



MEN GIVING BACK
SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY



2023 Men Giving Back

Mid Year Update



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SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY

To the Members and Community of Men Giving Back:

It has been a unique and exciting start to 2023 for Men Giving Back! Our record grant awards from the November Golden Ball Giveaway Event have translated into real accomplishments for our 14 Finalists and Large Grant Recipients. We thought we would share some of these with you:

MEN GIVING BACK 2022 LARGE GRANT WINNERS:

Faulk Center for Counseling



The Faulk Center for Counseling is honored to partner with Men Giving Back South Palm Beach County as a 2022 Grand Prize Recipient in support of our no-cost mental health counseling services for children and adolescents. Through the targeted philanthropy of Men Giving Back, we are now able to expand the scope and reach of our Schools Preventive program to ensure that students are provided the tools they need to to succeed in school, develop healthy relationships with family and friends, and grow into confident, productive adults. The already fragile mental health of students in our community has continued to decline in the face of the pandemic and its aftermath. Financial support from Men Giving Back is ensuring that the clinical resources are in place for students to fight back.

The Schools Preventive program is a collaborative partnership between the Palm Beach County School Board and the Faulk Center for Counseling. Through this program, Faulk Center student-clinicians provide onsite, no-cost group mental health counseling during non-academic time to at-risk students at partnering Palm Beach County elementary, middle and high schools. Funding from Men Giving Back will allow us to increase our clinical capacity to take on four (4) additional schools in the designated geographic area of South Palm Beach County and provide regular mental health services to over 40 unduplicated students who otherwise would not have access to care. So far this year, we have been able to begin services at SLAM Boca (Boca Raton) and Crystal Lakes Elementary (Boynton Beach) serving 19 unduplicated students. Additionally, communications are in place to bring on Morikami Elementary (Delray Beach), Citrus Cove Elementary (Boynton Beach), and Carver Middle School (Delray Beach) in the Fall of 2023. These schools will be in addition to the 11 schools in South Palm Beach County who currently participate in our program and add to the over 215 unduplicated students already being served this school year through weekly group counseling.

Good mental health is essential for children and adolescents to learn effectively. Students who have poor mental health may have trouble focusing in school, struggle with concentration, and find it difficult to remember important information. Mental health issues such as anxiety and depression can also lead to absenteeism, which can impact academic performance and result in lower grades. By addressing these issues in a consistent, professional and caring manner, we can dramatically increase self-esteem, confidence, and the resilience of students in our community. Thank you Men Giving Back of South Palm Beach County for choosing to address this vital need and being a partner in the success of these students to ensure they succeed.

Jonathan Price, CEO
Faulk Center for Counseling

Toby Center

Dear Members of Men Giving Back,

I hope this finds you all doing very well!

The Toby Center is so very grateful to Men Giving Back SPBC for being awarded one of your three larger grants. It's an honor to be partnered with such a prestigious and generous organization. Your outreach within South Palm Beach County is truly helping to enrich so many lives and present incredible opportunities for nonprofits to continue with their important and powerful work.



The Toby Center had a very successful meeting last week with several important members of the Department of Behavioral and Mental Health for the Palm Beach County School District. We discussed our vision for the Buddy Lunch Pilot Peer Support Group and Project PaTch. It was terrific!

We are finalizing the curriculum for the training and providing other information requested for both programs and then we're looking forward to signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the School District. We're very proud of the progress we've made in terms of having such a significant meeting and being able to present our important vision.

The Toby Center believes that our Buddy Lunch Pilot Peer Support Group will be very successful and hopefully become a regular program in many public schools within South Palm Beach County. Thanks to this grant, we are hoping that the therapeutic services we will be providing for families through Project PaTch, will open the door for The Toby Center becoming a regular service provider for this school district. This way, we will continue to improve and enrich the lives of so many children and families.

Thank you again, to all of the amazing members of Men Giving Back SPBC, for your kindness, your generosity of spirit, and for being in our corner throughout this process!

