The Taste of Education supports culinary arts within Miami-Dade County Public Schools by teaching students food preparation, presentation, service, and safety, while also providing leadership, communication, and employment skills. Students are learning to be the chefs of tomorrow.

At this signature event, more than 200 students from Miami-Dade’s public school culinary programs create 30+ dishes to compete for top prizes and impress more than 500 top business executives and community leaders, but that’s not all. The Taste of Education also:

• Showcases all of our programs
• Celebrates a successful Teach-A-Thon
• Provides a valuable career development opportunity for M-DCPS’ culinary students
• Raises money for public school culinary programs

The Taste of Education also celebrates its 10-year anniversary as a successful Teach-A-Thon, providing a valuable career development opportunity for M-DCPS’ culinary students, and raises money for public school culinary programs.
THE EDUCATION FUND THANKS ALL OUR SPONSORS AND UNDERWRITERS*

- TD Bank
- Amazon
- BURGER KING
- Lynn & Louis Wolfson II Family Foundation
- Sysco

**SILVER SPOON**
- Suzanne Furhman
- Synovus
- United Teachers of Dade
- Ingham Retirement Group

**CRYSTAL FLUTE**
- Center for Financial Training
- Dr. Larry Feldman
- Frozen Treats
- Building Experts
- Public Interest Computer and Technology

**VIP INDIVIDUAL**
- Alexa Stephens

*As of 2/16/2024

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA**
VENUE SPONSORS
Mr. John Brunetti Jr.
& Mrs. Adina Brunetti
Owners of the
Iconic Hialeah Park

Hialeah Park is Eternal! Her beauty has no imperfection; her history like no other. This is the Park about which Sir Winston Churchill uttered one word, “Extraordinary!”

As of 2/19/2024

Monica Gil
M-DCPS Food & Nutrition

Gretchen Schmidt
Edible South Florida

Linda Gassenheimer
Food News & Views

Orelle Young
B&D Trap BBQ

Dieter Xiao
Norwegian Cruise Line

Tom Parlo
Mandarin Oriental

Lisseth Campos
Un Pollo

Danny Serfer
Blue Collar, Mignonette

Michael Hernandez
Bistro Academia

Alene Sussen
Chef Allen Consulting

Monty Trakht
Southeastern Financial

Craig Trestia
Begonia

Monty Trainer
Southeastern Financial

Krista Winter
Begonia

Kiara Weiser
Burger King

Ivis Monzon
TD Bank

Eduardo Bravo
Arely

Adria Beckert
de Pizy

Paula Bixby-Phillips
The Yard Eatery

Nate Asaro
The Yard Eatery

Yona Kaskie
Art Bistro

Pat Michon
Four Seasons

Leslie-Campos de Aza

Christian Doiron
Arely

Linda Gassenheimer
Food News & Views

Santos Checchia
Bistro Academia

Monica Gil
M-DCPS Food & Nutrition

CHEF JUDGES

TASTE OF EDUCATION
Featured Menu

MEAT
All American Steak Fajitas
BBQ Sliced Pork Loin with Spicy Cole Slaw
Curry Lamb with Basmati Rice and Charred Naan
French Dip with Au Jus
Savory Duck Confit Cheesecake with Caramelized Onion Jam
Sweet and Spicy Smoked Baby Back Ribs
Taste of the Caribbean

SEAFOOD
Hawaiian Salmon Poke
Pirate’s Snapper Ceviche with Chips
Seafood Combread
Sensational Spicy Lobster Roll with Forbidden Rice
Sugarcane Shrimp
Spicy Strawberry Watermelon Gazpacho
Sensational Spicy Lobster Roll with Forbidden Rice
Tuna Tataki with Pineapple Papaya Salsa

VEGETARIAN
Goi Mit Tron (Young Jackfruit Salad)
Pearls with a Twist
Pikliz, Vegan “Griyo,” Plantain Crisp
Pistachio Pesto Lasagna
Pistachio Pestos Lasagna
Spicy Strawberry Watermelon Gazpacho
Sensational Spicy Lobster Roll with Forbidden Rice
Vegetarian Stuffed Mushrooms

