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A FOOD, WINE AND CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL



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TASTE OF EDUCATION

A FOOD, WINE AND CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

The Taste of Education supports culinary arts within Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) 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 25+ 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 Miami-Dade County Public Schools' culinary students
- Raises money for public school culinary programs



THE EDUCATION FUND THANKS ALL OUR SPONSORS*



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TASTE OF EDUCATION

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Hialeah Park is eternal: Her beauty has no imperfection; her history is like no other. This is the Park about which Sir Winston Churchill uttered one word, "Extraordinary!" Thank you to Hialeah Park for hosting Taste of Education for five years.



Nedal Ahmad
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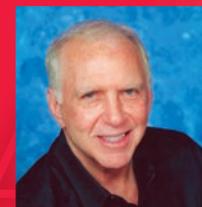
Allen Susser
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Judith Susser
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Kenny Tang
TK Hospitality



Monty Trainor
President Emeritus, Coconut Grove



Featured Menu

We invite guests to vote for the "People's Choice" Awards, sponsored by



MEAT

Beef Wellington w/ Truffled Demi-Glace

Chorizo Mac and Cheese

Birria Lamb Tacos a la Greek w/ Tzatziki

Sabroso Mexican Shepherd's Pie

Braised Short Ribs w/ Miso Mashed Potatoes

Popcorn Buffalo Salad Tahini Bites

Chicken and Spinach Canneloni

Smoked Duck Breast w/ Raspberry Chipotle Reduction

Chicken and Pork Tacos

SEAFOOD

Lobster Ravioli w/ Cajun Cream Sauce

"Lobster Sensational" Seafood Martini w/ Vanilla Vinaigrette

Spicy Curry Shrimp w/ White Rice in a Plantain Cup

Seafood Royale

Tuna Treasure

Conch Salad (w/ Cooked Conch)

Mango Tango Scallop Tartare

305 Shrimp Ceviche

VEGETARIAN

Vegetarian Golubtsi

Roti w/ Curried Chickpeas, Potatoes, and Mango Chutney

Mushroom and Celery Lasagna Soup w/ Ricotta and Basil

Ratatouille with a Latin Twist atop Long Grain Rice w/ Roasted Corn

Vegetarian Ceviche

Traditional Spanish Omelet

Curry Pico Bites

Zealous Zucchini

DESSERT

Lemon Blueberry Cloudcakes

Berry Cheesecake

Mirage Bombs

Mixed Berry Cornbread Country Pudding w/ Blueberry Ice Cream

Copa de Caramelo

Strawberry Mochi

Special Thanks

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

Dwight Barnes
American Senior High School

Christina Coupet
Homestead Senior High School

Cristina DeArmas-Johnston
North Miami Beach Senior High School

Eida Delafuente
MAST Academy

Camilla Fantechi
Miami Beach Fienberg-Fisher K-8 Center

Andre Franks
North Miami Senior High School

Kathy Gonzalez
Hialeah Senior High School

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Kinloch Park Middle School

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West Miami Middle School

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James Lubin
Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School

Melanie Mann
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David Strickland
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Marilyn Victores
Lamar Louise Curry Middle School

Wayne Worthley
Redland Middle School



**ABOUT THE EDUCATION FUND
WHERE INNOVATION IS FUNDAMENTAL**

A Taste of What We Do

- Impact all 300,000+ students annually, in all 400+ Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- Offer support and professional development to all 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
- 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



Teach-A-Thon



A Taste of Our Accomplishments

- \$94+ million raised for public schools
- 34% increase in students' college enrollment
- 65% of students increased science achievement
- 73% of students improved math knowledge
- 203,150+ students and teachers recognized for their artwork
- \$31+ million in classroom supplies donated, benefiting 4.3+ million children
- 313,000+ harvest food bags provided to low-income students' families
- 8,000+ Food Forest harvests served in students' cafeteria meals
- \$3.1+ million provided for projects in 5,500+ classrooms
- All 347 M-DCPS principals and 676 counselors trained in resiliency strategies
- 3,100+ business professionals recruited to teach for a day and become teacher advocates
- 18,000+ educators joined new Miami Loves Teachers program to recognize and empower current and future teachers



Food Forests for Schools



Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials

TASTE OF EDUCATION



Lynn & Louis Wolfson II Family Foundation

supports The Education Fund's transformative
impact at Taste of Education!



