

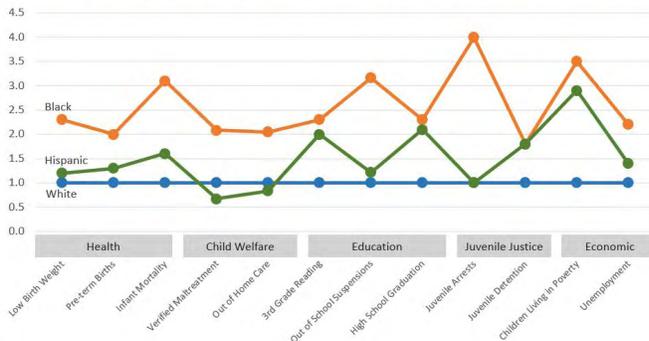


Dear Child Advocate,

It has been a difficult time for everyone as our community continues to focus on COVID relief and recovery efforts. The pandemic has affected some communities more than others, especially communities of color. This has been a special focus of the Birth to 22 Alliance – understanding the impacts/gaps and how we support our children and families. As part of this work, we have continued to address issues of equity.

To further our understanding, we completed a deeper dive into our county’s child outcomes. We conducted an analysis looking at health, child welfare, school, juvenile justice, and economic systems. This data examined racial and ethnic breakdowns, looking at relative risk or, how much more or less likely one group will experience an outcome compared to others. The findings show us how much work we have to do in order to achieve equity for all Palm Beach County children.

Palm Beach County Relative Risk Across Systems



Too often, we look at outcomes based on the belief that the result is because of something an individual did or did not do. The fact is, systems are failing children and especially failing children of color. For example, women of color are more likely to receive poorer quality of care within the health care system; children of color are more likely to be treated differently than their counterparts within the education system, and so on.

The good news is that our community recognizes these disparities, and system leaders have taken on the challenge to create and sustain systems change so that every child, no matter the color of their skin, will have every opportunity to succeed. This will take time and long-term commitment, but together we can do it. In fact, it has already begun, with various teams meeting to dive deeper into root causes, to implement needed change. Over the next year, we will share efforts underway that are making a difference. In the meantime, we challenge our readers to take the equity [pledge](#) and commit to being part of these efforts.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Williams-Taylor
CEO, Children’s Services Council

Tammy K. Fields
Director, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department

Birth to 22 United for Brighter Futures NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 | Issue 2 | March 2021

Advancing the Mission

The Birth to 22 Racial Equity Core Team hosted the fifth Advancing the Mission workshop on December 17.

Get Your Green On

The Get Your Green On campaign aims to raise awareness by creating visible support and fostering safe spaces to talk openly about mental health and trauma.

Alliance Spotlights

Since its inception, Birth to 22 and its community alliances, have been working towards providing youth and young adults resources to reach their fullest potential.

Share Feedback & Stories!

Do you have feedback or have an inspiring story to share? We’d love to hear from you!

Contact us at, psc-birthto22@psbcgov.org

Pathways for Employment



If you ask adults “where can a youth go to get help with educational pathways to employment?” you will probably hear The Lords Place, Gulf Stream Goodwill, CareerSource Palm Beach County, Boca Helping Hands, Dress for Success, Junior Achievement, Vita Nova, Inc, and many others. But, when you ask a youth you will get a myriad of answers ranging from “I dunno,” to “indeed.com.”

To help bridge this gap, Birth to 22 is re-building a committee called Building Educational Pathways to Employment for Disconnected Youth (Disconnected Youth). This group is working hard with a new charge, and specific purpose to help youth ages 16-22 years old find resources for employment leading out of poverty.

Birth to 22 defines any youth who is not in school, or working as disconnected. The exact number of disconnected youth is difficult to nail down, but the committee is actively gathering data from the School District of Palm Beach County, CareerSource Palm Beach County, and others related to drop-out and unemployment rates in Palm Beach County. In future updates the committee will be reporting on a possible “universe of youth” in this category, so that these youth can be the focus of the Building Educational Pathways to Employment for Disconnected Youth sub-committee.

The charge of the “disconnected youth” committee is threefold. These are:

- Refresh, or create an asset map of employment services for youth seeking employment ages 16-22 years old.

- Use the asset map to create a centralized hub for youth to enter, navigate the pathway, and become connected.
- Communicate the centralized hub for all to access – any hour / any day.