DESSERT
Architectural Delectable
Berry Treasure Mouse
‘Bullistic' Cheesecake Shooters
Cherry Pistachio Biscotti with Hot Cocoa
French Macarons
Havana Oh-La-La - Latin Trifle
Lavender Fian
Mother of Pearl
Pavlova

We invite guests to vote for the “People’s Choice” Awards, sponsored by
Burger King Foundation

PARTICIPATING CULINARY TEACHERS AND THEIR STUDENTS, WITH GRATITUDE TO M-DCPS CULINARY ADMINISTRATORS

Dwight Barnes
American Sr. High
Shardyn Barnes-Burton
Jose Mas Canosa Middle School
Mary Yas Connors
Ronald W. Reagan Doral Sr. High
Christian Casados
Hommestead Sr. High
Cristina Delmaris-Johnson
Henry M. Flak Middle School
Carol Fantachi
Miami Beach Fienberg Fisher K-8
Andy Francis
North Miami Sr. High
Kathy Gonzalez
Hialeah Gardens Sr. High
Andrea Toledo
John A. Ferguson Sr. High
Elizabeth Moreno
Miami Kiva Jr. Sr. High
David Nunez
Miami Lakes Educational Center
Mayro Rodriguez
Miami Coral Park Sr. High
Oscar Rupea
Robert Morgan Educational Center
Shalita Saphay-Guison
Hialeah Gardens Sr. High
Diana Stewart
Jose De Diego Middle School
David Strickland
Miami Jackson Sr. High
Andrea Tovar
John A. Ferguson Sr. High
Valeria Washington
Miami Central Jr. High
Diana Whitehead
Miami Northwestern Sr. High
Wayne Worthley
Redland Middle School

SPECIAL THANKS
Presented by
Amazon

At the Department of Career and Technical Education for their Partnership and Support:
Lupe Ferran Diaz, Ph.D.
Rani Khamnua
Donald Cole
ABOUT THE EDUCATION FUND
WHERE INNOVATION IS FUNDAMENTAL

A Taste of Our Accomplishments
• 34% increase in students’ college enrollment
• $80 million+ raised for public schools
• 71% of students increased science achievement
• 78% of students improved math knowledge
• 203,000+ students and teachers recognized for their artwork
• $24+ million in classroom supplies donated, benefiting 3.7+ million children
• 265,000+ harvest food bags provided to low-income students’ families
• 6,900+ Food Forest harvests served in students’ cafeteria meals
• $3 million+ provided for projects in 5,400+ classrooms
• 20,000+ educators encouraged to use and share best practices annually
• 3,000+ business professionals recruited to teach for a day and become teacher advocates

A Taste of What We Do
• Impact more than 330,000+ students annually, in all 470+ Miami-Dade County Public Schools
• Offer support and professional development to more than 20,000+ educators annually
• Involve the private sector in designing and implementing new initiatives that improve public education
• Direct resources where they are needed most and where inequities exist
• Operate up to a dozen model programs at any given time
• Evaluate pilot program effectiveness to improve outcomes
• Help all children in public schools reach their full potential

Food Forests for Schools
Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials
Enjoy live music, open bar, an epicurean feast, and bid on fabulous luxury items and one-of-a-kind art created by children and art teachers. All proceeds benefit arts education and The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials.

MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024
Jungle Island
1111 Parrot Jungle Trail, Miami, FL 33132

For tickets, silent auction donations or sponsorship opportunities, contact Marileen Marnett at mmarnett@educationfund.org or 305-298-9099.
Big hearts deserve a big hand.

The Education Fund,

We applaud you for all the truly meaningful work you do in our community.
At Amazon, we’re committed to helping more children and young adults have the resources and skills they need **to build their best future.**

In partnership with **The Education Fund** we’re working to provide the tools and building blocks students and teachers need to reach their full potential.