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We're proud to support **The Education Fund** and the vital support they provide to students and teachers throughout our community.



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For over 30 years, with our unparalleled problem-solving approach to providing innovative products, we have made our customers' lives easier and their customers happier. Through the donation program established for The Education Fund, we are given a valuable opportunity to also make children happier by providing them with materials that empower them to manifest their imagination into creative and impressive art.

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Join EdFed Today!

EdFed has proudly served Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) since 1935. As a not-for-profit organization supporting educators, students, and their families, EdFed is dedicated to helping our members achieve their financial dreams and build a brighter future. With customized products and services to meet your unique needs, EdFed helps save you money.

- ✓ Get \$100 cash back¹ when you buy or refinance your vehicle with EdFed
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Potentially drop your rate by more than 1%⁵ when you refinance your existing auto loan with EdFed.

Scan the QR code to open an account today!

¹ All loans are subject to approval and are granted based on individual creditworthiness, the ability to repay and credit score. Offer good on all new EdFed auto, boat, recreational vehicles, and motorcycle loans. Offer may be discontinued at any time without prior notice. Cash will be provided as a \$100 credit applied to the primary borrower's Prime Share within 30 days of loan funding. Loan must remain open with a balance for a minimum of 14 days to qualify.

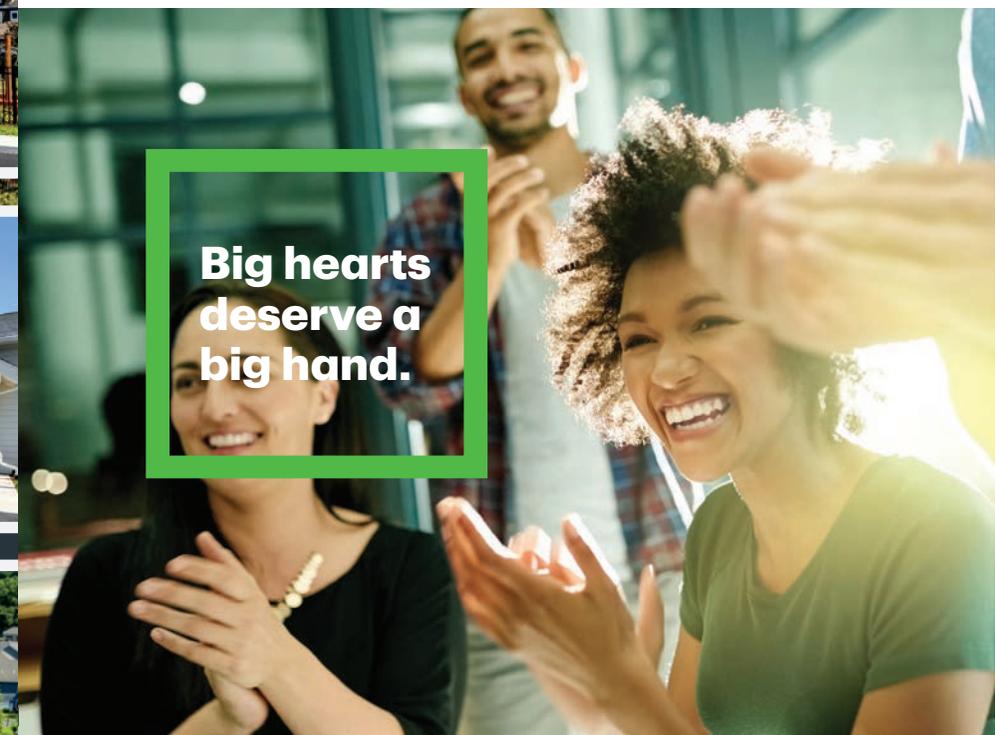
² Offer good on all new credit cards opened on or after 07/01/25. To receive the \$200 cash-back incentive, you must make \$2,000 in purchases within 90 days of card issuance. Returns, cash advances, and balance transfers do not count toward the required \$2,000 purchase total. Cash will be provided as a \$200 credit applied to the primary borrower's Prime Share within 100 days of credit card account opening.

³ Borrowers will receive a rebate of \$25 for every \$10,000 of new balances funded on a qualifying Home Equity Line of Credit and Home Equity Fixed Rate Loans. Minimum funding/advance required to qualify for this offer is \$10,000. Maximum rebate amount is \$750 per loan. Rebate will be deposited in the borrower's Prime Savings 90 days after initial loan funding. Loans closed prior to the 90-day period will be disqualified.