In order to accomplish this task, the Disconnected Youth sub-committee would like to invite individuals to get involved in this life changing work. Please consider helping this committee fulfill its charge by getting involved in the following ways:

- Help us collect recent data on this target youth population.
- Connect us with technology groups who are savvy to make our pathway to employment resources exciting for youth, and young adults.
- Get engaged by joining our action team and helping create a pathway (pipeline) for youth to get working. If you are a youth reading this, then yes, this sentence is for you too.
- Help us promote the new pathway through advertising, marketing, or social media.

The Building Educational Pathways to Employment for Disconnected Youth committee is fired up and ready to embrace 2021 with a solution for connecting youth to employment.

To learn more or to get involved visit [Disconnected Youth](#).

Afterschool Director Reaches her Dreams



Northmore Elementary Afterschool Director Kanishia Mortin always dreamed of the day that she would be the first in her immediate family to go to college and graduate.

Her dream was temporarily put on hold as she writes, “of

course, life happens!” After working for the School District of Palm Beach County for the past 17 years, Kanishia’s dream has finally come true.

By taking advantage of Prime Time’s Professional Development Scholarship opportunities, Kanishia was able to graduate from Palm Beach State College. Full story: [here](#).

Grassroots Grant Making

In 2018, Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County (CSC) made a purposeful decision to invest in student-led grantmaking. Student ACES Glades, a 2017 Great Ideas Initiative awardee, was selected to pilot this innovative enterprise, partnering with student athletes interested in building personal and community muscle.

The purpose of the Grassroots/Student-led Grant (GSGA) Pilot was to promote societal healing and transformation by helping to ensure buy-in and accountability for shared goals and strategies, ultimately leading to a healthy, youth-centered Glades community.

In Phase 1, 10 student athletes from high schools in Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay engaged residents in a Request for Proposal process. After weeks of resident and student interviews, the students landed on three (3) focus areas:

- Community Safety
- Building Community Respect
- Increasing Community Trust and Accountability

This process was also a lesson in how to collect, examine and interpret qualitative data to inform their decisions – choosing six non-profits to receive \$5,000 each in funding.

During a 2019 CSC Council presentation, board members challenged the students to go deeper in their exploration: the various factors – past and present – that influence current conditions in the Glades region of the county, and how to support the lasting change residents desired for

their community.

In the midst of an international pandemic, the GSGA set out to work on Phase 2 of this initiative with the assistance of a subject-matter expert. But right when the group started to nail down the elements of their project, everything changed. A dear friend to so many of them was murdered in what remains an unsolved case. The significance of “safety” in the community became more urgent. It also became evident that if they wanted to transform the community through grant-making, they could start with transforming grant-making in the community.

Their project facilitator reminded the students of the African Proverb, “If you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together!” And that’s what they set out to do.

With a new-found understanding, GSGA realized their focus was not to “fix” individuals, but transform the systems that have historically maintained the “status quo,” more of a “Roadmap to a Violence-Free Glades Community.”

Building off of the work of the Youth Violence Prevention Program in Palm Beach County, key findings from Ceasefire in Oakland, California and Boston Uncornered, the students are proposing to fund a community-driven process that will result in a specific set of standards and policy recommendations/demands.

As of the first week of January 2021, three organizations had successful submitted proposals. The funding announcement is expected in February 2021.

Solar Opportunities In Belle Glade



High school students, many from Palm Beach County’s most economically depressed neighborhoods, are one-step closer to career-launching, skilled trade jobs in Florida’s expanding solar industry, thanks to a \$105,000 donation from the Moss Foundation to Student ACES’ solar workforce development program.

“We are excited to support Student ACES and this important initiative,” said Chad Moss, president of the Moss Foundation. “There are tremendous career opportunities in this specialized field of construction, and we want to provide students who are considering this path the experiences they need to understand their options

and the tools to achieve their career goals.”

The Student ACES workforce development program exposes students to well-paying jobs in the solar industry that do not require a college degree.

Click [here](#) to read to full article featured in *The Boca Tribune*.



Prime Time Palm Beach & Future Leaders



Palm Beach County Youth Services Department and Prime Time Palm Beach County have partnered to support Future Leaders United for Change efforts including further development of the county-wide youth council, youth leadership opportunities, community

service and engagement activities, and opportunities for youth and young adults to provide input regarding their needs and concerns.

