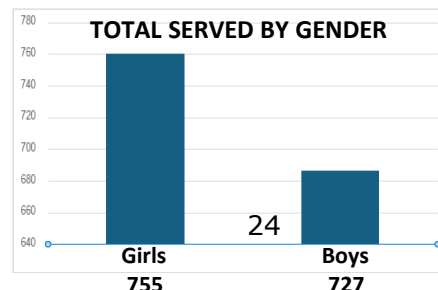
Accessed Computers, Media & Emerging Technologies:

883 Children 476 Teens



Techmobile stops provided access to technology for 30% of **children** and 31% of **teenagers** who did not have access to computers, media and high-end technology at Children's Trust locations.

TOTAL SERVED BY GENDER



The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: October 19, 2026

Resolution: 2027-06

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area Community engagement, awareness and advocacy; Funder collaboration initiatives; and youth development.

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: Academic success; good choices for prosocial behaviors in schools, homes and communities; and successful transition to adulthood

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and enter into a funder collaboration contract agreement with Catalyst Miami, Inc. for Future Bound Miami, a Children's Savings Accounts program, in a total amount not to exceed \$140,000.00 for a term of 12 months retroactive to October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$140,000.00 for this resolution is allocated in FY 2026-2027.

Description of Services: Future Bound Miami is a Children's Savings Account (CSA) program that helps students and families prepare financially for postsecondary education. The program is transitioning from Catalyst Miami, Inc. to the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Foundation, which began co-operating the program in summer 2025.

The Future Bound Miami (FBM) Consortium, a collaborative group of organizations that fund the initiative oversees the program. Its two primary goals are:

1. Educational Achievement: Strengthen students' postsecondary readiness to help reduce the achievement gap.
2. Financial Capability: Help families with low to moderate incomes build financial knowledge and healthy savings habits.

In FY 2026–2027, the FBM Consortium will focus on increasing parent education, participation, and engagement in kindergarten for initial enrollment, and continued financial education in 4th grade and 8th grade as students may be planning postsecondary education. The long-term goal is to activate accounts for at least 50 percent of eligible students each school year. Activation occurs when a parent or guardian approves participation and opens the student's CSA. Districtwide activation rates have consistently exceeded 30 percent and continue to increase.

The Children's Trust proposed FY 2026–2027 investment of \$140,000.00 will support the program's infrastructure, representing a seven percent reduction from FY 2025–2026. Catalyst Miami, Inc. will continue serving as an intermediary to ensure continuity, partner alignment, and accountability while transitioning out of program operations by the end of FY 2026–2027.

Trust funding supports the facilitation of FBM and marketing efforts, as noted below.

- Ten percent of Catalyst Miami's Senior Director of Economic Justice salary to provide the following:
 - In coordination with a program consultant, facilitate monthly FBM Consortium meetings to ensure partner coordination, operational alignment, and decision-making.
 - Provide ongoing technical assistance to M-DCPS and FBM partners focused on implementation, communications, sustainability, and data tracking.
 - Program sustainability transition planning.
 - Fund fringe benefits associated with one staff position.
- Fifty percent of FBM's program consultant's fee, LM Genuine Solutions, LLC, hired by FBM to:
 - Lead coordination with M-DCPS at the district level, including transition planning.
 - Facilitate and support FBM operations. Manage approvals and partner coordination for Year 5 and beyond, with a focus on fund development.
 - Support general fundraising efforts and outreach to new donors.
- Support and maintain access to the VistaShare Outcome Tracker portal for all users and FBM partners.
- Fifteen percent towards Catalyst Miami's indirect costs directly related to FBM; allowable items include accounting, auditing, office management, executive direction, administrative support, administrative office space, website costs, insurance, and payroll administration costs.
- Other budgeted costs in the budget include program supplies, program specific audit, program specific insurance, program evaluation, and advertising.

The Children's Trust remains on schedule to phase out its investment in FBM by FY 2027-2028. This is the final year of funding. As noted in Resolution 2025-09, The Children's Trust has supported the infrastructure of FBM since 2019, and in 2017 through an Innovation Fund grant. The tables below identify FBM's in-kind, cash, and endowment funders for FY 2026-27.

Funder	Investment Type	Funds Purpose	Amount FY 2026-27
EdFed-Educational Federal Credit Union	In-Kind	Deposit and account holder for parent deposits	\$100,000.00
Junior Achievement of Greater Miami	In-Kind	Financial literacy	\$360,000.00
Miami-Dade County Public Schools	In-Kind	Administrative and support staff at school and district levels	\$1,250,000.00
Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center	In-Kind	Focus groups and outreach in Haitian community	\$25,000.00
IN-KIND TOTAL			\$1,735,000.00

Funder	Investment Type	Funds Purpose	Amount FY 2026-27
City of Miami	Cash	Financial incentives for City of Miami resident deposits into the accounts, renewed annually	\$120,000.00
EdFed-Educational Federal Credit Union	Cash	Funds to support program operations	\$28,500.00
Health Foundation of South Florida	Cash	Funds to support program operations	\$30,000.00
The Miami Foundation	Cash	Funds to support program operations	\$20,000.00

United Way Miami	Cash	Funds to support program operations	\$120,000.00
CASH TOTAL			\$318,500.00

Funder	Investment Type	Fiscal Year	Amount
Miami-Dade County	Endowment	2020-21	\$500,000.00
Miami-Dade County	Endowment	2021-22	\$1,000,000.00
Miami-Dade County	Endowment	2022-23	\$1,000,000.00
Miami-Dade County	Endowment	2023-24	\$250,000.00
Miami-Dade County	Endowment Return	2024-25	\$234,793.83
ENDOWMENT TOTAL			\$2,984,793.83

The endowment funds held at The Miami Foundation do not include funding from The Children’s Trust. FBM must expend the funds allocated by Miami-Dade County by 2028.

FBM leverages a total of \$2,053,500.00 in in-kind and cash contributions from its funders. For every dollar invested by The Children’s Trust, FBM leverages \$14.66 in additional funding, excluding the endowment.

Background: Miami-Dade County’s low- and moderate-income families face barriers to economic mobility, and postsecondary education offers a key pathway to greater earning potential. Launched in 2017, FBM addresses these challenges by providing every eligible kindergarten student enrolled in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) with a no-fee savings account. Each account is seeded with up to \$50.00, based on the student’s eligibility for the school lunch program, and grows through family contributions and incentives until the student graduates from high school.

Accounts are opened through the M-DCPS student portal and held at EdFed, the school district’s credit union. Funds may be used for college or technical training. Financial literacy is incorporated into classrooms through “Launch Lessons” and quarterly teacher training sessions, helping build a culture of saving and planning.

Since its 2019 pilot at 30 schools, which opened 278 accounts, the program has expanded to all 220 elementary and K–8 centers, reaching more than 16,000 kindergarten students annually. Activation rates have reached 50 percent in the City of Miami and more than 30 percent districtwide.

The 2025–2026 school year, the fourth consecutive year of implementation across all M-DCPS elementary and K-8 schools, included several notable milestones:

- **School Engagement:** The number of nonparticipating schools this year is 12, up from 8 nonparticipating schools in the prior year.
- **Strong Account Activation:** Opened 4,027 accounts, representing more than 30 percent of eligible students.
- **Family Deposits:** Recorded \$8,737.06 in family deposits during the 2025–2026 school year, bringing total family contributions over the life of the program to \$45,204.86.
- **Targeted Impact:** Achieved higher participation among students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, Black students, Creole-speaking families, and students attending Title I schools.

- High Satisfaction: Parents praised the simple enrollment process and strong support provided by school staff.