⁴ All loans are subject to approval and are granted based on individual creditworthiness, the ability to repay and credit score. Borrowers will receive a rebate of 0.25% of loan amount financed on the following qualifying loan types: New Mortgage Purchase and First Mortgage Refinance. Minimum loan amount to qualify for this offer is \$50,000. Maximum rebate amount is \$1,000 per member. Rebate will be credited at loan closing. Offer cannot be combined with any other discounts. Conventional home loan programs are available up to \$832,750 and Jumbo Loan programs are available up to \$2,000,000. If you are financing a condominium or obtaining a Jumbo Loan, certain restrictions apply.

⁵ The Swap & Drop 1% percent loan rate reduction is available for autos currently financed elsewhere that are refinanced with EdFed. The Swap & Drop loan rate reduction is subject to a Floor Rate of 2.75% APR. Offer excludes refinances of existing EdFed loans.





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The Education Fund,
We applaud you for all the truly
meaningful work you do in our
community.



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We are better together

Every day we go to work, attend school, and live our lives side by side. Our individual experiences come together to help us learn more about the world around us, and ourselves as well.

Wells Fargo is proud to recognize The Education Fund.

wellsfargo.com/impact

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A TASTE OF OUR Programs

THE TEACH-A-THON

Presented by Wells Fargo

Great Teachers = Student Achievement

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 3,100+ 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.



Hector Ponte, Wells Fargo, Frances S. Tucker Elementary School



Alexa Stephens, Assurant, Claude Pepper Elementary School

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 \$775,000+ to support our public schools.

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Esmeralda Lopez, World Kinect, Kensington Park Elementary School



Laura Ratliff, The Graham Companies, Bob Graham Educational Center



Alan Alvarez, RSA Consulting, Miami Senior High School



Pablo Pino, TD Bank, Coral Gables Senior High School



Chandra Gebert, Blackstone, Aventura Waterways K-8 Center

A TASTE OF OUR Programs

THE EDUCATION FUND THANKS OUR TEACH-A-THON FUNDRAISERS

Platinum: \$2,000+

Joseph Natoli
Pablo Pino
Nick Tootle

Darrell Payne
Paulette Phillips
Lizzie Pittinger
Aryeh Pollack
Emilio Ruiz

Alexandros Bouliakis
Raymond Dueñas
Ryan Fraser
Anurag Gupta
Beatriz Lucki

Honorable Mention: \$200+

Mandee Heller Adler
Manuel Buraglia

Jonathan Menendez
Mabel Morrison
Heike Naigur
Mario Nuñez
Helena Poleo
Julissa Rivera
Mary Stephens

Honorable Mention: \$100+

Alan Alvarez
Charlotte Bergin

Gold: \$1,000+

Aleef Adam
Kristina Siddall
Alexa Stephens

Silver: \$500+

Selene Alberto
Janis Cheezem
Peter Koltis
Ernest Modock, Jr.
Ivis Monzon
Laura Ratliff

Bronze: \$250+

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As of 2/11/26



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Rolando Aedo, Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, Kensington Park Elementary School



Casey Crist, TD Bank, Joella C. Good Elementary School



Aleef Adam, DesignLogix, iPrep Academy North



Lioz Grunberger, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, Gratigny Elementary School



Paulette Bilsky Phillips, The 305 Chef, Miami Jackson High School

A TASTE OF OUR Programs

FOOD FORESTS FOR SCHOOLS

Food Forests for Schools brings learning to life for elementary school students through hands-on lessons taught in outdoor eco-classrooms. Currently serving more than 28,000 students, the program transforms barren school grounds into vibrant mini-forests filled with superfoods.

In these Food Forests, children improve their STEM achievement by building models and engaging directly in activities to learn about erosion, gravity, life cycles, ecosystems, equivalent fractions, mean/mode/median, and more. Resiliency pathways improve students' mental health and the food grown is used in school meals and taken home.

Aligned with K–5 academic standards and developed in collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the program delivers measurable results that outpace national trends.

During the 2024–2025 school year, 65% of participating students improved their science achievement and 73% increased their math knowledge.

Through inquiry-based lessons and collaborative projects, students strengthen curiosity, critical thinking, teamwork, perseverance, personal responsibility, and problem solving, along with other valuable skills.