You are all valuable members of Team Toby!!

Stay well!

Warm regards,

Leslie Gebaide
Business Development Coordinator
The Toby Center for Family Transitions

HabCenter

HabCenter serves adults with lifelong disabilities and other special needs. Our mission is to provide a wide range of comprehensive, individually tailored services to enable our clients to learn, maximize their potential live fulfilling and joyful lives, and foster the opportunity to become productive, contributing members of the community. Every day, our team focuses on empowering the human spirit and encouraging the full potential of our clients. With life skills, education, and training, and recreational programming, high-level vocational training, a supported employment program, and mental and behavioral health counseling, HabCenter clients improve their independence and thrive.

The Men Giving Back (MGB) grant is transformational for the clients and the Center. The new MGB Therapy program focuses on South Palm Beach County residents and allows us to directly assist with

reducing isolation and increasing mental well-being for individuals with developmental, physical, and psychological disabilities. We've created new individual and group therapy sessions, supported by hiring an exceptional new social worker. As part of the mental health services, clients participate in Programs in Education, Arts, and Recreation (PEAR). MBG funding created a new Basketball program that provided sporting equipment and uniforms for HabCenter Hoppers and Cheerleaders. Additionally, they provided resources to implement new PEAR programming using adaptive diagnostic reading and mathematics programs to improve clients' skills.

To date, 52 evidence-based (Glasgow Anxiety Scale for People with Intellectual Disability, Glasgow Depression Scale, Beck Anxiety Inventory, and Beck Depression Inventory) assessments have been performed of which 34, South Palm Beach County residents met the threshold for inclusion into this program. Surprisingly, the Social Services Team discovered that clients who did not outwardly display typical signs of anxiety or depression had significant symptoms on psychometric testing. People with disabilities are often ostracized by society, and 85 percent of our clients have experienced abuse and neglect. The MGB Therapy Program has brought a sense of renewed hope for these clients, boosted their self-esteem, strengthened their community, and enhanced their ability to share their struggles and the resulting emotional impact it has had on their lives. For example, Jonathan has been withdrawn for several months, after an unsuccessful job attempt. He has been resistant to taking part in work or activities at the Center. After testing his level of depression he was encouraged to participate in both, individual and group counseling. He immediately felt that he can relate to others who had experienced depression, and he opened up in individual counseling about his experiences with trauma. It was evident that his depression decreased significantly even after just beginning the MGB therapy program. Johnathan also began to take part in activities at the Center. Eye-opening!

We are so excited that MGB provided the vehicle that this client needed to improve his mental health.

Bob DiRocco
President and CEO
HabCenter

MEN GIVING BACK 2022 FINALISTS

Boca Helping Hands

Dear Men Giving Back,

Thank you again for your \$10,000 grant toward the Boca Helping Hands' BHH Backpacks Program, which helps to alleviate childhood food insecurity in southern Palm Beach County. With your assistance, we have been able to provide meals for students at 12 elementary schools and 1 middle school on the weekends, when they don't have access to the free breakfasts and lunches that they receive at school during the week. We wouldn't be able to meet the need of these kids without the visionary leadership and support of philanthropists like Men Giving Back.

As inflation continues to stretch families' budgets, we've been seeing increased need for all of our food-assistance programs, including BHH Backpacks. Originally projected to serve as many as 1,650 students in 2022-2023, 1,659 students have participated in our weekend meal program this year so far - and we still anticipate distributing weekend meals to as many as 400 kids at nonprofit partner agencies over the summer. With 2 ½ months left of the school year, we have already provided more than 210,000 meals to food-insecure kids at schools in Boca Raton, Delray Beach, and Boynton Beach, benefiting not only their health and development but also helping to improve their school readiness and performance. We appreciate Men Giving Back's contribution toward this program, which has both immediate and long-lasting impacts on the children whom we serve.