School Year	# of Schools Participating	Total # of Accounts Opened with Initial Deposit
2019-20	30*	278
2020-21	30*	1,185
2021-22	78	1,480
2022-23	220	4,991
2023-24	220	5,055
2024-25	218**	4,169
2025-26	217**	4,027

* Located in the City of Miami

**M-DCPS closed two elementary schools in the 2024-25 school year and one additional school in the 2025-26 school year.

Procurement Policy: Per the procurement policy, Section 2000, General Purchasing and Procurement Policy, Exemptions to Formal Competitive Procurement Process (H-6), Match Funding and Funder Collaboration Policy No. 2006 from The Children's Trust competitive solicitation process. The negotiation and execution of a match/funder collaboration contract are exempt from the competitive solicitation process. Renewal of match and funder collaboration funding beyond the initial contract term is at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust and shall be contingent upon satisfactory performance evaluations, quality program results, outcome achievements, availability of funding and an ability to maintain the underlying primary funding source(s).

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted **this 19th day of October, 2026.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

2025-2026 Impact Report

Future Bound Miami is Florida's first universal Children's Savings Account (CSA) program in Miami-Dade County providing families with a free, long-term savings account for their child's postsecondary education. Now, in its 6th academic year, families are eligible to activate a Future Bound Miami account during a child's kindergarten year. When a child's account is activated, the child will receive an initial deposit of up to \$50.

Future Bound Miami addresses the economic challenges facing Miami-Dade County and is a key strategy for achieving a vision of postsecondary attainment. The design team settled on two program goals:

- *Educational Achievement* - Increase postsecondary readiness among students in Miami-Dade County by fostering a postsecondary-bound identity that will help reduce the achievement gap among racial and socioeconomic groups.
- *Financial Capability* - Help low- and moderate- wealth families lead healthier financial lives through financial education and sound savings habits among children and parents.

Program Highlights

Future Bound Miami continued to build on six years of growth while preparing for its next phase. During the 2025-2026 school year, the program expanded its reach and strengthened family engagement across Miami-Dade County. Program successes include:

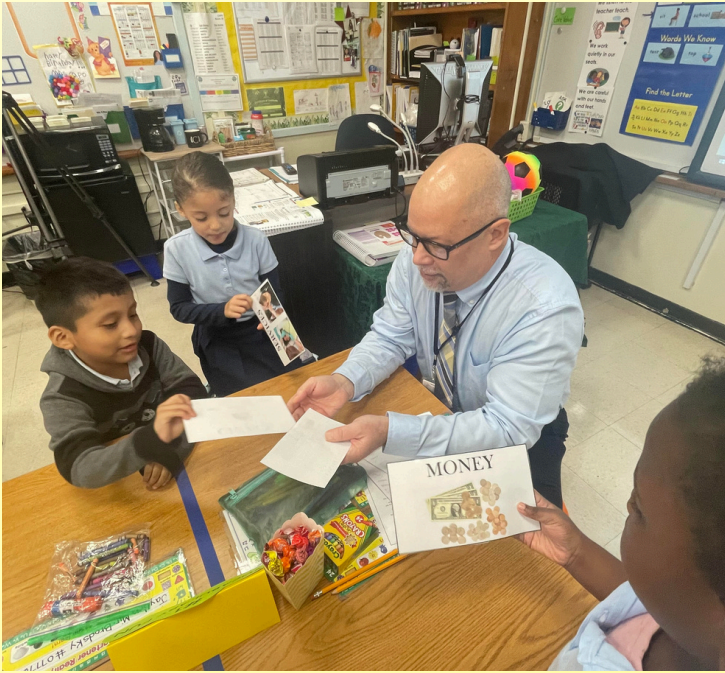
- Surpassed 20,000 Future Bound Miami accounts activated since the program launched.
- Provided financial education to more than 12,000 students during the school year.
- Engaged 452 parents through activities and workshops focused on financial education and college savings.



By the Numbers

As of June 2026, Future Bound Miami has achieved the following:

- Activated 20,827 Future Bound Miami Children's Savings Accounts since 2019, including 4,027 in 2025-2026.
- Reached 217 participating schools across Miami-Dade County.
- Educated 12,224 students through financial education.
- Held 3 teacher and liaison trainings with 187 attendees.
- Engaged 452 parents through 12 parent activities.
- Piloted the first Future Bound Miami Deposit Derby, bringing together family outreach, financial education, deposit support and savings incentives.



Program Evolution

After six years of growth and expansion, Future Bound Miami is entering its next phase. In 2025-2026, the program began transitioning from Catalyst Miami to the M-DCPS Foundation as its permanent home. During the final year of this two-year transition, Catalyst Miami will continue supporting the Foundation to ensure a successful handoff and long-term sustainability. The program will also focus on strengthening relationships with existing families through increased engagement, communications, financial education and savings opportunities. This next phase will build on the strong foundation established over the program's first six years.

Regional Consortium

A Regional Consortium leads the implementation of Future Bound Miami. This consortium acts as a formal advisory board responsible for overseeing and approving the decisions guiding the program, ensuring that each decision is directed by a community-wide vision for all of Miami-Dade's children. Currently, Consortium members include:



The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: October 19, 2026

Resolution: 2027-07

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Community engagement, awareness and advocacy: Funder collaboration initiatives.

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: Academic success; good choices for prosocial behaviors in schools, homes, and communities; and successful transition to adulthood.

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and enter into a funder collaboration contract agreement with Miami Homes For All, Inc., to support partnerships to end youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County through service linkage, advocacy, and engagement, in an amount not to exceed \$325,000.00 for a term of 12 months, retroactively to October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$325,000.00 is available in FY 2026-2027.

Description of Services: This funder collaboration builds upon the foundations of the Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth (HOMY) Collective, which provides a direct service component for homeless youth. It has established Padmission, a web-based platform developed in partnership with the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, to manage property engagement efforts and assist individuals and families in their housing searches. The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust also invests in this platform, which centralizes relationships with landlords, property owners, and managers. The goal is to reduce housing search times and expand housing opportunities for youth and families experiencing housing instability.

For FY 2026-27, Miami Homes for All, Inc. (MHFA) will focus on community education, prevention, and informational services to enhance existing community efforts while addressing identifiable gaps in support. The Children's Trust dollars will support MHFA's youth team and leadership salaries. MHFA staff manage streamlined housing inventory, housing navigation and exit services, and care coordination for youth and families at risk of homelessness or transitioning to permanent housing to support outreach and engagement efforts, the programs require various supplies and marketing materials. MHFA's indirect costs represent 10 percent of its Children's Trust budget.

MHFA collaborates with multi-sector organizations, including (The Homeless Trust, Miami-Dade County, The Children's Trust), to establish a comprehensive system of care. Specifically, this collaboration seeks to:

- Expand and improve a county-wide landlord registry/affordable housing database.
- Develop a county-wide homeless prevention model.
- Improve the housing navigation system to permanent housing options for youth and families exiting the homeless crisis response system.
- Increase tenant readiness for youth and families at-risk of homelessness or exiting homelessness.
- Improve services and systems coordination serving youth and families experiencing housing instability.

- Expand the capacity of youth and family housing service providers.
- Improve and expand the leadership capacity of youth with lived experience of homelessness.

