



CIS of Miami Receives \$200,000 from Bank of America

The **Bank of America** Charitable Foundation is donating more than \$2.8 million in unrestricted funding to 14 Florida nonprofits through its Neighborhood Excellence Initiative. Communities In Schools of Miami, Inc. was one of two local recipient of the Neighborhood Builders award category. In recognition of Communities In Schools of Miami's commitment and leadership in the Miami community, it will receive \$200,000 in unrestricted funding, and the opportunity for the executive director and an emerging leader to participate in a strategic leadership development program with other nonprofit leaders from 45 communities in the U.S. and London.



“Bank of America’s investment in our agency is a treasured vote of confidence in our ability to make a difference in the lives of our youth who are the future leaders of Miami Dade county. I cannot be more grateful for this support, and I look forward to the leadership training that will help strengthen our capacity,” said Elizabeth Mejia, Executive Director.



Miami Dolphins Opens Fitness Center for Kids

The Miami Dolphins and the National Football League (NFL) have been long time partners to Communities In Schools of Miami, Miami Dade Parks and Recreation, and Boys and Girls Clubs of Miami through their commitment and support of the NFL Youth Education Town (YET), an after school and summer camp center located in Gwen Cherry Park in Liberty City. The NFL YET offers educational, recreational, and sports programs to hundreds of children in Miami through year-long

programming.

Communities In Schools of Miami is responsible for all the educational services, while Miami Dade Parks and Recreation and The Boys and Girls Clubs of Miami deliver the sports and recreation components. Together, all three partners ensure that students receive all the support they need to succeed academically and in life. The NFL is a firm believer in providing safe places for children to receive both sports and educational programming.

The Miami Dolphins latest contribution to the NFL YET program is the donation of a Fitness Center for children. The fitness center is equipped with state of the art exercise equipment. Community leaders, Miami Dolphin players Akin Ayodele and Donald Thomas, and representatives from all three organizations participated in the Grand Opening Celebrations on October 27th.

Making Healthy Choices: Promoting Health Awareness

“Drugs are an epidemic which is currently plaguing the people of our nation. Drugs do not discriminate” wrote Yetsania Flores the first prize essay winner from School for Applied Technology. Communities In Schools of Miami has devoted much of October to addressing health issues and health choices with students. In addition to substance abuse awareness, CIS has offered workshops on breast cancer and auto safety. “Addressing the health needs of our students and helping them make healthy choices in their lives is one important step towards helping them to succeed in school,” stated Elyssa Arroyo, Program Coordinator.



Through a grant by State Farm Insurance students are conducting educational campaigns in their school on the importance of auto safety among teens. Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens according to the Center for Disease control.

After students participated in a workshop about teen driving a poster contest was held by Communities In Schools of Miami. Ms. Ana Zelaya, student from COPE South, won the first prize for her poster on the danger of texting and driving.



Governor Crist Declares November Communities In Schools Awareness Month

Governor Charlie Crist recently issued a Proclamation declaring November as Communities In Schools Awareness Month. “Whereas reducing the trend of school dropouts requires increased awareness...and Whereas Communities In Schools is committed to providing every child with a caring adult, a safe place to learn and grow, a healthy start and a healthy future, a marketable skill to use upon graduation, and an opportunity to contribute to their peers and community...” proclaimed Governor Crist in support of the work Communities In Schools has done for Florida’s children for the past 25 years.

The Board of Directors of CIS of Florida thanked all the local affiliates’ board, staff, volunteers and partners for their support of the critically important work of helping children improve their academic achievement, stay in school, graduate and prepare for life.

During this month, we ask all of our supporters and volunteers to help us raise awareness of our work. Share your stories and testimonials on the effect of CIS of Miami in the schools and in the lives of our students. Every year, over 4,000 students are touched by CIS of Miami. Visit our website to learn more and help us spread the word by including us as your *cause* on your Facebook and other social media that you use.

Communities In Schools of Miami is funded in part by The Children's Trust.

Get Your Super Bowl Tickets and Support Communities In Schools of Miami

Super Bowl is coming to Miami on February 7, 2010 and Communities in Schools of Miami has your tickets! A pair of tickets is up for bid. Bids are being accepted at info@cismiami.org. Please indicate Super Bowl Bid on the subject line. The highest bidder will be notified in January. All proceeds will benefit the after school and summer programs at the NFL Youth Education Town program in Liberty City.



Communities In Schools of Miami is funded by private and public grants and individuals. The Children's Trust, Volunteer Florida, NBC Universal Foundation, and Miami Dade County are major funding partners. Other sponsors include Wachovia Bank, Publix Charities, Carnival Foundation, Gibraltar Bank, SF Golf Foundation, Peacock Foundation, Roblee Foundation, Kramer Foundation, Miami Dolphins, Florida marlins, State Farm Insurance and BJ's.

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