We're so grateful for your support of Boca Helping Hands, our fellow nonprofits, and the work we're all doing to help those struggling the most in our community.

Anna Campitelli Rubenstein
Associate Director of Development
Grant Manager

George Snow Scholarship Fund



To the Membership of Men Giving Back, South Palm Beach County:

I wanted to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for the amazing opportunity your grants have given to those less fortunate in our community. Your funding has made far-reaching, profound, and positive impacts for so many.

As you know the George Snow Scholarship Fund was fortunate to receive a \$10,000 grant during your 2022 grant cycle. I wanted to update your membership on what we have accomplished, to-date, to ensure that your funding will help one of the most deserving students in South Palm Beach County reach their dream of a higher education.

Since November 1st, our selection process has received over 1,000 applications for our awards. We had over 100 volunteer readers review and score each and every application. In the coming days we will use those scores to determine the 250+ students we will interview for our 2023 scholarships. During those interviews those applicants will be ranked, and a need analysis will be conducted to establish each candidate's unmet financial need. From there, we will allocate your grant to the most worthy applicant.

Please mark your calendars for our June 3rd Awards Reception which will take place at Lynn University's World Performing Arts Center. During this ceremony your representative will present your recipient with their Men Giving Back Scholarship.

Please know that we cannot do what we do without the support of amazing organizations like Men Giving Back, South Palm Beach County.

Thank you very much and we look forward to the 2023 grant process.

With Great Gratitude,

Tim Snow, President
George Snow Scholarship Fund

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse

Dear Men Giving Back,

AVDA is deeply appreciative of the grant awarded to us to help make sure children are safe and secure in their homes. This goes to the core of our mission which is to offer life-saving services while promoting violence-free, equitable relationships and creating the social changes necessary to end domestic and dating violence. We thank you for your support.

Between April and December, AVDA has a total of 6 women and their combined 10 children that will be moving out of our transitional living program, Casa Vegso, after their two-year stays. The adult participants have been working with AVDA staff to help them attain economic self-sufficiency and plan for their immediate future once they leave Casa Vegso. Funds from your grant will be utilized to help families with costs associated with moving into their new safe living locations.

Again, we thank you for your compassion and your support.

Gratefully,

Pam
Pam O'Brien, MSW, JD
President & CEO

In Jacob's Shoes

Dear Members of Men Giving Back South Palm Beach County,

Thank you for the very generous 2022 grant in support of In Jacob's Shoes. We are so grateful for the \$10,000 donation which helped us to provide shoes, socks, backpacks and school supplies to children in need living in South Palm Beach County. Most of these children live in poverty; some are homeless or living shelters; some are in foster care and others have special needs - all are in need. Your support allowed us to provide these children with the essential tools so they can go to school prepared and with dignity,



With your assistance, we provided shoes to children in need living in the following cities:

- Boca Raton - 704 pairs of shoes
- Boynton Beach - 1,684 pairs of shoes
- Delray Beach - 3,639 pairs of shoes
- Lantana - 1,324 pairs of shoes

In addition we established/maintained emergency shoe closets in the following schools located in South Palm Beach County:

- Banyan Creek Elementary School - Delray Beach
- Crosspointe Elementary School - Boynton Beach
- Lantana Elementary School - Lantana
- McKinney-Vento South (Homeless Assistance PBC Schools) - Boca Raton
- Rolling Green Elementary School - Boynton Beach
- South Tech Academy - Boynton Beach
- Starlight Cove Elementary School - Lantana

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and the thousands of children served each year by In Jacob's Shoes, we thank you again for your generous support and we look forward to the opportunity to submit a grant for year 2023.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,
Harlene Zweig
Harlene Zweig, President
The Jacob S. Zweig Foundation, Inc.

Roots and Wings

To the Men Giving Back Members:

Roots and Wings was honored to have its golden ball drawn so early at the spectacular award ceremony last year.

We wanted to bring you up to date with our Project UpLift, the free, after-school, small group tutorial program that helps students reading one or two grades below grade level with their literacy skills.