These efforts will be accomplished through the following:

- 1) **Housing Navigation and Preparedness Services:** MHFA will continue to use Padmission by matching youth and families to available units using the centralized system. MHFA currently has a Housing Recruitment Director, a Housing Placement Specialist, and a Youth Placement Specialist to (1) place youth and families in permanent housing, (2) coordinate housing and service providers, and (3) support landlords or property managers.
- 2) **Service Linkage:** MHFA will facilitate referrals of homeless youth for housing placements and services, partnering with Trust-funded Family Neighborhood Support Partnerships (FNSP) providers for care coordination and an established network of community partners. This includes deep collaboration with FNSP providers focused on serving children and youth in high-need neighborhoods and those experiencing trauma, violence, or family disruption. This area of service for MHFA has seen an uptick in the number of youths relying on MHFA for direct support. MHFA aims to continue to break down silos by creating agreements between providers related to housing placements, referral processes, and other issues to serve homeless youth.
- 3) **Youth Leadership Development and Advocacy:** Central to MHFA's work is the leadership and professional development of youth and young adults with lived experience of homelessness. MHFA provides personal and professional development to young leaders so that they can provide insights into systemic issues, co-develop strategies and solutions addressing youth homelessness, and lead initiatives to improve youth outcomes.
- 4) **Coalition Building and Engagement of Youth and Greater Miami Stakeholders:** MHFA will coordinate and improve policies and interventions to prevent homelessness. This structure enables communication and collaboration to create a coordinated community response. Advocacy goals are to facilitate better local collaboration between stakeholders working with youth and families. Youth who have personally experienced homelessness are at the forefront of this advocacy work.

MHFA will continue to manage Padmission, for housing placement, and cultivating cross-sector partnerships. Padmission was officially launched in December 2023; since then, MHFA has provided care coordination services to 755 youth and families placed 149 youth and families in permanent housing, including follow-up services and ensuring no evictions, and have more than 400 tenant-ready properties listed in Padmission. This is a notable achievement considering the extensive documentation requirements that landlords and property managers/owners typically require, such as background screening, bank statements, and employer verification.

Through June of FY 2025-26, 284 youth and families received housing navigation services or rent readiness workshops and 48 were permanently housed and an additional 50 youth who were previously served remained in stable housing, and an additional 94 tenant-ready properties have been listed in Padmission.

As summarized in the table below, MHFA has secured a \$7,283,500.00 match from additional funders. The Homeless Trust has pledged to fund the necessary technology platform and

enhancements for Padmission. For every dollar The Children's Trust invests in this initiative it leverages a return of \$22.27.

Funders	Investment Type	Description	Match Amount
City of North Miami	Cash	Match for Housing 305 and referrals	\$9,000.00
Elevance (SimplyHealth)	Cash	Match for Housing 305 and referrals	\$170,000.00
Hillsboro Continuum of Care	Cash	Match for Youth Leadership and community education	\$110,000.00
Joe and Kathy Curatolo Family Foundation	Cash	Match for Housing 305 and referrals	\$10,000.00
Junior League of Miami	Cash	Match for Housing 305 and referrals	\$6,000.00
Miami Dade County	Cash	Food & Beverage Tax funds towards Right at Home homeless prevention	\$1,000,000.00
Olive Tree Foundation	Cash	Match for Housing 305 and referrals	\$3,500.00
Peacock Foundation	Cash	Match for Housing 305 and referrals	\$10,000.00
Right at Home Homeless Prevention (via Homeless Trust)	Cash	Match for homeless prevention	\$90,000.00
Subtext	Cash	Match for Housing 305 and referrals	\$45,000.00
The Miami Foundation	Cash	Match for General Operations	\$30,000.00
United Way Miami	Cash	Match for General Operations	\$100,000.00
University of Miami's Office of Civic and Community Engagement	Cash	Match for Youth Leadership and community building	\$15,000.00
Homeless Trust: Housing inventory tracking tool	In-Kind	Match for Padmission. Homeless Trust invests for this service and pays for Padmission directly.	\$40,000.00
Right at Home	In-Kind	Match for Homeless Prevention to service providers in Miami-Dade County to support legal services, wraparound services, and financial assistance to residents at-risk of homelessness. Funds will be disbursed AFTER September 2026 via the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust. This is from a private corporation based in California.	\$3,000,000.00

Funders	Investment Type	Description	Match Amount
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (US HUD)	In-Kind	Match for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program - funding towards the youth helpline (Educate Tomorrow) and youth housing (Citrus Family Care Network and Health Council of South Florida). US HUD grants to the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust. The Homeless Trust invests in Educate Tomorrow, Citrus Family Care Network, and Health Council of South Florida to provide programs and services. MHFA is the convener lead and provides technical assistance/coordination to all partner organizations.	\$2,600,000
		TOTAL	\$7,238,500.00

The initiative will continue to work with The Trust's FNSP providers for care coordination, work with community partners to coordinate and improve policies and interventions to prevent homelessness, and enhance access to mainstream services for homeless families.

Background: Youth and family homelessness remains a serious concern in South Florida. During FY 2025–26, the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust served 227 unaccompanied and parenting youth. Many young people also struggle to navigate the multiple systems available to support them. Homelessness disproportionately affects youth of color and LGBTQ+ youth and has been worsened by Miami-Dade County's affordable housing crisis and limited housing options for youth, families, and single adults.

The Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth Collective (HOMY), facilitated by Miami Homes for All (MHFA), brings together agencies and community organizations to prevent and end youth homelessness. With longstanding financial support from The Children's Trust, HOMY has evolved into a multisector initiative focused on reducing service silos and creating a comprehensive, locally designed system of care. MHFA serves as the collaborative's backbone organization.

In fall 2023, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) selected Miami-Dade County's Continuum of Care for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), awarding \$8.4 million. The successful application was built on HOMY's work and infrastructure and co-authored by MHFA's Youth Voice Action Collective (YVAC). MHFA and YVAC subsequently developed the 2024 Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness, which was approved by HUD and the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust. MHFA was selected to lead implementation, which remains underway despite amendments resulting from federal policy changes.

The Homeless Trust also secured approximately \$6 million over three years through Right at Home, a national research and cohort initiative. The funding will support additional matching resources and the development of a countywide homelessness-prevention policy. MHFA will serve as the lead convening agency and provide technical assistance to participating organizations. This work will become a new component of the funders collaborative.

Procurement Policy: Per the procurement policy, Section 2000, General Purchasing and Procurement Policy, Exemptions to Formal Competitive Procurement Process (H-6), Match Funding and Funder Collaboration Policy No. 2006 from The Children's Trust competitive solicitation process. The negotiation and execution of a match/funder collaboration contract are exempt from the competitive solicitation process. Renewal of match and funder collaboration funding beyond the initial contract term is at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust and shall be contingent upon satisfactory performance evaluations, quality program results, outcome achievements, availability of funding and an ability to maintain the underlying primary funding source(s). The Trust has funded this match contract since fiscal year 2022-2023.

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **19th day of October 2026.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

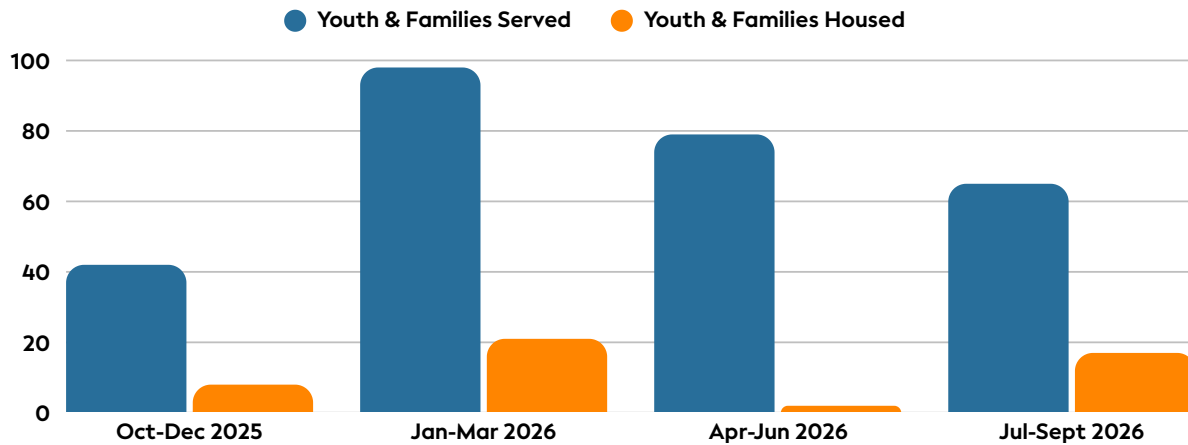
Impact on Youth & Family Homelessness from 2025-26



We ensure youth & families are safely housed by:

- Managing an affordable housing database.
- Connecting youth and families to available, safe housing units.
- Providing rent-readiness workshops to households exiting shelters.
- Collaborate with landlords and property managers to ensure resiliency.
- Improve systems coordination to ensure youth and families exiting homelessness are quickly placed in permanent housing.