To learn more, visit aboutamazon.com
The Burger King℠ Foundation believes through education you can explore your full potential and live life your way. We provide the learning resources that empower the next generation to kickstart their educational pathways.

www.burgerkingfoundation.com

The Burger King℠ Foundation is proud to support The Education Fund!
Good things start with a vibrant community

When people care, it shows. Members of this community cared enough to put time and effort into making this event happen. And today, life for everyone here got a little bit richer.

The Education Fund’s Taste of Education, you’ve enriched our community.

Celebrating what makes this community feel like home

Events like this remind us just how important our local communities are. Our friends and neighbors come to feel like our extended family.

We’re proud to sponsor The Education Fund’s Taste of Education.
To raise awareness of the needs in our public school classrooms, The Education Fund implements the Teach-A-Thon. During this countywide campaign, business professionals walk in the shoes of a teacher, teaching an actual lesson or two! It’s not career day. Instead, business leaders experience what is happening in our public schools — seeing the needs, struggles, and joys. Since the campaign began, we recruited more than 3,000+ business professionals to teach in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. This rewarding experience creates empathy for teachers and students, and a newfound respect for the teaching profession and our public schools.

Using a walk-a-thon model, these ‘Public School Champions’ tell the story of public education to their friends and colleagues to raise funds for the participating classrooms and other programs of The Education Fund. Since the program’s inception, our Champions have raised $700,000+ to support our public schools.
THE EDUCATION FUND THANKS OUR TEACH-A-THON FUNDRAISERS

Diamond: $15,000+
Quentin Nason
Carolyn Guerra

Platinum: $5,000+

Gold: $2,500+
Joe Natoli
Paulette Phillips
Pablo Pino
Edem Rodriguez
Nick Toole

Silver: $1,000+
Jacinto Martinez Sanchez
Ivis Monzon
Darrell Payne

Bronze: $500+
Anurag Gupta
Carrie Lagana
Lindsey Linzer
Mabel Morrison
Nataly Santos
Kristina Siddall
Ana Veiga Milton

Honorable Mention: $250+
Janel Blanco
James Diaz
Raymond Duena
Yasminela Galindo
Peter Kaltis
Barbara Leckie
Arianna Paliacca
Ali Bibeau

Top Fundraising Team
TD Bank

As of 2/15/2024

A TASTE OF OUR Programs

Platinum:
Carolyn Guerra, TD Bank, at Twin Lakes Elementary

Gold:
Anurag Gupta, Ford Motor Company, at Chatsworth R. Hadley Elementary

Silver:
Pablo Pino, TD Bank, with teacher Reginald Gibson, at American Senior High School

Honorable Mention:
Pradna Kudav, World Kinect, at Doral Academy Elementary Charter

As of 2/15/2024
FOOD FORESTS FOR SCHOOLS
This pioneering initiative puts 28,000+ students in the center of sustainable seed-to-table eco-labs, teaching them to plant and cultivate superfoods used in school meals and at home. Children learn nutrition, resiliency, math, biology, environmental science and have the test scores to prove it. Seventy-eight percent of students in a 2022-23 TD Ready Commitment pilot increased their math knowledge, and 71% increased their science achievement. This was despite pandemic-related learning losses reflected across the country. More than half increased their nutrition knowledge. This was despite pandemic-related learning losses reflected across the country.

Our district’s new eligibility to provide 100% of students with federal food aid underscores the urgent need for this program. To help students and their families, we’ve distributed 265,000+ harvest bags full of fresh produce.

Food Forests for Schools, an awardee of grants from U.S. EPA, USDA, and many foundations, received the first-ever $1 million TD Ready Challenge grant, and is a recipient of the prestigious "Sapphire Award" from The Blue Foundation.

