



Communities  
In Schools

Miami



*John Legend Joins CIS Efforts to Help Students to Stay In School*

### John Legend - CIS New Celebrity Spokesperson

The Communities In Schools national office has teamed up with Proctor & Gamble and signed Grammy-winning musician John Legend as a celebrity spokesman for a nationwide Communities In Schools campaign. Legend will star in a :30 TV spot airing this summer and related public events. The centerpiece of the campaign is the P&G Brandsaver, a monthly coupon package distributed to 58 million homes. P&G will be offering a cash contribution to the Communities In Schools national office for every coupon redeemed.

### It Takes Two Gala a Huge Success

More than 175 people attended our annual fundraising gala and helped to raise nearly \$55,000. These funds allow Communities In Schools of Miami to provide the services needed to empower 4,000 students to achieve in school and prepare for life. Thank you to all of the attendees, our key sponsors, Carlton Fields - Attorneys at Law and Gibraltar Private Bank & Trust, Co., and all the local businesses and vendors who supported our auction by donating many exciting items.

As a follow up and to understand and improve the things that work, CIS has partnered with two University of Miami Marketing Professors to research several aspects of the gala announcements and invitations. **The link below will take you to a short survey and your response will be immensely helpful to us as we plan for our next function. We value your opinion and appreciate your help.** [http://miami.qualtrics.com//SE/?SID=SV\\_OrpHoMXwoL5dZVa](http://miami.qualtrics.com//SE/?SID=SV_OrpHoMXwoL5dZVa)



We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



*End of School Smiles!*

### **After School Program End of Year Celebration at MRM**

The Miami Rescue Mission Community Activity Center Afterschool Program and Communities In Schools of Miami held their annual End of the School Year Award Ceremony for 2010-2011. Attendees were treated to wonderful performances, skits and songs performed by the school children, as well as awards for various achievements such as spelling bees, reading goals, and other academic successes.

The end of year event "...Is a great opportunity to celebrate the children and the things they have accomplished over another year of education," said LaCandise Grate, Miami Rescue Mission's Community Activity Center Coordinator. "They put a lot of hard work into everything from reading to their other studies, and this is something fun to showcase their efforts."

### **Two Miami Edison Seniors Awarded Gates Millennium Scholars Scholarships**



The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) announced that the nation's largest scholarship program, the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program, has awarded good-through-graduation college scholarships to 1,000 students for 2011. The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence by providing thousands of outstanding students who have significant financial need the opportunity to reach their full potential. The scholarships can be used to pursue degrees in any undergraduate major at the accredited college or university of the recipients' choice.

Two **Miami Edison Senior High School** seniors, Kervins Delphonse and Geraldine Placide, were awarded GMS Scholarships worth \$300,000 to any university in the United States. The GMS Program also provides recipients with leadership training, mentoring, and academic and social support as well as financial support for undergraduate through advanced degrees. The program has a six year graduation rate of 90% (45% higher than the national graduation rate for all students) and comparable to the rates for students from high-income families. A total of seven GMS were chosen in Miami Dade County, and we are proud that students from one of our partner school was among the recipients.



## **Dolphins Help Open First Ever Virtual Fitness Arcade at the NFL YET**

Dolphins Cheerleaders and the team's official mascot, TD, were on hand at the grand opening of the new Youth Health and Fitness Arcade at the NFL's Youth Education Town (YET) program at Gwen Cherry Park, where CIS of Miami provides its after school and summer camp programming. One of the classrooms at the NFL YET was made over to provide an interactive fitness and gaming experience where children can play virtual reality games, while they exercise their bodies.

"As childhood obesity is emerging as one of our nation's top public health threats, Miami-Dade Parks remains committed to the goal of empowering youth to get fit and healthy," said MDPD Director Jack Kardys.

The facility contains eight game bikes that are equipped with consoles/game controls for monitoring the participant's exercise progress on virtual excursions that run the gambit from biking and automobile racing to hill climbing and All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) games. "Through such innovative recreational programs as this, that combine exercise and virtual interactive games, we hope to encourage children to increase their physical activity and find enjoyment in developing a healthier lifestyle," said H.T. Smith, Esq., Chairman for the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation, a MDPD partner that also supports funding efforts for the Center.

Opened in 1996, The NFL YET at Gwen Cherry Park is a result of the NFL's commitment to enhance the lives of at-risk youth in cities that host the Super Bowl. The third of its kind in the nation and the only NFL YET in Miami-Dade County, the 22,000-square-foot facility contains computer areas for robotics learning, arts and crafts, and fitness. MDPD operates the facility and collaborates with its partners Communities In Schools of Miami, Boys & Girls Club of Miami, the Miami Dolphins, former NFL players, and the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation for daily programming. Communities In Schools of Miami services for this site are partially funded by The Children's Trust, Miami Dade County, and Volunteer Florida – The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, and the Miami Dolphins.