Improving the housing ecosystem for youth & families exiting homelessness from Oct 2025 to Sep 2026



284

Youth & Families received housing navigation services or rent readiness workshops

48

Youth & Families were permanently housed through our housing database or access financial assistance. Additionally, we made sure 50 youth and families we previously served remained stably housed.

659

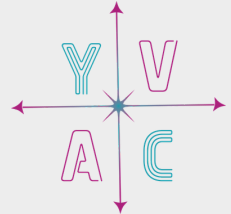
Affordable Housing Units Recruited

94

Landlords & Property Managers Recruited

We build the leadership of youth with lived experience of homelessness! MHFA implements the Youth Voice Action Collective, the youth action board of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, and the only leadership development program for unaccompanied homeless youth. From October 2025 to June 2026, we saw the following outcomes:

- 29 youth secured part-time or full-time employment or are attending post-secondary educational institutions.
- 49 youth were civically engaged.
- 43 youth participated in leadership development activities.



We build consensus to improve coordination of systems and services to support youth and families!

- MHFA is the lead convener for the Miami-Dade Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, a county-wide plan to address youth homelessness, and the Right at Home homeless prevention model, a county-wide effort to prevent homelessness.
- Provides technical assistance to service and housing providers to improve data collection, services implementation, and housing services. This includes technical assistance to 2 transitional housing providers and 1 coordinated entry agency.



From left to right: the YVAC table at community events to engage other formerly or currently homeless youth. YVAC members have presented or attended statewide or national conferences regarding homelessness or housing policies.

From left to right: our team is oftentimes present on move-in days for our youth and family participants. We provide them with welcome home kits (home essentials). Additionally, MHFA convenes system mapping sessions and facilitates working groups to improve homeless services or policies.



Powered By:



The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: October 19, 2026

Resolution: 2027-08

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Community engagement, awareness and advocacy; Funder collaboration initiatives; and Youth development.

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: Academic success; Good choices for prosocial behaviors in schools, homes and communities; and Successful transition to adulthood.

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and enter into a funder collaboration contact agreement with Key Biscayne Community Foundation to support Fab Lab Miami in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 for a term of 12 months, retroactive to October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 is allocated for FY 2026-2027.

Description of Services: Fab Lab Miami offers engaging programming in underserved neighborhoods, allowing youth to play, create, learn, mentor, and invent at innovation lab locations they call "makerspaces." Students work in the following areas: 3D printing, vinyl cutting, laser cutting, coding, robotics, electronics, science experiments, and design software. In these classes, participants find solutions to challenges and bring their ideas to life. The program utilizes local professionals to help youth connect activities relevant to STEAM academic courses and future careers.

Fab Lab Miami, originally launched as a mobile program, now operates two permanent makerspaces at Belafonte TACOLCY Center in Liberty City and the Phichol Williams Community Center in South Dade. The program partners with Trust-funded organizations, Belafonte TACOLCY Center and Gang Alternative, Inc. Access to these full-time makerspaces is offered free of charge to youth participating in host programs and to those from programs in the surrounding communities.

Fab Lab Miami serves as a technical and curriculum partner to Overtown Youth Center, training staff on their lab management and digital fabrication tools and repairing makerspace equipment as needed. In addition to site-based programming, Fab Lab Miami partners with a range of after-school and summer programs and schools to deliver its signature six- to nine-week curriculum through on- and off-site workshops. As demand grows, the program is expanding its mobile STEAM offerings to reach cohorts unable to access the permanent sites.

To maintain the Fab Lab Miami ecosystem, the program implements its Fab Lab Miami Network which includes: 1) identifying and onboarding nonprofit partners who will host digital fabrication labs open to their youth participants and those from outside programs and schools; 2) training and supporting the nonprofit partners to manage a fabrication lab and expand programming; 3) developing and implementing STEAM curricula and certification(s) with educational partners; and 4) creating a pipeline of digital fabrication professionals by mentoring students from participants to professionals.

Fab Lab Miami will continue partnering with Florida International University (FIU) as the network's educational service provider. FIU offers staff training, lab design consultation,

micro-credential opportunities, and staffing support. Minds of Tomorrow will provide programming quality control and instructional coaching across sites.

Proposed Trust funding within this resolution will sustain Fab Lab operations at the Belafonte TACOLCY Center, Phichol Williams Community Center, as well as network-wide technical, administrative, training, and financial support.

In addition to The Children's Trust, the funders in the table listed below have committed support for Fab Labs in Liberty City, Overtown, Homestead, and the Fab Lab Network for FY 2026-2027. For every dollar The Children's Trust invests in this funder collaboration, there is a \$2.00 return on investment.

Funder	Use of Funds	Amount
Fa Bene Foundation	• Liberty City Fab Lab - general operations	\$32,000.00
Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation	• South Dade Fab Lab – general operations • Fab Lab Network – operations	\$223,000.000
Himan Brown Charitable Trust	• Fab Lab Miami Network	\$50,000.00
Key Biscayne Community Foundation Donor Advised Funds	• Liberty City Fab Lab - general operations • Fab Lab Miami Network	\$70,000.00
Kirk Foundation	• South Dade Fab Lab – general operations • Fab Lab Miami Network	\$25,000.00
Total		\$400,000.00

Background: Fab Lab Miami is an effort led by the Key Biscayne Community Foundation to expand access to STEAM for children in Miami-Dade's underserved neighborhoods. The Children's Trust has funded this project and its expansion for the past seven years, totaling approximately \$1,100,000.00. It is anticipated that new Fab Labs will come on board as new sites are identified in future years, and new funding is available for expansion.

Procurement Policy: Per the procurement policy, Section 2000, General Purchasing and Procurement Policy, Exemptions to Formal Competitive Procurement Process (H-6), Match Funding and Funder Collaboration Policy No. 2006 from The Children's Trust competitive solicitation process. The negotiation and execution of a match/funder collaboration contract are exempt from the competitive solicitation process. Renewal of match and funder collaboration funding beyond the initial contract term is at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust and shall be contingent upon satisfactory performance evaluations, quality program results, outcome achievements, availability of funding and an ability to maintain the underlying primary funding source(s).

Geographic Area: Countywide

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **19th day of October 2026.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

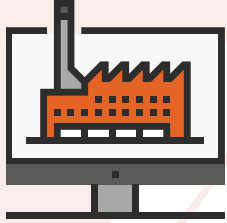
SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____



FAB LAB MIAMI

IMPACT REPORT 2025-2026



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Miami-Dade youth in under-resourced neighborhoods too often lack access to hands-on STEAM learning and the digital fabrication tools shaping tomorrow's careers. Fab Lab Miami closes that gap — empowering youth to explore STEAM through maker-driven learning so they can play, create, learn, mentor and invent. This year, that mission reached further than ever: two community-hosted lab sites, a mobile fabrication lab, and a growing bench of partner organizations across Liberty City, South Dade, and beyond.

620

STUDENTS SERVED
IN 2025-2026

134

STUDENTS SERVED
DURING THE SUMMER

TWO SITES, ONE GROWING NETWORK

In 2025–2026, Fab Lab Miami completed its transition to a network model: community organizations now host and operate their local labs directly, with Fab Lab Miami providing training, curriculum, equipment, and quality oversight. This builds a more scalable, sustainable model for STEAM access across Miami-Dade.