"My students have shared the various ways their families use plantain trees based on their culture. We have learned that some families use the leaves to cook and some boil the plantain fruit, based on their country. They are all very interested in the different preparations and can’t wait to try the new recipes they have learned!"
This student lifeline solicits surplus inventory from businesses and makes these supplies available — for free — to teachers, schools, and non-profits to help public school students and their families throughout Miami-Dade County. Since inception, more than 3.7+ million students benefited from more than $24+ million in materials distributed. Teachers in all subjects continually use supplies from the Ocean Bank Center to enhance lessons. Additionally, art teachers enjoy special visit days and unique workshops to teach the art of found objects, transforming the donated materials into amazing pieces of art.

“"It is always exciting to visit The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials and see what cool materials I’ll find for the classroom. On my last visit, I was able to get a box of reusable goggles for my scientists in class. Prior to that, I have been able to get poster paper, expo markers, pouches, and so much more. I cannot wait for my six months to pass so I can once again go find new treasures for my students. Thank you to all the donors for making this possible, every little bit helps!”
Stephanie Trenholm, Dr. Toni Bilbao Preparatory Academy

A TASTE OF OUR Programs

ART OF FOUND OBJECTS EXHIBITION
Annually, we display, jury, and award prizes for student and teacher art, created from recycled materials from the Ocean Bank Center. Many pieces from the Art of Found Objects Exhibition progress to our annual For the Love of Art Charity Auction. This event raises thousands of dollars that fund participating classrooms, enabling art teachers to provide a better arts education to students.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR OTHER PROGRAM SPONSORS

FOR THE LOVE OF ART AUCTION
This highly successful annual event, presented by Ocean Bank, highlights the essential role of visual arts in stimulating creativity and academic success for children. More than 400 business leaders, philanthropists, and collectors attend, bidding on 150+ one-of-a-kind art pieces created by the extraordinary talent in our public schools, and on 100+ luxury items. Additionally, we honor successful public school alumni, demonstrating how much you can achieve with a public school education.
SMARTPATH

The Education Fund’s SmartPath aims to embed a college-going culture in high schools, empowering low-income and first-generation students to graduate and successfully prepare for college and careers. SmartPath is changing the lives of students in five public senior high schools in Miami-Dade who attend weekly College Clubs to research colleges and improve study habits. College and technical school field trips inspire students to set career goals, while FAFSA workshops help parents and students apply for financial aid. Our pilot schools achieved a 34% increase in college enrollment, and since our expansion in 2013, there has been a 21% increase in college enrollment rates across all SmartPath schools.

“This was such a great experience! I’ve learned so much through the college and career club and now visiting colleges. With the support of the club and our meetings, I feel like I have a chance to succeed after high school. Thank you for bringing us here!” said a student at Booker T. Washington Senior High School.

IDEAS WITH IMPACT

This initiative helps teachers raise student achievement! Mentor teachers train their peers at the annual IDEA EXPO - The Teacher Conference, attracting over 500 educators for hands-on, teacher-led workshops, featuring innovative ideas with new ways to inspire students. The IDEA EXPO includes projects for all grade levels and all subject areas, with free curriculum materials that meet Florida education standards. As a result, 37,000+ students annually receive improved instruction from teachers who attend our IDEA EXPO. Ideas with IMPACT also provides grants to teachers for unique, creative classroom projects and materials that enliven and enrich standard curriculum. Most recently, Ideas with IMPACT has provided grants for student-led podcasts and music education.

“The grants I’ve received helped me purchase robotics kits and create exciting learning activities that my kids absolutely love. My kids are learning programming languages with real-world applications such as cyber defense, game development, virtual reality, problem-solving, and critical thinking - all of which will help them succeed in whatever career they choose.”

Michael Sakowicz, iPrep Academy North.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR IDEAS OF IMPACT SPONSORS
TEN YEARS OF GIVING!

WITH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Tonight, as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Taste of Education, we honor our top donors for their dedication to The Education Fund’s General Fund.

With your support during the past decade, we have met our Challenges – from the Trimix Foundation Challenge, to the Ford Global Giving Fund Match, to our 2023 Give Miami Day Challenge donors, including Rod and Lucy Petrey, Louis Wolfson III Family, The Roland Hartley Foundation, Collins Aerospace, and Lisa Sloat and Hank Klein. We thank all of you for stepping up to the plate for our public school children and their devoted teachers.