Healthy eating is encouraged via lessons and produce distribution with more than 313,150 harvest bags of fresh produce provided to students and families.



"I was working with a group of first graders when they noticed a pile of fallen leaves under the banana trees. After we talked about conservation and composting, one student suddenly said, 'Wait! Don't throw these away. These are food for the garden!' Right away, the whole group got excited and started gathering the leaves to place in the banana circle for compost. Later, another student told me, 'We're like garden helpers. When we recycle and compost, the plants can grow stronger, just like us when people help us.' It was such a beautiful moment that showed how quickly the students connected caring for the garden with caring for their community."

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

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School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program



The Batchelor Foundation



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Blackstone Charitable Foundation



Department of Food & Nutrition
Division of Academics
Division of Sustainability



A TASTE OF OUR Programs

THE OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

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 4.1 million students benefited from \$31+ million in materials distributed. Teachers in all subject areas 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.



OCEAN BANK - MEMBER FDIC



“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



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR OTHER PROGRAM SPONSORS



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.



A student displays her artwork at *The Education Fund's Art of Found Objects Exhibition*. Her piece was made with supplies from the Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials.

Photo Credit - Miami Dade College, Hialeah Campus

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.

A TASTE OF OUR Programs

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 bi-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.



"Having a connection with the SmartPath College Club program and visiting colleges has really benefited me and empowered me to apply and have a plan for after graduation." - Student, Miami Senior High School



IDEAS WITH IMPACT

This initiative helps teachers raise student achievement! Mentor teachers train their peers at the annual *Idea Expo 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 Everglades-related video projects.

"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



Lynn & Louis Wolfson II Family Foundation



JACK CHESTER FOUNDATION

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The Lucy Petrey Fund

A TASTE OF OUR Giving



THANK YOU FOR YOUR 2025 GIVING!

WITH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Your generosity is more than a donation—it's hope in action.

On the following page are the names of those who believe in the power of public education. They care deeply about our children. They invest in The Education Fund.

These donors: individuals, foundations, and corporations are ensuring The Education Fund can meet urgent needs in our public schools.

They are allowing us to create opportunities that are often out of reach for Miami-Dade's students. They are building the future.

We salute our 2025 General Fund donors!

Looking to the future, The Education Fund is committed more than ever to our mission: to maximize every child's potential and ensure that each one graduates with every opportunity for success.

Join us in 2026—Invest in The Education Fund General Fund

For more information, to make a pledge, or to give, contact Linda Barrocas at 786-734-6099. Or use the QR code below.



A TASTE OF OUR Giving

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 GENERAL FUND DONORS!

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A TASTE OF OUR
Giving



NEW DONORS, NEW PROGRAMMING: MIAMI LOVES TEACHERS

RECOGNIZING THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FOUNDATION & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRITTON BANOWSKY

The Education Fund is thrilled to highlight a new partnership with the College Football Playoff Foundation (CFPF) and to laud its founding Executive Director Britton Banowsky for his innovation and dedication.

program, incentives and networking for teachers, and many other opportunities.

We are deeply grateful to Banowsky and CFPF for investing in the heart of our schools—our teachers.

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 Linda Barrocas at 786-734-6099 or emailing lbarrocas@educationfund.org.



In spring 2025, as the CFPF prepared to bring its championship game to Miami, Banowsky brought his own organization’s excitement. Saying “Every day is game day for teachers,” he approached Superintendent Dotres with an idea, “Miami Loves Teachers.” Dr. Dotres immediately signed on and offered the ideal partner to power the work, The Education Fund.

With the guidance of Banowsky and the CFPF and their partner, the Orange Bowl Committee, Miami Loves Teachers launched. Almost immediately, 18,000+ local education subscribers joined, creating a powerful community to inspire and empower teachers.

Today, with their support and corporate partners such as The HueHub and School Specialty, LLC, The Education Fund and Miami-Dade County Public Schools are providing a dedicated web platform for teachers to find a multitude of resources, a \$1,000 “Teacher of the Week” grant



Pinnacle is proud to support The Education Fund Taste of Education and our talented student chefs from Miami-Dade County public schools.

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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 18, 2026

Jungle Island

1111 Parrot Jungle Trail, Miami, FL 33132

For tickets, silent auction donations or sponsorship opportunities contact Marilen Marnett at mmarnett@educationfund.org or 305-298-9099.