- MIAMI CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
- CHARLES R. DREW K-8 CENTER
- HOLMES ELEMENTARY
- TOUCHING MIAMI WITH LOVE
- MIAMI PAL
- CRISTO REY MIAMI HS
- DAVID LAWRENCE JR. K-8 CENTER
- GANG ALTERNATIVE SOUTH DADE
- CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS
- TOUCHING MIAMI WITH LOVE
- BRANCHES HOMESTEAD
- BELAFONTE TACOLCY CENTER

A YEAR OF IMPACT

Black History Month Inventors Showcase

Students researched a Black inventor and their contribution to American life, then used the Fab Lab's laser cutter, 3D printer, coding and electronics tools to design their own reimaged or upgraded version of that invention.

Miami Maker Faire

In April, Fab Lab Miami brought 48 students to the Miami Maker Faire, where they saw robotics demonstrations and professional maker builds, and connected their own fabrication skills to real-world applications.

Celebrating Community, One Fabrication at a Time

End-of-year programming gave students a chance to celebrate what they'd built. Miami Central High School seniors used digital and analog fabrication to design their own graduation stoles, while Gang Alternative cohorts at South Dade designed and laser-cut wood plaques to celebrate Father's Day and Juneteenth.

82%

STUDENTS CONFIDENT
USING DIGITAL FABRICATION /
MAKERSPACE TOOLS

78%

STUDENTS CONFIDENT
WORKING WITH PEERS ON
STEM PROJECTS

80%

INCREASE IN STUDENTS
WANTING MORE ADVANCED
STEM ACTIVITIES

THANK YOU TO OUR SITE PARTNERS & FUNDERS



The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: October 19, 2026

Resolution: 2027-09

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Youth Development: After-School Programs; Community Engagement, Awareness & Advocacy: Funder Collaboration Initiatives.

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: Academic success; healthy lifestyle habits for eating, sleeping, physical activity and mental wellness; good choices for prosocial behaviors in schools, homes and communities; and successful transition to adulthood.

Recommended Action: Authorization to execute a match contract agreement with the U.S. Soccer Foundation to support the Soccer for Success program and Just Ball Neighborhood League program components of the Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative, in a total amount not to exceed \$300,000.00, for a term of 12 months commencing retroactively to October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$300,000.00 is available in FY 2026-2027.

Description of Services: Building on the excitement surrounding the 2026 FIFA World Cup, hosted in part in Miami-Dade County, and the longstanding partnership between the U.S. Soccer Foundation and The Children's Trust, the Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative continues to create a lasting soccer legacy across the community. The initiative expands access to quality programming and safe places to play for youth in underserved neighborhoods. Funding from The Children's Trust supports Soccer for Success and Just Ball Neighborhood League components of the initiative. The amount of funding that goes into each program is based on enrollment.

Just Ball Neighborhood League: Just Ball is a fun, inclusive pick-up soccer program facilitated by community coach-mentors ("Playmakers"), serving ages 12 to 18 from under-resourced communities. The program emphasizes creativity, mentorship, youth development, and healthy competition. In addition, the countywide Just Ball Unity Cup brings neighborhood teams together for a festival-style day of celebration, fun, and tournament play.

In fall 2025 and spring 2026, The Children's Trust funding supported the implementation of the Just Ball Neighborhood League at 32 sites, serving 9,653 youth in grades 5th to -12th from under-resourced communities. To prepare Playmakers to deliver the program, Just Ball hosted six training opportunities across the program year – two-in person and four virtual. Ongoing technical assistance was also provided to local partners throughout the year.

On May 9, 2026, The Children's Trust and U.S. Soccer Foundation celebrated the program year at the Miami Unity Cup alongside adidas, Griffin Catalyst, Telemundo, and Colgate. Across six small-sided fields, hundreds of Just Ballers, their families, and Playmakers filled the park, ready for a day of play and friendly competition—with 874 total attendees, including 250 youth participants.

Resolution 2027-09 – Funder Collaboration Budget – Match Contract –U.S. Soccer Foundation
October 19, 2026

Soccer for Success: This evidence-based model for sports-based youth development for K – 8th grade youth occur after school annually for two 12-week seasons, with programming delivered three days per week.

Mini-pitches: Trust staff and U.S. Soccer Foundation staff identified sites for 50 mini-pitches with funding from Griffin Catalyst as part of the broader Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative. As of July 2026, 37 pitches have been installed, with the remaining 13 to be completed by the end of 2026.

The proposed budget allocation remains the same as the amount awarded in FY 2025–2026. The U.S. Soccer Foundation will provide \$250,000.00 in unrestricted funds and has secured an additional \$50,000.00 from private partners to support the program’s growth and enhancement in Miami-Dade County. Matching cash contributions include:

FUNDER	Investment Type	Funds Purpose	Amount
Adidas	cash	Programming	\$50,000.00
U.S. Soccer Foundation	cash	Programming	\$250,000.00
		Total	\$300,000.00

For every dollar invested by The Children’s Trust, U.S. Soccer Foundation leverages \$1.00 in match funds.

Background: Since Fall 2017, the U.S. Soccer Foundation and The Children’s Trust have partnered to support community-based organizations implementing the evidence-based *Soccer for Success* program. Since then, through Spring 2026, more than 57,000 youth from under-resourced communities across Miami-Dade County have been engaged through *Soccer for Success* and *Just Ball* with the support of more than 600 trained coach-mentors. In the most recently completed program year, 89 percent of participating youth identified as Black, Hispanic, or multi-ethnic, and 79 percent qualified for free or reduced-price lunch.

The expansion of Soccer for Success and Just Ball, and the increase in safe places to play have created a continuum of opportunities for youth to enjoy and benefit from soccer programming. There is a special emphasis on multiple opportunities for middle school-aged youth—an especially critical time for physical, social, and emotional well-being, which also coincides with the time that youth tend to reduce their levels of physical activity. Additionally, former *Just Ball* participants can be trained to become Playmakers.

Procurement Policy: Per the procurement policy, section 2006 Match Funding and Funder Collaboration, the negotiation and execution of a match contract is exempt from the competitive solicitation process as per section 2000 H-6. Renewal of match and funder collaboration funding beyond the initial contract term is at the sole discretion of The Children’s Trust and shall be contingent upon satisfactory performance evaluations, quality program results, outcome achievements, availability of funding, and an ability to maintain the underlying primary funding source(s).

Geographic Area: Countywide

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **19th day of October, 2026.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____



Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative: Creating Healthy Kids and Strong Communities



Building on the excitement surrounding the 2026 FIFA World Cup, hosted in part in Miami-Dade County, the Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative is creating a lasting soccer legacy across the community. Through a partnership between the U.S. Soccer Foundation, The Children's Trust, Griffin Catalyst, and local organizations, the Initiative expands access to quality programming, safe places to play, mentorship, and positive youth development for youth in under-resourced neighborhoods. Together, we're helping thousands of young people access the support they need to thrive — creating healthier, more connected communities, and more opportunities for kids to experience all the benefits that come with playing the world's game.



Soccer for Success

Designed for children in grades K-8, our Soccer for Success is offered at no cost to participants and their families. Our partnership with The Children's Trust is delivered after-school by trained coach-mentors using a curriculum that helps children improve their physical, social, and emotional skills and overall well-being. Through our primary local partner, FLIPANY, 800 children were served through this evidence-based program this year.