Prime Time engages with several Teen Advisory Councils (TAC) by hosting monthly meetings and leadership development opportunities. Currently, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department and Prime Time Palm Beach County are working collectively to align TAC and Future Leaders opportunities in a more expansive and impactful manner for youth.

For more information about Future Leaders United for Change, click [here](#).

A Salute to Child Care Providers



The Early Learning Coalition shared a [letter of appreciation](#) and salute with Palm Beach County's exceptional early learning and after-school community. Specifically, teachers, early educators, after-school practitioners, and child care owners who have given their time and support without fail to ensure the education, care, and safety of the county's

youngest learners.

This letter was written on behalf of and in partnership with several of the leading Birth to 22 agencies, including the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, and Prime Time Palm Beach County.

Through this continual, local collaborative partnership, the Early Learning Coalition was able to shed light on the important issue of having a robust, high-quality child care system in Palm Beach County.

This hot topic is being pushed higher on the priority list as the pandemic reveals the child care industry's mission-critical nature, as a foundation for K-12 learning and beyond, and a pillar of our society's future sustainability.

The Palm Beach Post also featured the point of view via a special [OpEd](#).

Get your Green On



Save the Date: May is Mental Health Awareness and Trauma Informed Care Month! This year, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, in partnership with National Alliance on Mental Illness Palm Beach County (NAMI PBC), BeWell PBC and Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures, continue their efforts in celebration of the sixth annual Get Your Green On campaign.

The Get Your Green On campaign aims to raise awareness

by creating visible support and fostering safe spaces to talk openly about mental health and trauma.

If you are interested in joining the planning committee for the sixth annual Get Your Green On Campaign email Katherine Murphy (katherinemurphy@namipbc.org) and/or Lauren Zuchman (lzuchman@bewellpbc.org) for more details.

Remember! To show your support, we are inviting everyone in Palm Beach County to "Get Your Green On," and wear green Thursday, May 20.

YSD & ERM Team Up for Youth Learning



geologic formation), and the many plants and animals that thrive in the environment. The group also practiced orienteering, navigating through dense wooded areas using a compass and map.

There are three county-funded youth empowerment centers in Palm Beach County -- Lake Worth, Belle Glade and Riviera Beach. Future field trips are planned with members from each center with a focus topic and activities to enjoy on days when students are not in school, such as scheduled teacher workdays.

The YEC program provides activities and services to middle and high school youth, including after-school educational and recreational programming. The centers promote education, health and well-being, leadership and community involvement. For The Children, Inc. operates the Lake Worth YEC. All three centers in Palm Beach County receive funding from the Board of County Commissioners through its Youth Services Department.

Click [here](#) for more information about Youth Empowerment Centers.

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department (YSD) and Environmental Resources Management (ERM) work in partnership to offer young people opportunities to visit county natural areas and engage in activities such as hiking, bird watching, kayaking, and learning about the plants and animals that live there. This collaboration began three years ago with the Tri-City Trailblazers and Green Futures, a student summer internship program. Both programs are continually evolving to provide educational and enrichment opportunities for youth.

On February 1, seven students and one chaperone from the Lake Worth Youth Empowerment Center (YEC) took a field trip with two ERM staffers to the Lantana Scrub Natural Area. Students learned about safely hiking the trails, why the soil is sandy and similar to a desert (erosion, weathering,

Prime Time Holds Forum Discussion



Reflections on Equity: A Necessary Space to Discuss Recent Injustices
 On January 14, afterschool professionals and partners joined Prime Time Palm Beach County to engage in frank discussions in response to the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

The event began with an opening from Prime Time’s Social Emotional Learning Specialist Knellee Bisram who made participants feel they were safe to join in on a discussion around race-based issues that are often a delicate task but crucial to uniting groups of people. Read the full recap [here](#).

Palm Beach County Non-Profit Grant Funding



Palm Beach County CARES for Nonprofits Grant

The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners provided grant funding through its Youth Services Department to the United Way of Palm Beach County for nonprofit agencies throughout Palm Beach County.