Your \$10,000 helped us add 20 students to our program, including 10 students in the 4th grade who were passed through to the next grade during Covid and still face difficulties. It's imperative that we help them before they leave elementary school. If a student does not pass the 3rd grade test in reading, there's a 74% chance they will not graduate from high school.

You have helped us increase the number of students we are helping. This spring we added another school and are now helping 765 students in 10 public elementary schools. Thanks for your help! It means everything to us!

Ted Hoskinson
Founder
Roots and Wings

Achievement Centers for Children and Families

Dear Members of Men Giving Back South Palm Beach County,

On behalf of the staff, leadership team, and children and families benefiting from Achievement Centers for Children & Families (ACCF), we thank you for all you are doing to support Palm Beach County. Knowing that outstanding community members take on the civic leadership role is an inspiration and needed support. As you know, Palm Beach County is comprised of the country's most and least wealthy residents, and we share your mission to help those in need.



ACCF was thrilled to be a semi-finalist in last year's grant opportunity with Men Giving Back, and we were awarded \$10,000. This award truly benefited us, as we have seen increases in our expenses that have presented challenges, particularly concerning the cost of food. We serve approximately 200 meals daily, with 192,000 meals and snacks served last year. The increased cost of food, coupled with the increased need for food by those in our community, has made this a high-priority area for us. The funds you awarded ACCF helped offset these rising expenses.

At ACCF, our mission is to nurture a collaborative community where children are inspired to reach their full potential, and their families serve as the foundation of their growth. Participating children are involved in programming that includes Early Learning (Toddler and Preschool), After School, Teen, and Summer Camps. These programs help prepare children and teens for academic and social success while inspiring them to discover their talents. Families are served through the Family Support Program, which benefits the community by stabilizing families in crisis and supporting them to serve as the foundation of their child's growth. We address each of your primary causes through ACCF's holistic approach. Achievement Centers for Children & Families serves Delray's neediest children by providing programs, resources, and crisis support to keep children safe, fed, and educated.

Again, we appreciate the support you have provided to assist ACCF and other Palm Beach County organizations that are making an impactful difference. We are excited to submit our grant application this year, as we are proposing a new Robotics and Coding program to benefit our middle and high school participants. We will certainly welcome Men Giving Back to collaborate with us in opening new doors of opportunity for teens as they expand their awareness of STEM and its many applications.

With gratitude,
Karyn Keil
Karyn Keil, MS
Director of Grants Management
Achievement Centers for Children & Families

Best Foot Forward



Men Giving Back provided support for foster care youth Best Foot Forward's (BFF) Grounded for Life program. The program serves youth in South Palm Beach County, residing in Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Boynton Beach.

The school year began with its Signature "Back to School Bash" which offered school supplies and resources to all students in the program to prepare them for their studies. Our BFF students enjoyed an afternoon filled with shopping at our BFF marketplace, magic bingo, arts and crafts, photography, face painting, and a magic show.

Grounded for Life's Graduation and College Coaches met with students one-on-one, at least one hour a week, providing extensive academic guidance and enrichment activities, tutoring, mentoring, homework and classwork assistance, school credit recovery, and social emotional support during the school day and afterschool. During this year's programmatic period, BFF serves 49 high school and 28 college students, with 14 on track to graduate from high school and enter a post-secondary program. Again, for 10+ years, BFF students had a 100% high school graduation rate. BFF college students had a 75% graduation rate.

The College Team worked with high school students to prepare them for graduation, assistance with SAT/ACT prep, scholarship applications, and college admissions. The College Team also prepared post-secondary students to navigate financial aid, on-campus housing, transportation, and career-readiness skills. BFF hosted college workshops and career lessons with Vita Nova and the Palm Beach County Tax Collector Office to help students with career exploration. BFF also worked with youth to emphasize soft skills, teach workplace behavioral skills, build their resumes, and practice email etiquette and interviewing.

