

LEADERSHIP BROWARD FOUNDATION RECEIVES GRANTS FOR OUTREACH PROGRAM TO AT-RISK YOUTH

Fort Lauderdale – Leadership Broward Foundation (LBF) has received grants from the Community Foundation of Broward, the Marti Huizenga Foundation, and Lorraine Thomas to continue the Following the Leader in You (FLY) program.

Last year, LBF identified a need in the community for a facilitative leadership curriculum tailored for existing programs that currently serve at-risk youth populations in Broward. The FLY program seeks to change the way the participants see leaders by creating specific experiences that allow them to create a new definition of leadership that includes themselves.

The purpose of the FLY Program is to reach youth from nontraditional backgrounds and circumstances and encourage and inspire them to find – and follow – the leader in themselves. To accomplish this, LBF collaborates with other organizations in the community that currently serve at-risk youth populations to deliver this leadership training. The curriculum is comprised of seven one-and-a-half hour sessions, delivered weekly. The sessions demonstrate important facilitative leadership skills through interactive exercises, with an emphasis on how the students can use these skills to improve their lives and the lives of others in their schools, families and communities.

The FLY Program curriculum was developed by **Dr. Melissa Soldani-Lemon** and piloted on a group at the **PACE Center for Girls**. Since being adopted this past summer, the program has been delivered to over 250 of Broward's at-risk middle and high school students. Past collaborations have included **Hispanic Unity**, **SOS Children's Village of Florida**, the **City of Lauderdale Lakes**, and the **ASPIRA Association**. Currently, the FLY Program is being delivered to students at **Apollo Middle School** and **McNicol Middle School** through the Community Youth Services program of the **Memorial Healthcare System**. The FLY Program is facilitated by **Jené Kapela**, Programs Manager at LBF.

Leadership Broward Foundation will use the grants to continue outreach over the summer and following year. Agencies selected to participate in the FLY Program have a mission that serves at-risk youth in middle or high school, provide a suitable venue to deliver the training and provide input for the development of the curriculum for their respective agency. The scheduling of the training is flexible and coordinates with other programs and activities offered by the agencies.

Since 1982, **Leadership Broward** has graduated nearly 1,600 business, civic and non-profit professionals from its intense nine-month leadership development program. During this same period, more than 300 non-profit organizations have benefited from the community projects conducted by each Leadership class. Participants receive a comprehensive insight into Broward County's infrastructure and critical issues. **Youth Leadership Broward** offers similar training for high school juniors and the **Senior Executive Orientation** allows senior-level executives to participate in an abbreviated development program.

Leadership Broward Foundation also provides its members with a host of enriching programs throughout the year. For more information, visit www.leadershipbroward.org or call 954.767.8866.

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