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Contact: Patricia Maldonado
patricia@littlefishmedia.net
305.490.8831

Wells Fargo, Sapoznik Insurance and Assurant lead Miami business influencers in The Education Fund's campaign to help public school teachers

MIAMI – Committed to strengthening the pipeline of educators in South Florida, The Education Fund announced the launch of its 2019 Teach-A-Thon presented by Wells Fargo. This campaign fosters awareness about the teaching profession and raises money for public school classrooms.

Local influencers in the business community are invited to volunteer for the Teach-A-Thon and learn about the teaching profession by stepping into the shoes of a public school teacher for a few hours. The teaching event, sponsored by Wells Fargo, Assurant and Sapoznik Insurance takes place October 1 through December 15. The three-month campaign provides volunteers a real-world teaching experience and cultivates an understanding of the critical role educators play in developing the next generation.

“My wife taught in our public schools throughout her career, and I heard about her students every day,” said Hector Ponte, Southeast Florida region bank president for Wells Fargo. “However, it wasn’t until I participated in The Education Fund’s Teach-a-Thon that I truly understood what it is like to be a teacher. I highly recommend the experience – you have an opportunity to help students and teachers in a fun, unique way.”

In 2018, more than 200 professionals teamed up with Miami-Dade County Public School teachers as part of this program, temporarily ditching their 9-to-5 gig to teach a class of students. Collectively, volunteers have raised almost half-a-million dollars for educators and The Education Fund in the 10 years the campaign has been held.

This year, Teach-A-Thon volunteers – also called Teacher Champions – include Manuel Becerra, president of Connected Living at Assurant; Paula DaSilvia, executive chef at Ritz Carlton; Bonnie Crabtree, managing director at Korn Ferry; Rachel Sapoznik, president of Sapoznik Insurance, Hector Ponte, Southeast Florida region bank president for Wells Fargo; Mark Trowbridge, chief executive officer of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce and Ana Veiga Milton, president at the Jose Milton Foundation.

“It’s essential for the business community to be aware of the value of public education and the impact it has on our economy and the workforce,” said Rachel Sapoznik, president of Sapoznik Insurance and a proud graduate of North Miami Beach Senior High School. “Teachers play a critical role. They ensure students have the tools they need when they graduate to successfully develop their careers.”

The Education Fund hopes to recruit 250 Teach-A-Thon volunteers by September 6. The organization will host a kick-off event on Thursday, Sept. 26, at The Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables. We’re grateful to our lead sponsor, Wells Fargo, along with Sapoznik Insurance, Assurant, The Biltmore Hotel and others.

To volunteer for The Education Fund’s Teach-A-Thon, visit Educationfund.org.

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About The Education Fund: The Education Fund’s current initiatives, including Food Forests for Schools, Ideas with IMPACT, Teach-A-Thon, Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials, and *For The Love of Art* Annual Charity Auction, bring innovative methods to our schools; inform the community about public education; and encourage private sector investment in public education. For its success in innovation, The Education Fund has won the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce’s NOVO Award. The Education Fund’s work with the private sector has resulted in more than \$58+ million raised to improve education for public school students and teachers in Miami-Dade County. Visit www.educationfund.org.