The Career and Life Readiness Skills Coordinator facilitated a process where students secured hands-on work experience through internships with local businesses. During internships, BFF will provide business attire to help students prepare for the interview process. Last year, BFF had its own intern who was able to assist with day-to-day programming aspects. She was able to apply what she learned from her studies to help us to develop our peer-to-peer mentoring program.

The Career and Life Readiness Skills Manager also facilitated mental health and wellness activities with students to practice tolerance, peer-to-peer communication, and model positive behaviors. BFF directed mindfulness activities such as yoga, meditation and breathing and introduced students to online resources to help students recognize triggers and self-regulate issues before they become serious.

This year, we are very fortunate to receive support from local businesses. Partners donate food, backpacks, school supplies and bicycles. FemCity Boca Delray, a women's networking community, donated nutritious snacks to our students. An alumni student connected BFF to a local Injury lawyer that donated

items to our students. Embracing Smiles is our newest partner, providing dental services and will provide some of our students with free braces and orthodontic services. Lynn University, through their college citizenship project, transformed regular backpacks into "comfort cases". When foster care youth move to a new home, they are often handed a trash bag to put their belongings. Comfort cases include clothes, blankets and hygiene products, providing a sense of dignity and hope for foster care youth.

Mid-Year Outcomes

Outcome 1: By the end of the second quarter, 90% of participants will establish academic, behavioral, and communication goals. 100% of students completed their Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) jointly with Coaches who will monitor progress throughout the year. This is measured by weekly notes from BFF Coaches.

Outcome 2: By the end of the programmatic year, 80% of participants will maintain or show improved classroom behavior. At mid-year, 94% of students show improved classroom behavior, measured by weekly notes from BFF Coaches and teacher feedback.

Outcome 3: By the end of the programmatic year, 80% of participants will maintain or show improvement in study/test skills. At mid-year 92% of students demonstrate an improvement in study skills, measured by the monitoring online portal of student grades and assignments, weekly notes, from BFF Coaches, student, and teacher feedback.

Outcome 4: By the end of the programmatic year, 80% of participants will experience grade promotion or graduate from high school. 96% of participants are on track to graduate from high school. Measured by report cards, online gradebooks and transcripts of high school seniors.

Outcome 5: By the end of the programmatic year, 94% of eligible* participants will pursue postsecondary education. 96% of participants are on track to graduate from high school. These are older high school students that are transitioning into college and will be measured by completion of post-secondary applications and acceptances, SAT/ACT test completions, and college or certificate enrollments.

Donna Biase
Co-Founder
Best Foot Forward

American Association of Caregiving Youth

The American Association of Caregiving Youth, Inc. would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude for the support from the Men Giving Back Foundation. Not only did your generosity provide financial support for our Caregiving Youth to attend our modified KKH (Knowledge and Know How) events, but it also provided them with a sense of community understanding and support.

So far, we have allocated the \$10,000 towards the support of both our Volunteer and Youth Activities Managers, who play a significant role in our KKH program's success. We have also allocated a portion to defray the costs of our KKH events and transportation. AACY will be having a fire safety session at our upcoming Camp Treasure as part of the modified KKH program.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity! We feel honored that you chose our organization to support and appreciate what Men Giving Back has done for our community. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

We are attaching a collage from our Holiday Celebration for Caregiving Youth and their families. May the members of Men Giving Back have smiles as big as those of our participants!



Most sincerely,

Connie Siskowski, RN, PhD
President and Founder
American Association of Caregiving Youth

Fuller Center

We are pleased to report the progress made as a result of the Men Giving Back South of Palm Beach County's support of the Fuller Center's playground project. With your generous \$10,000 grant, we provided enhanced outdoor play opportunities to 150 local school-age children from low-income backgrounds, so they may benefit from the studied effects of such activity on the body and mind. Outside play is key to child physical and mental health, acutely needed now in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. We were able to provide an outdoor play coach, age-appropriate playground and sports equipment, and were even able to send the children on field trips to parks and play centers. Staff maintained activity logs documenting the children's outdoor play time, on which they noted the positive effects of the activity on the children's overall well-being. Enclosed are photos of the children enjoying what was provided because of your support.