Monies were made available through the county's Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to meet the needs of qualifying 501 (c)(3) or 501(c)(19) nonprofit agencies affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant-funding program prioritized health and human services or veterans' services organizations in Palm Beach

County with a focus on at least one of the following areas:

- Unemployed individuals needing job skills training, assistance with job search and employment applications
- Low-income individuals, youth and/or families
- Individuals with a disability
- Homeless
- Individuals with a mental/behavioral health issue
- Providing critical services in an underserved area
- Veterans

In total, \$3,656,934.50 was granted to 216 organizations. In addition, \$343,065.50 of PPE (personal protective equipment) and cleaning supplies were distributed.

Birth to 22 Task Force Meeting



On December 15, Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures hosted its fifth annual stakeholder task force meeting virtually. The annual meeting serves to inform, engage and plan with the key champions, coalitions, and young people about the work of Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures. Over 215 individuals participated in the annual meeting.

Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department director and Lisa Williams-Taylor, CEO of the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County welcomed the group with a brief overview of accomplishments and reminding participants of the alliance's mission. Presentations included:

- Birth to 22 Ad Hoc Gaps Committee – created to support communities after the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing racial and economic disparities. This committee collaborated with Birth to 22's Racial Equity Core Team to focus efforts on areas with the greatest disparities and identify gaps to align support and advocacy.

- Racial Equity Core Team, a Birth to 22 workgroup with the primary charge of facilitating the responsibility of Palm Beach County G.A.R.E. (Government Alliance on Race and Equity), shared their accomplishments (including having 20 new organization commit to joining the local Advancing the Mission network), challenges, next steps, and recommendations.

- Future Leaders United for Change introduced their new adult supporters from Prime Time Palm Beach County (Anton Spaulding and Andrea Hurtado) and highlighted their many 2020 accomplishments including a podcast and their involvement with the Youth Summit Quaranteen.

- Collective Impact 3.0, a structured form of collaboration, discussed bringing multiple stakeholders together to create lasting social change. Collaborations working with Birth to 22 include Hunger Relief, Achieve Palm Beach County, Securing Our Future and BeWell Palm Beach County.

The plenary portion of the meeting concluded with a compilation video of each action team and workgroup providing information on their teams. These videos are available to view on Birth to 22's website.

Following presentations, breakout sessions were held allowing participants to join one of the nine action teams' sessions. The sessions identified the data that drives their objectives, target work for 2020, and the needs of the action teams to continue moving forward in 2021.

Advancing the Mission Workshop



The Birth to 22 Racial Equity Core Team hosted the fifth Advancing the Mission workshop on December 17. This virtual workshop brought together more than 200 participants representing municipalities, non-profits, and community agencies serving youth in Palm Beach County.

Invited guests, Julie Nelson, Senior Vice President of Programs, Race Forward Founding Director of GARE and Cathy Albisa, Vice President of Institutional and Sectoral Change GARE served as discussion moderators. Attendees were provided the opportunity to participate in either of the two breakout sessions:

- Catalyst for Change: Driving Transformation by Building a Race Equity Culture
- A New Way Forward: Rooting out Racism by Building Cultural Intelligence

Both sessions addressed how organizations can lead the work through adopting a racial equity culture and cultural intelligence.

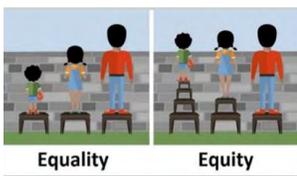
Leaders who have committed to advancing racial equity within their organizations were invited to sign the Advancing the Mission pledge and vow to normalizing conversations about race, operationalizing new policies, practices and organizational cultures, and organizing to achieve racial equity in their organizations.

This year we will work with these agencies to further support their organizational assessment and implementation of the tools to effect change.

Kudo's to the members of the Racial Equity Planning Team for their leadership. The team includes James Green, Director of Palm Beach County Community Services, Department, Marsha Guthrie Community Planning and Partnerships Lead for Children Services Council of Palm Beach County, Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Director of Outreach and Community Programming, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, Rachel Mondesir, Project Manager for Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County, Lauren Zuchman, Executive Director for BeWellPBC, and Jonathan Hackley, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst for the Criminal Justice Commission.

For additional information or to sign the pledge, click [here](#).

Florida Race Equity Challenge



The Florida Youth Justice Commission in collaboration with the State Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) led the "Florida Race Equity Challenge" (FREC) for the various DJJ circuits and partners across the state during the period of June through December 2020.