72%

OF YOUTH GREW ACROSS KEY SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILLS THIS YEAR —
OUTPERFORMING NATIONAL BENCHMARKS FROM OVER 500,000 PEERS

THIS YEAR, YOUTH GREW IN:

- ✓ Confidence and motivation to learn
- ✓ Empathy and social connection
- ✓ Managing emotions and behavior
- ✓ Belief in their own success at school



By the Numbers:

2025-2026

10,000+

YOUTH ENGAGED

46

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING SITES

7

LOCAL PARTNERS

228

PLAYMAKERS &
COACH-MENTORS

99%

OF PLAYMAKERS AND COACH-
MENTORS REPORTED
IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR SKILLS
AND ABILITY TO MENTOR LOCAL
YOUTH





Just Ball →

Just Ball is a hyper-local neighborhood soccer league that prioritizes fun, inclusion, and belonging, using mini-pitches and other community hubs as home base for play. The league provides fair, balanced, and equitable access to soccer by breaking down barriers — like transportation and cost — that often stand between kids in under-resourced communities and the chance to play. Launched in Miami in Fall 2023, Just Ball has grown year over year, serving over 9,600 local youth in the 2025–2026 program year alone!

9,653

YOUTH ENGAGED
IN JUST BALL

208

PLAYMAKERS

90%

OF JUST BALLERS
FELT HAPPIER

81%

OF JUST BALLERS
FELT LESS STRESS

97%

OF PLAYMAKERS
INCREASED
UNDERSTANDING OF
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

95%

OF PLAYMAKERS
IMPROVED MENTORING
SKILLS



250 + 180 + 444 = LASTING MEMORIES

YOUTH
PARTICIPANTS

PARENTS

FAMILY
MEMBERS



Just Ball Unity Cup

On May 9, the U.S. Soccer Foundation and The Children's Trust celebrated the Just Ball season with a special celebration event alongside adidas, Griffin Catalyst, Telemundo, and Colgate — bringing together 874 attendees for a youth-led, pick-up-style soccer tournament that encouraged creativity, self-expression, and fun while connecting young people from across the county. Participants, parents, family members, and community members and vendors enjoyed an action-packed day of local food, music, and soccer-themed activations, along with a freestyle performance and clinic led by 17-time Guinness World Records holder Laura Biondo — embodying the spirit of Just Ball, where soccer brings communities together and youth take the lead.



The U.S. Soccer Foundations mission is to provide underserved communities access to innovative play spaces and evidence-based soccer programs that instill hope, foster well-being, and help youth achieve their fullest potential.

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

October 19, 2026

Resolution 2027-10

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Community engagement, awareness and advocacy: Funder collaboration initiatives.

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: Academic success; good choices for prosocial behaviors in schools, homes and communities; and successful transition to adulthood.

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and enter into a match contract agreement with Miami Youth Garden, Inc. for the "Well Community Initiative" in a total amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 for a term of twelve months, retroactive to October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$150,000.00 is available in FY 2026-27.

Description of Services: This match contract partially funds the multi-faceted support and resources onsite at faith-based centers in high-poverty neighborhoods. The "Well Community Initiative (WCI)," facilitated by Miami Youth Garden, Inc., works to transform neighborhoods by empowering every aspect of the lives of children and families in marginalized communities in Miami-Dade County. This collaborative initiative, in partnership with several community organizations, establishes and operates hubs at churches and other faith-based sites for non-religious programming. The program addresses the essential needs of neighborhood families, including affordable housing, access to organic fruits and vegetables, urban food gardening, health, nutrition, safety resources, employment and education support, and after-school and summer programming for children and youth.

For fiscal year 2026-2027, the initiative will continue to provide an array of services at hubs located at churches in some of Miami-Dade's most economically challenged ZIP codes. Through each hub, the initiative offers a comprehensive array of services to address the fundamental needs of families in these neighborhoods. After-school and summer program services focus on science, technology, reading, engineering, agriculture, art, and math, integrating an urban gardening curriculum, culinary courses, technology, tutoring, and reading support. Qualified and certified educators lead academic components. The initiative also focuses on family empowerment, supporting families through accessible job training programs, access to early childhood education, financial management training, affordable housing opportunities, and first-time homebuyer programs to promote long-term stability and independence. Health and safety are also a priority, with the hubs focusing on student and family well-being through access to health screenings, mental health counseling, vaccinations, food distribution, vegetable-based culinary classes, monthly farmer's markets, and access to health services.

Additional services from existing Trust-funded initiatives such as Family and Neighborhood Support Partnerships, Pediatric Mobile Services, and Parenting Programs will continue to be leveraged to support these hubs.

Funding partners for the FY 2026-27 in this endeavor are noted in the table below, investing a total of \$285,000. For every dollar The Children's Trust invests, the Well Community Initiative leverages \$1.90 in match dollars.

Funder	Use Of Funds	Amount
Collective Empowerment Group	General operations	\$10,000.00
Community Contributions	Empowerment, Health & Safety coordination	\$35,000.00
Enterprise Community Partners	Housing and church site pre-development	\$150,000.00
Girl Scouts of America	After-school programming & troop expansion support	\$15,000.00
Key Biscayne Community Foundation	Programming & Staff Training & Equipment	\$45,000.00
The Carrie Meek Foundation	After-school programming & operations	\$30,000.00
Total		\$285,000.00

Background: The "Well Community Initiative" facilitated by Miami Youth Garden, Inc. is founded on the principle that unless a community's health, education, housing, food, and ethical developmental needs are addressed, generational poverty deepens. The neighborhoods selected for the initiative have among the highest number of people living at or below the federal poverty level in Miami-Dade. As the housing and affordability crisis in Miami-Dade increases, families face unprecedented challenges with accessing the resources necessary to transform their lives. This has been exacerbated by the housing crisis in Miami-Dade County.

Since its inception, and thanks in part to previous support from The Children's Trust through Capacity Building/Small CBO initiative and Community Engagement grant funding, the Miami Youth Garden, Inc. mission began in 2012, by providing summer and after-school academic programming for children ages 5 to 18.

Miami Youth Garden, Inc. operates 10 community gardens, providing students with hands-on experience in urban gardening. The program maintains a 15:1 student-to-teacher ratio, employs qualified teachers, and provides tutoring, homework assistance, and specialized programming.

During the 2025-26 fiscal year, Miami Youth Garden facilitated an after-school program that served a cohort of 14 girls in grades 2 through 5. Ninety-three percent of the participants showed improvement in oral reading fluency. With funding from The Children's Trust, they also provided summer programming for more than 160 students, incorporating support from 38 teen interns. With community engagement support from The Children's Trust, the Well Community Initiative expanded its network of service providers to reach neighborhood residents and ensure needs are met. Some of the additional providers partnering with Well Community Initiative include Girl Scouts of America, St. Paul AME Miami, Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, New Birth Baptist Church, Sweet Home Academy, and New Jerusalem Primitive Church. The expanded partnership with Thunder and Lightning Bikers Club included a July Back-to-School event where the Well Community Initiative distributed academic support materials for K-12 graders, reaching approximately 200 youth and their families.

Procurement Policy: Per the procurement policy, section 2006 Match Funding and Funder Collaboration, the negotiation and execution of a match contract is exempt from the competitive solicitation process as per section 2000 H-6. Renewal of match and funder collaboration funding beyond the initial contract term is at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust and shall be contingent upon satisfactory performance evaluations, quality program results, outcome achievements, availability of funding, and an ability to maintain the underlying primary funding source(s).

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **19th day of October 2026.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

MIAMI YOUTH GARDEN, INC.
Wellness Community Initiative
Final IMPACT REPORT 2026



Miami Youth Garden, Inc.'s (MyG) Wellness Community Initiative (WCI) is an organization collaborative designed to transform neighborhoods through the empowerment of children and families living in Miami-Dade County's most marginalized communities. WCI leverages partnerships with community organizations and funders to create WCI Hubs at local faith centers. WCI Hubs provide high quality education in tandem with leadership development for youth while addressing the health, housing, food, and economic needs of the whole family. Through these collaborative partnerships MyG fulfills the WCI mission of breaking the cycles of poverty through its four-pronged model: S.T.R.E.A.A.M. Education, Family Empowerment, Health and Safety, and Leadership Development.