We still need your help to continue to meet the obstacles facing our students and teachers. Please help us by making a gift or a multi-year pledge to our General Fund.

For more information or to make a pledge, please contact Mimi Pink at 786-734-6099 or mpink@educationfund.org. Your past, present and future unrestricted gifts support all our programming.

Together, we can ensure Miami-Dade County public school students and teachers thrive!

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THANK YOU FOR TEN YEARS OF GIVING:

Andromeda ($100,000 and up)
Peacock Foundation, Inc.
Rod & Lucy Petrey Family
Trimix Foundation

Cygnus ($50,000-$99,999)
Amstel Financial
Anonymous
Blackstone Charitable Foundation
Braedos Bank
Ford Motor Company Fund
Roland Hartley-Uight/Malcolm and Teri
t/GL Foundation
Kathleen Kennedy Foundation

Peleides ($25,000-$49,999)
Assurant Foundation
BDO USA, LLP
Angelo’s & Chris Burgiss/Burgiss Family Charitable Trust
Jennifer Stearns Buttrick

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Charles N. and Eleanor Knight Leagh Foundation
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Leida L. Leicht
Susan & Arle Lechner
Hank Raattama

Barbara Romani
Ruth Anderson Foundation

Centaurus ($2,000-$7,499)
Rolando Aedo
Allegany Franciscan Ministries
Lawrence Apple
Bobby Brochin
Zachary Charles
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Melissa Morrison
Gary Pappas

Nick Tootle
Valle Bank
Leslie Westreich
Caro Wightman
Donna Winkler
Carol Wightman
Donna Winkler
Carol G. Wylie

...and many others! Thank you all!

Mimi Pink
Rachel & Matthew Pinzur
Regels Bank
Joseph Rosman
Rachel Sapsag
The Kirk Foundation
The Templon Family Fund
The William J. and Tina McKenzie Foundation
Robin Tisdahl
Nick Tootle
Valle Bank
Leslie Westreich
Caro Wightman
Donna Winkler
Carol G. Wylie

...and many others! Thank you all!
The Education Fund is thrilled to announce a $50,000 grant award from Life Time Foundation to support our Food Forests for Schools program operating in 51 public elementary and K-8 schools across Miami-Dade County. Life Time Foundation's award will allow The Education Fund to increase the number of trees that provide both canopy and an abundance of high-nutrient food. That means more nutrition-rich fruits and vegetables for students to harvest for cafeteria meals and homebound bags.

In these outdoor eco-labs, filled with trees, bushes, vines, ground cover, and walking paths, students improve their academic achievement, nutritional health, and their ability to learn about the environment. Last year, more than 78% of students improved their math knowledge and 70% improved their science achievement.

With Life Time Foundation’s mission to inspire Healthy People, a Healthy Planet, and a Healthy Way of Life, more than 25,000 public school students will benefit from this new collaboration. Thank you Life Time Foundation for joining with our other major Food Forests for Schools donors: TD Ready Commitment, The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation, The Batchelor Foundation, Braman Family Foundation, and the USDA.

WHERE ELSE DOES THE EDUCATION FUND RECEIVE FUNDING FOR ITS PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS?

In addition to businesses of all sizes and corporate foundations, we collaborate with family foundations, private foundations, government entities (federal, state, and county currently), and with individuals, including YOU!

Please join us in bringing innovation to our public schools and providing resources that open the door for children to learn and to be excited about learning.

Support a program today — online at www.educationfund.org, or by calling Mimi Pink at 786-734-6099 or emailing mpink@educationfund.org.

Thank you in advance for making a difference for children in our public schools.