Florida's Race Equity Challenge is a web-based experience that provided collaborative groups with the education and tools to identify and tackle issues related to race, equity, and inclusion (REI) within the juvenile justice system. The series included three blocks of scheduled web-based learning that fostered attendees to have meaningful discussions on implicit bias, utilizing data, assessing race equity in policies, Equality Florida, identification and preparation of a proposal to address change within the Palm Beach County Judicial Circuit 15.

The Palm Beach County RED/DMC team led the local FREC team challenge with members from various agencies across the county including; 15th Judicial Circuit, Children's Services Council of Pam Beach County, Court Administration, Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Gulfstream Goodwill, Office of the Public Defender, Office of the State Attorney, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, Palm Beach School District, School Board of Palm Beach County, St. John's Baptist Church, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, West Palm Beach Police Department, West Palm Beach Mayor's Office, Palm Beach County School District Police and others.

The team chose to focus on the probation part of the justice system with the intent of significantly reducing disparities and reducing recidivism. A race, equity, and inclusion solution proposal was developed and submitted to the Florida Youth Justice Commission.

National Report on Implementing SEL



The School District of Palm Beach County and Prime Time Palm Beach County, a nonprofit intermediary organization that serves out-of-school time (OST) programs and practitioners, have collaborated on the

Partnerships for Social and Emotional Learning Initiative (PSELI) - a comprehensive, multi-year project exploring whether and how children can benefit when schools and out-of-school time (OST) programs intentionally work together to build students' social and emotional skills. Findings from the first two years of PSELI have been released by The Wallace Foundation in the *Early Lessons from Schools and Out-of-School Time Programs Implementing Social and Emotional Learning*.

The study, produced by The RAND Corporation, examined implementation of social and emotional learning (SEL) programs and practices for elementary-age students and the adults who serve them. The findings from the first two years of PSELI cover how partners in six communities (Boston, Dallas, Denver, Palm Beach County, Fla., Tacoma, Wash., and Tulsa, Okla.) carried out the work and what it takes to implement high-quality SEL programs and practices.

The report, which follows the most comprehensive study of SEL implementation to date, offers important insights at a time when interest in SEL is outstripping empirical guidance about how to carry out these programs and practices. A future report will assess student outcomes and look at implementation after four years.

"It is validating to see that our experiences were shared across the six PSELI communities doing this work," said Suzette Harvey, president and CEO at Prime Time Palm Beach County. "The lessons learned can help other locals integrate SEL into their school and out-of-school time systems quicker, so educators and children can reap the benefits sooner than later."

"We learned that SEL needs to start with the adult and is an ongoing journey of reflection," said Kristen Rulison, the SEL Manager in the School District of Palm Beach County's Division of Teaching and Learning. "We provide SEL professional development to continue to develop adult understanding of SEL skills in order to foster those skills in students. We have also learned the importance of SEL implementation through explicit skills instruction. This year, we created a District-wide SEL Guide to support teachers with weekly SEL skills that they can focus on. We

have provided explicit instruction lessons and videos to support each weekly SEL theme/skill."

"As more schools recognize the importance of social and emotional learning, it's critical that we gain a better understanding of what it takes to do this work effectively, when schools and out-of-school time programs work independently or in partnership," said Gigi Antoni, director of learning and enrichment at The Wallace Foundation. "The insights are especially relevant now that COVID-19 has disrupted school and OST programming on an unprecedented scale. The pandemic has also amplified the urgency of addressing students' social and emotional well-being along with their academic learning."

Early Lessons from Schools and Out-of-School Time Programs Implementing Social and Emotional Learning describes implementation efforts in the six PSELI communities and the lessons and recommendations based on a trove of data that includes approximately 5,000 completed surveys of school and OST staff, 850 interviews, and observations of more than 3,000 instructional and non-instructional activities in schools and afterschool programs.

"For many schools and OST programs, efforts to implement social and emotional learning are still relatively new," said Heather Schwartz, director of the Pre-K to 12 educational systems program and a senior policy researcher at the RAND Corporation. "Research like this is vital to understanding what works, what doesn't, and what lessons should inform efforts going forward."

Based on the first two years of work in the initiative (from 2017-2019), the researchers found that:

- Implementation efforts benefited from developing adult understanding of their own SEL skills in order to foster these in students.
- Although each community customized its approach, three common strategies were used: implementing SEL through explicit skills instruction, integrating SEL into academic instruction and OST activities, and creating a positive in-school and out-of-school culture and climate.
- SEL-focused partnerships (between schools and OST programs and/or districts and OST coordinating entities, or intermediaries) faced substantial barriers—but there were strategies to help overcome them.
- It was helpful to first create a shared vision of SEL, determine roles and responsibilities, and identify which SEL skills to develop.