OUTCOMES

Funder Collaboration Partner Meetings

WCI funder collaborative is critical to the fulfillment of the WCI mission. We continue to build our network of funders. Across partner meetings there were 29 in attendance with agendas ranging from Fab Lab requirements, mission progress reviews, and elements outlined for new MOU's.

Total Partner Meetings: 5

New Funding Partner: Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida, Inc.

WCI Funder Meetings: New Shiloh Lab Site Visit (Aug. 11), Funder Collaboration Meeting (June 29), Key Biscayne Foundation (June 4), Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida (July 25), Collective Empowerment Group (May 12).

After-school Program at

Bethel Apostolic Temple/Carrie P. Meek K-8 Education Center

In partnership with Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida, Inc. (GSA), the after-school program consists of a cohort of young girls immersed in an intensive academic and leadership development program. All students became Brownies and Juniors upon enrollment and are fully incorporated in GSA programming, like weekly meetings, cookie sales and camping.

Total Students Served: 15

Grades: 2-5

Attendance Rate: 87%

Total Staff Orientation & Trainings: 2

Student Learning: 93% reading improvement

Summer Programming

WCI summer camps provided STREAAM education, integrating subjects like reading, math, science, and art, alongside gardening and health education. In addition, WCI cultivated additional community gardens in Miami-Dade neighborhoods challenged by poverty and divestment.

Total WCI Sites: 4 + New Shiloh

Total Students Served: 160

Grades: pre-K – 5

Attendance Rate: 85.3%

Perfect attendance: 36 students

Total Staff Orientations & Trainings: 3

Student Learning: 84.3% reading improvement

Total Gardens Cultivated: 10

Family Empowerment

To increase access to economic resources, the WCI Collaborative introduced families to programs providing opportunities to purchase affordable housing, participate in first time homebuyer workshops, and workforce training programs.

Faith Centers in Pre-Development Stage: 2

Anticipated Groundbreaking of affordable housing units at Faith Community Baptist Church in 2026. Expected completion is Fall 2027.

- 75 families introduced to program and applied for units
- 37 families eligible for homebuyer & financial literacy workshops

faithplacevillage.com

Health & Safety

WCI collaborative partnerships with community organizations increase residents' access to health and support services, including Trust-funded Family and Neighborhood Support Partnerships (FNSP) to families and access to affordable organic foods.

People introduced to Trust Services: 160

Partner Collaborators: Jesse Trice CHS-26 health screenings, Thunder and Lightning MC, Ransom Everglades Schl & Joshua's Heart Foundation

Food Distributions: Jan 19 -MLK Day – 200 families

-Jul. 25 School Readiness & Community Health Fair -180 families

Bethel Back-to-School Supply Giveaway (Aug 9) - 20 families

Leadership Development

Seed to Harvest (STH) leadership development workshops were facilitated by MyG staff for the benefit of our high school interns. Instruction reinforces healthy communities by developing students' independence, interdependence, servant leadership, and stewardship.

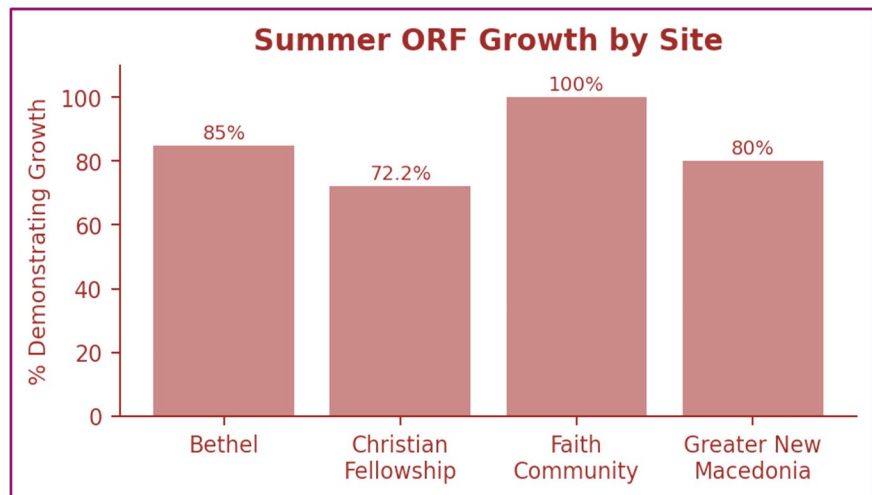
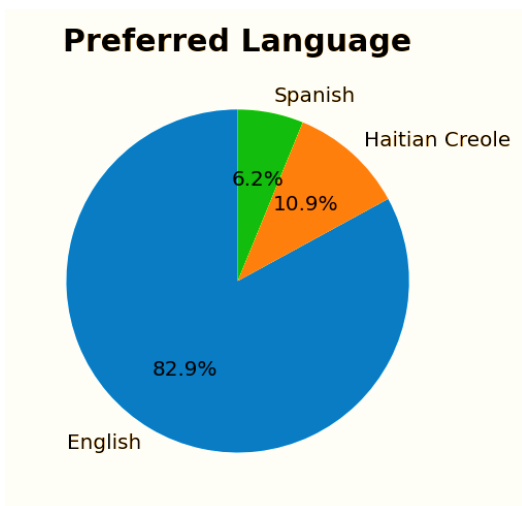
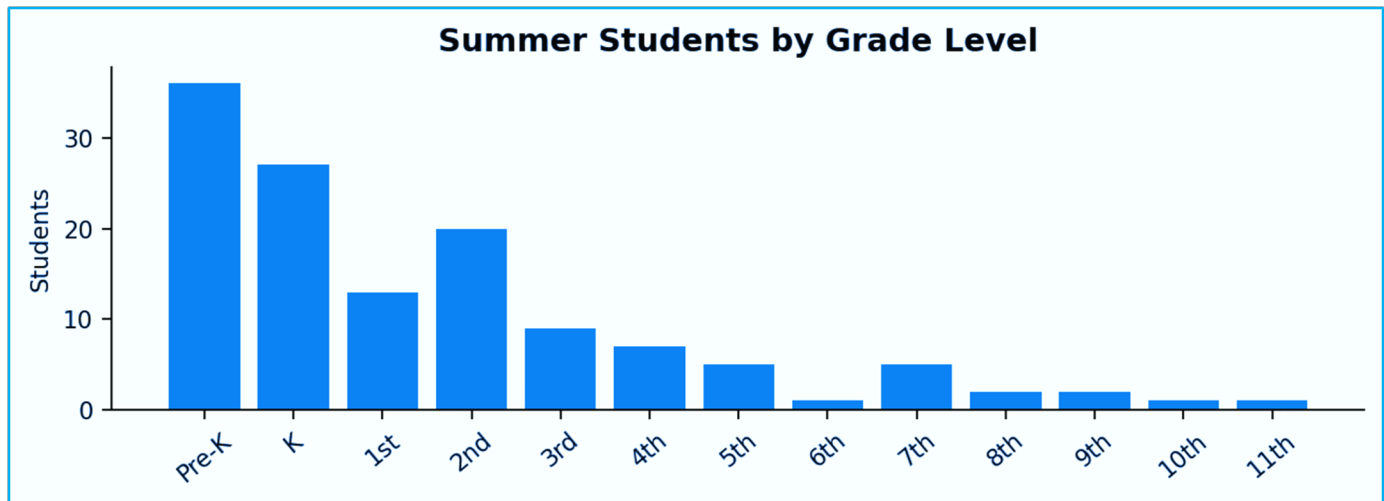
Total STH Instructors Trained: 6

Total STH Youth served: 38; STH Graduates: 33

Improvement in Leadership Effectiveness: 82%

Grades Served: 9 -12

VISUAL STATISTICS





Media Highlights
July – September 2026

The Miami Times

Pages in the Park brings early literacy to Miami-Dade playgrounds

Miami Times Editorial Team Sep 29, 2026 Updated Sep 29, 2026



A new initiative is bringing early literacy activities to Miami-Dade County playgrounds, giving children and families opportunities to read, talk, play and learn together during everyday park visits.