DONATE SUPPLIES FOR OUR STUDENTS

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).



AUGUST + SEPTEMBER

MIAMI Spice 25

RESTAURANT MONTHS YEARS

As Miami Spice celebrates its 25th year, the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau is proud to support Taste of Education, an event dedicated to shaping the future of Miami's culinary and hospitality industry.



Visit

[MiamiSpice.com](https://www.miamispice.com)
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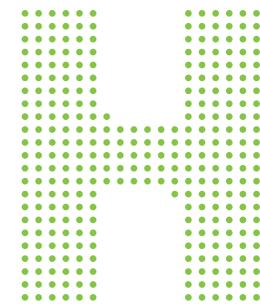
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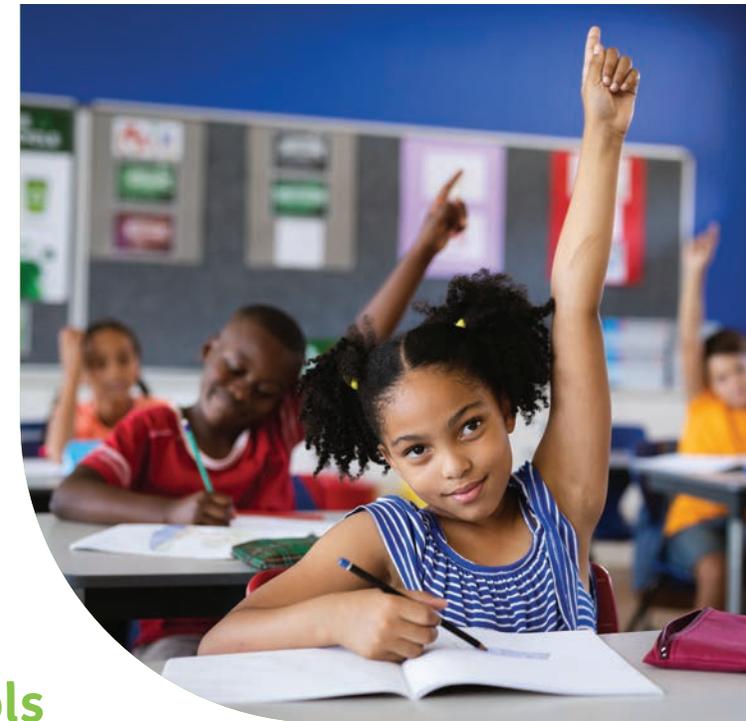
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We're proud to support The Education Fund for excellence in Miami-Dade County Public Schools



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*"Nurturing Creativity,
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ANDEAN HEIGHTS,
WHERE THE EARTH
MEETS THE SKY

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92

PTS
RESERVA MALBEC 2023





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ABOUT FOH® From Our Hearts®

FOH® is dedicated to giving back. We believe it is our foundational responsibility as a business, community, and family to give back and to be agents for change by supporting organizations and initiatives committed to making a difference in our world.

With this ideal firmly ingrained in our FOH® DNA, we created From Our Hearts®, our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program. We are committed to affecting meaningful and lasting change for the causes we believe in and the livelihoods of those most in need; all of whose challenges and championships are closest to our "Hearts."



FOH WORLDWIDE

BRAND PILLARS

Dynamic Culture

We draw inspiration from our Miami surroundings, embracing a vibrant and entrepreneurial spirit. Our commitment to quality and respect has earned us the title "Best Place to Work" and been recognized in "Manufacturing & Production."

Certified Diverse Supplier

We are honored to be recognized as a Certified Diverse Supplier. Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are core values at FOH. We are committed to empowering our workforce and cultivating an environment where differences are not only embraced but celebrated.

Social Responsibility

We are deeply committed to social responsibility and community engagement. Through our various initiatives, we strive to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need, contributing to a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

Commitment to Sustainability

We practice the principles of our Green, White, and Blue program. This commitment is evident in our sustainable packaging, energy-efficient operations, and our dedication to responsible sourcing and waste management.

We are proud to partner with The Education Fund and Miami-Dade County Public Schools in inspiring tomorrow's culinary artists.



YOU CAN HELP US IMPROVE EDUCATION FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN

Sponsor a program of The Education Fund.

Make a cash donation.

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 Linda Barrocas at 786-734-6099 or lbarrocas@educationfund.org.



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