A separate nationally representative survey released

this month by RAND – Supports for Social and Emotional Learning in American Schools and Classrooms: Findings from the American Teacher Panel – found that 80% of teachers surveyed expressed a desire for more professional development in a variety of topics related to social and emotional learning.

The PSEL communities are working to help children understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Research has found these competencies are important for brain development and success in school and life.

Technical assistance for the cities is being provided by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning

(CASEL), the Forum for Youth Investment’s David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality and Crosby Marketing Communications. Going forward, the PSEL communities’ work will continue to inform the broader field. Over the next two years, researchers will share additional implementation lessons as the communities’ SEL efforts mature. Future reports will document these findings, offer case studies with more detailed portraits of school-OST partnerships, and analyze the effects of the PSEL work on students’ SEL skills and academic achievement, site-wide climate, and staff retention and job commitment. RAND will also provide a how-to guide.

To read the full PSEL report and the American Teacher Panel survey and for more information on social emotional learning, visit the [Wallace Knowledge Center](#).

Alliance Spotlights



United Way of Palm Beach County Hunger Relief and community partners are implementing the Healthy Corner Store Initiative in underserved communities of western Palm Beach County. This program supports corner store owners committed to increasing the healthy food inventory in their stores while encouraging customers to make healthier choices.

The purpose of the Healthy Corner Store Initiative is to increase access to affordable fresh produce in neighborhoods experiencing low income, low access to healthy foods, and lack of nutritional education. United Way of Palm Beach County is working with community partners, residents, and small-scale store owners to assist them with introducing fresh produce as part of store merchandise and provide convenience shoppers with healthy food options.

Currently, the initiative is working closely with corner store owners in Canal Point (Sam’s Food Store) and South Bay (South Bay Food Store) to increase their capacity to sell and market healthy items and improve food options in

their communities. The two mentioned food deserts lack a supermarket; therefore, families depend on corner stores for food purchases.

Corner stores are also frequent destinations for children, many of whom stop in daily for snacks on their way to and from school. The convenience store’s increased capacity to sell healthy food will result in the community having increased availability to healthy food. Additionally, children who frequently shop for quick bites will have a food environment with potential to leave a positive impact on health and weight status.

As requested by Canal Point residents, the initiative introduced eggs, apples, bananas, onions, limes, and blueberries.

As Sam’s Food Store continues to expand, they have acquired new refrigeration, shelving, and a preparation station to introduce items like ready-made salads.

Click [here](#) to learn more about United Way of Palm Beach County Hunger Relief.



MyFloridaMyFamily.com was launched in September 2020 by Governor and First Lady DeSantis in coordination with the Department of Children and Families. It is a website that acts as a gateway to family support services to pair those in need with local faith institutions and community organizations eager to help. It also serves as a landing site for foster and adoptive parent recruitment in Florida.

Features include:

- An online directory that allows anyone to search for verified social care providers for things like food, housing, transit, healthcare, legal aid, and more by zip code.
- An innovative matchmaking platform that allows engaged organizations to see the real time needs of vulnerable children and families in their communities.
- A multitude of opportunities for faith and community

groups to support local foster and adoptive families through the Angel Armies network of non-profit organizations.

It's easy to get started! Just visit MyFloridaMyFamily.com and choose "I Need Help" to get connected to our free resource directory.

Examples of the connections that can be made through MyFloridaMyFamily:

- Locations of food distributions
- Transportation to medical appointments
- Family counseling
- Internet assistance programs
- College scholarships
- Utility assistance programs
- Substance abuse counseling
- Homework help

If you're interested in becoming a foster parent, choose "I Want to Foster" or call Florida's Foster Information Center at 1-83-FOSTERFL.



January was National Mentoring Month and The Mentor Center successfully launched two Mentor Center campaign videos. Through a partnership with WPTV, News Channel 5 was able to run a commercial encouraging the community to get involved with youth mentoring.

Through social media ads, 20 additional mentor referrals were added, which boosted the Mentor Center recruitment event held on February 2 to 44 people. At the National Mentoring Summit held January 27-29, Allison Overstreet, United Way Mentoring Outreach Coordinator, and Jen Silliman, Program Director of Caps and Cribs Teen Mom Mentoring at Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, championed Capitol Hill Day.