As you know, the Fuller Center has served the Boca Raton community for over 50 years, providing children and families with quality educational programming, family support services, medical screenings, summer camps, after- and out-of-school-time enrichment, nutritional services, housing, employment support, and more. With the support of funders like Men Giving Back, we can play a critical role in children's development, making the difference between a temporary setback and a multigenerational one.

Once again, we are thankful for your partnership and applaud your commitment to philanthropy in South Palm Beach County. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will impact the lives of the children and families we serve for years to come.

Warmly,

Ellyn Okrent
CEO

Unicorn Children's Foundation

On behalf of our Board of Directors and those we seek to serve in Palm Beach County, I express our sincere gratitude for your investment in the efforts to provide a comprehensive, integrated system of care which supports and connects individuals with special needs and disabilities and their families to community-based services and opportunities. It's our hope that we can create a community that comes together to enhance the lives of individuals with special needs and disabilities and provide opportunities for meaningful engagement throughout Palm Beach County.



Below you will find a brief midyear report for the generous grant you have given Unicorn Children's Foundation.

Mid-Year Update for the Lifelong Learning Lab:

LLL will offer a venue, technology capacity and best practices for community partners to safely and effectively serve our community in person and remotely which will be completed by March 2023.

- Purchased and installed 2 Smart Boards.
- The location of the Smart Boards are strategically placed in the Board Room and the Learning Lab, where classes take place, as well as hybrid social events.
- In addition, cameras have been installed in the same areas for use.

The LLL will serve at least 400 children with I/DD by the end of the grant period.

- We offer a combination of in-person and virtual classes which are not limited to the state of Florida, but span across the nation.
- Teachers utilized provided technology to plan and deliver instruction for students.
- Students used the provided technology to participate in hybrid learning opportunities.
- In addition, the interactive technology provided lends itself to other virtual and in person events and socialization opportunities such as: The Connection Club, Family Fun Night, Junior Board meetings.

UCF and partners will facilitate 10 – 15 parent workshops by the end of the grant period. The Family Navigator is engaging in an ongoing process of gathering topics and areas of interest based on a needs assessment.

- Proposed monthly parent and family workshops include:
- Addressing Academic challenges
- Socialization opportunities
- Financial planning
- Assisted devices
- Mental health
- Social emotional engagement

The LLL will partner with at least 10 local agencies to bring meaningful academic enrichment, social programming and arts programming to disabled children in South Palm Beach County. Some of the agencies include but are not limited to:

- SNAC (Special Needs Advisory Coalition)
- FAU Card
- Easter Seals
- Sea Turtle Adventures
- ScentsAbility
- My Allie's Place
- The Chocolate Spectrum

UCF will increase engagement with underprivileged communities through strategic collaboration and outreach by the end of the grant period.

- Unicorn Children's Foundation Clinic at Mailman Segal for Human Development at Nova Southeastern University
- Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County
- Lynn University
- Florida Atlantic University

Please let me know if you have any additional questions. I look forward to meeting you in person soon.

Sincerely,

Jaimee Sabato, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Unicorn Children's Foundation

As is apparent from community, member, and charity feedback, Men Giving Back of South Palm Beach County has established itself as a premier source of support for our region's charities. Our work locally has not only been repeatedly discussed in articles and podcasts, but it has created a significant buzz throughout the philanthropic community. As we move closer to our aspirational goal of giving away \$1,000,000 a year to the exceptional local charities that serve our mission of children, education, food security, and mental health, we want to express our sincere thanks to our valued members who continue to make this possible.

Men Giving Back Grant Committee
Men Giving Back Board of Directors



MEN GIVING BACK
SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY

info@mengivingback.org