The Children's Trust, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, and Uplift Literacy celebrated the official opening of Pages in the Park on Sept. 23 during National Literacy Month with a ceremonial unveiling at Ruben Dario Park.

The initiative incorporates literacy activities into the outdoor spaces where families already gather. Colorful educational signs, movement-based activities and conversation prompts encourage children and caregivers to read, talk, write, sing and play together.



"For years, The Children's Trust Book Club has helped thousands of children discover the joy of reading by putting books directly into families' hands. Pages in the Park builds on that success by bringing literacy into the places where children already play and explore," said The Children's Trust President and CEO James R. Haj. "By turning everyday park visits into opportunities to read, talk and learn together, we're helping children develop the skills and confidence that support lifelong learning."

Each Pages in the Park installation includes five to six colorful, interactive signs positioned throughout a playground. Activities and prompts encourage children and families to build vocabulary, practice recognizing letters, tell stories and develop foundational skills that support learning to read.

Activities range from letter hunts to listening for sounds in nature, turning park visits into opportunities for discovery and learning. The installations are designed to encourage curiosity and interaction between children and caregivers while demonstrating that learning can take place during outdoor play.

"Pages in the Park is about making literacy visible and accessible in the places families already spend time, creating more opportunities for children to practice the skills that

will help them become strong readers,” said Aileen Sanchez Gonzalez, executive director at Uplift Literacy.

Christina White, director of Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, said parks provide a setting for families to spend time together and described the initiative as a way to incorporate learning into those spaces.

“We know that parks are where children and families gather to spend meaningful time together. Introducing Pages in the Park transforms these spaces into living learning experiences,” White said. “We look forward to seeing this program continue to grow through the parks system.”

The installations are currently available at four Miami-Dade County parks: Oak Grove Park, Ruben Dario Park, Westwind Lakes Park and J.L. and Enid Demps Park.

The initiative is intended to create additional opportunities for children and families to engage with language, storytelling and print-rich environments in accessible settings.

The Children’s Trust, Uplift Literacy and Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces plan to expand Pages in the Park to additional parks across the county in the coming years.

MDC Homestead Microbiology Girls Club Marks 10 Years

Staff Writer Jun 26, 2026 Updated Jul 1, 2026 0



MDC Homestead's Microbiology Girls Club Summer group hard at work.

Miami-Dade College Homestead Campus

For six weeks each summer, a group of young women from Miami-Dade County high schools trade textbooks for lab coats, pipettes and microscopes.

This summer marks the 10th annual Microbiology Girls Club Summer Camp at Miami Dade College's Homestead Campus, a six-week program that introduces students in grades 7 through 12 to hands-on laboratory science, STEM mentorship, college readiness, financial literacy and wellness activities.

The 2026 camp runs from June 15 through July 24 and includes 24 participants from seven Miami-Dade County high schools. The program is funded by The Children's Trust and led by M. Nia Madison, professor of microbiology and Health Foundation of South Florida Endowed Teaching Chair at MDC Homestead.

"I'm excited and proud to facilitate the program every summer, particularly this summer in our 10th year," Madison wrote in a welcome letter to participants.

Over the past decade, Madison has helped guide more than 400 undergraduate and high school research interns through her programs. The Microbiology Girls Club has become one of the campus's key efforts to help young women see themselves in science and prepare for college-level STEM opportunities.

Each weekday from 10 a.m. to noon, students work in the undergraduate microbiology laboratory on MDC Homestead's campus. The curriculum includes aseptic technique, brightfield microscopy, differential staining, biochemical testing and an unknown bacterial identification project. Later lessons introduce eukaryotic biology, including fungi, parasites, algae and protozoa, as well as experiments involving baker's yeast, blood typing and urinalysis.

The program concludes July 24 with research poster presentations and an awards luncheon for participants and their families.

In addition to lab work, the camp takes students beyond the classroom through field trips tied to science and environmental careers. This summer's schedule includes visits to Atlantic Sapphire Bluehouse Salmon in Homestead, the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and the Miami Waterkeeper Floating Classroom at Black Point Marina. A visit to the UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center is also part of the program schedule.

Mentorship is another major part of the camp. During daily lunches, students hear from professional women working in STEM fields, including researchers, engineers, professors and graduate fellows. Over the course of the six-week program, participants are introduced to 30 women at different stages of STEM careers.

Afternoon workshops expand the focus beyond science. This summer's topics include goal setting, time management, entrepreneurship, college preparation, financial literacy, authorship, mindfulness, mental health, social media branding, artificial intelligence, chemistry, computer science, art and dual enrollment pathways. EdFed also partnered with the program for a financial literacy series that includes a simulated Financial Reality Fair.

Each day ends with physical activity, with options that include puppy yoga, ballet, line dancing, reggae and dancehall, salsa, soca, calypso, merengue, Tai Chi, Qigong, volleyball, lacrosse and self-defense.

Program alumni often return to MDC Homestead as dual enrollment students, already familiar with the campus, the labs and the expectations of college-level science courses. Some also return as mentors for younger students.

Through support from The Children's Trust Youth Development Grant, Madison is already recruiting for the 11th and 12th annual Microbiology Girls Club programs.

For application information, contact Madison at: mmadison@mdc.edu

COMMUNITY NEWS | FEATURED | MIAMI-DADE COUNTY | NEWS | STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The Children's Trust 18th Annual Family Expo Welcomes Thousands for a Day of Back-to-School Resources and Family Fun



BY HYLONEWS
AUGUST 6, 2026

COMMENTS 0



From school supplies and educational programs to health services and family fun, the annual event helps Miami-Dade families prepare for the new school year.

Thousands of Miami-Dade County families gathered on August 3rd for the 18th Annual The Children's Trust Family Expo, the county's largest free back-to-school family resource event. Bringing together thousands of parents, caregivers, and children under one roof, the Expo provided a one-stop destination for families to prepare for the upcoming school year with free resources, essential services, and a full day of family-friendly entertainment.

Hosted at the Miami-Dade County Fair & Expo with both indoor and outdoor experiences, the Family Expo featured over 100 exhibitors representing after-school programs, health care providers, nonprofit organizations, and community partners. Families connected with organizations offering educational resources to help families prepare for the start of the 2026-2027 school year.





“The Family Expo is a trusted tradition for Miami-Dade families, bringing together the resources, services, and support children need to thrive in school and beyond,” said James R. Haj, president & CEO of The Children’s Trust, in a press statement. “As we celebrate the Family Expo’s 18th year, we’ve expanded opportunities for families to learn, connect, and prepare for the future. From collecting school supplies and participating in interactive activities to exploring college and career readiness resources, the Family Expo offers something for every family at every stage of a child’s educational journey.”

Throughout the day, children enjoyed interactive experiences including face painting, balloon artists, character appearances, food trucks, and hands-on activities like the new Scavenger Hunt that encouraged attendees to explore the Expo while collecting stickers to complete their event map. Also new this year, the College Readiness section provided teens and their families with guidance and resources to help them explore

postsecondary pathways, including college, trade school training and direct entry into the workforce.



The Family Expo continues to serve as one of Miami-Dade County's signature community events, connecting families with trusted organizations and resources that support children's health, education, safety, and overall well-being throughout the year.

The event was made possible through the generous support of community partners, including Gold sponsors, EdFed Credit Union, Pediatric Skin Research, UHealth Children's Care Jackson, and Nicklaus Children's Hospital. Silver sponsors are Baptist Health, The Miami Herald, El Nuevo Herald, Uber, and Webauthor.com.

This is a Hy-Lo News Staff Report.