Pinnacle is proud to support The Education Fund Taste of Education and our talented student chefs from Miami-Dade County Public Schools.
Adina Brunetti
Hospitality Expert, Entrepreneur

Adina Brunetti, a dedicated advocate for education and an active community contributor—a fitting collaborator for the Taste of Education event. Adina’s commitment to education and community involvement sets her apart. In ensuring the upcoming event’s success, Adina’s generosity is a driving force for creating a meaningful experience for both children and attendees. As the Founder of AJMB Hospitality, a notable player in Miami’s hospitality industry, Adina leads various restaurant projects. Additionally, she holds the role of creative director at Adina Creative Food, AB 27 Group, and Hialeah Events, adding a layer of versatility to her contributions. Within AB 27 Group, Adina has successfully managed the development and promotion of diverse restaurants, bars, and international events. The projects and partnerships fostered by AB 27 Group have received recognition through prestigious awards in the U.S. and abroad. Adina Brunetti’s leadership is a solid asset to the Taste of Education initiative, ensuring a thoughtful and impactful event.
Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava congratulates The Education Fund on its role in providing private sector leadership and support for innovation in public education.

Thank you for shaping a brighter future for the students of Miami-Dade County.
Joy = celebrating Miami-Dade’s future star chefs with The Education Fund

Contact us
Nick Tootle - ntootle@kaufmanrossin.com

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At Synovus, we help people reach their goals. That mission inspires us to build better ways for you to find the opportunities you’ve been seeking. Bank with us and let’s see where your path goes.

Synovus is proud to support The Education Fund-Miami/Dade, Florida.
FOH® is a women-owned, global foodservice and hospitality innovator that includes brands Front of the House® and room360®. Designed in Miami and distributed worldwide, we have created smart, trend-forward, commercial-grade products for over 20 years that deliver a WOW experience.

We believe it is our foundational responsibility as a business, community, and family to give back and to be agents for change. Through our kindness platform, From Our Hearts®, we support organizations and initiatives committed to making a difference in our world by donating our time, products, and profits.

YOUR WORLDWIDE HOSPITALITY DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING PARTNER.

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In Recognition of our Educators

The South Florida Business Journal is proud to support The Education Fund and all of its efforts to grow our community, and we thank our region’s educators for inspiring the next generation of business leaders.
Regions bankers understand there are people in our communities who need a little extra help from time to time. Help that goes beyond offering banking advice or personal financial solutions, and makes a profound impact on someone’s life. After all, our mission statement is to “Make Life Better.” So it’s not uncommon to see our associates volunteering at shelters, giving people hope when they need it most. Or stocking thrift store shelves to help families keep clothes on their backs. Or teaching financial education classes so people can stay on the road to financial independence. That’s just who we are. And it’s who we’re proud to be.

Put People First | Do What Is Right | Reach Higher | Enjoy Life | Focus On Your Customer

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We’re proud to support The Education Fund for Miami-Dade schools

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WHERE THE EARTH MEETS THE SKY

Humana.

GCHM7FBEN 0224
United Teachers of Dade is proud to support the Education Fund “Taste of Education” and the outstanding educators and students from over 30 award-winning M-DCPS culinary programs.

Tomorrow’s possibilities are shaped by today’s education.

Bradesco Bank proudly supports The Education Fund making educational excellence a top priority in public schools.

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The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials accepts most new and slightly used school supply donations.

Donation Options:
1. Host a School Supply Drive at your business or organization. Email: jsalazar@educationfund.org for details.
2. Turn your excess business inventory into "treasures" for students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Email: jsalazar@educationfund.org for details.
3. Purchase school supplies from our Amazon wishlist (use QR code to view).
We are a proud supporter of The Education Fund.

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We have a “Taste For Education” and support The Education Fund

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Make a donation of surplus or gently-used inventory
Honor a loved one by making a donation in their name
Include The Education Fund as a beneficiary in your will
Specifically designate The Education Fund as a recipient of any donations you make through payroll deduction programs

CONNECT WITH US!
Please contact Mimi Pink at 786-734-6099 or mpink@educationfund.org.

@EducationFund EducationFundMiami @EducationFundMiami Education-Fund-Miami

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