The team met with 10 of Florida's state representatives and congress members advocating for an increase of national funding for youth mentoring for FY 21/22 from \$100 million

to \$120 million, which they gladly supported. The Mentor Center shared locally with Lois Frankel about the work being done in the community. As a supporter of youth mentoring, Frankel welcomes continual updates and success stories from the Mentor Center.

The Mentor Center team attended the summit and gained more knowledge and resources on funding opportunities, racial equity in mentoring, eliminating systemic barriers for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), leadership, and mentoring youth in the Department of Juvenile Justice system. As the Florida affiliate for the National Mentoring Partnership, we were able to lead a call with 30 summit participants from the state of Florida to convene and share resources to collaborate going forward.

Visit the [United Way of Palm Beach County mentor page](#) by clicking [here](#) more information on becoming a mentor.



Operation Santa 2020 was a huge success! Palm Beach County Community Services Department collaborated with Friends of Youth Services and Palm Beach County Inc., Pathways to Prosperity and Community Action Program to collect three wishes from children in the Securing Our Future Initiative (SOFI). Once collected, Community Services staff volunteered to sponsor a family consisting of one-five children through Friends of Youth Services and Palm Beach County Inc. A few staff members sponsored more than one family. Many staff also purchased gifts for the parents of the children.

On Saturday, December 19, Community Services staff and volunteer elves gathered in their favorite holiday sweaters, sipping hot chocolate to wrap each child's gift. Gifts included bicycles, skateboards, scooters, gift cards, Legos, dolls, headphones, video games, remote control cars, clothes, shoes, basketball hoops, sports balls, art supplies and more.

Community Services staff donated gifts to Securing Our Future families through Friends of Youth Services and Palm

Beach County Inc., a local nonprofit organization supporting Youth and Community Services. In this inaugural year, we were able to donate holiday gifts for 59 children within 21 families through 19 incredible Community Service staff donors. Gifts received total around \$1,670!

SOFI is a collective impact that connects families to community resources designed to increase their household income through employment or entrepreneurship. This initiative is unique in that, it directly support families and focuses on policies that keep people in poverty. Through its policy work, the SOFI is decreasing childhood poverty in Palm Beach County. Our initiative consists of over 100 community partners from nonprofits, government entities, local businesses, and community members.

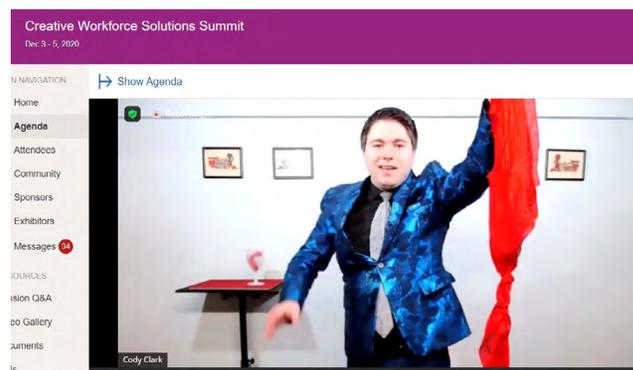
We thank the volunteers and donors for bringing joy, hope, and happiness to our SOFI families in the 2020 holiday season.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Securing Our Future Initiative, please reach out to Jodie Boisvert at JBoisvert@pbcgov.org.



Unicorn Children's Foundation hosted an exciting virtual conference from December 3-5 addressing creative employment options for individuals with special needs.

The Creative Workforce Solutions Summit is now available on-demand. The event gave entrepreneurs, social enterprises, and training programs the tools needed to start or grow a business. Successful business owners shared keys



to success and needs of special needs focused businesses were addressed. The Summit created a community of collaboration and support, while enabling opportunities of creative workforce solutions for individuals with special needs during this unprecedented time.

For more information about the Creative Workforce Solutions Summit, click [here](#).

Collective Impact Pledge

Birth to 22 is committed to a common agenda, we are an alliance of community partners that engages and aligns existing coalitions, networks, systems and youth-serving organizations as well as connecting families, community members, and most importantly, young people.

the Birth to 22 Alliance to improve outcomes from cradle to career for all Palm Beach County children, youth and families.

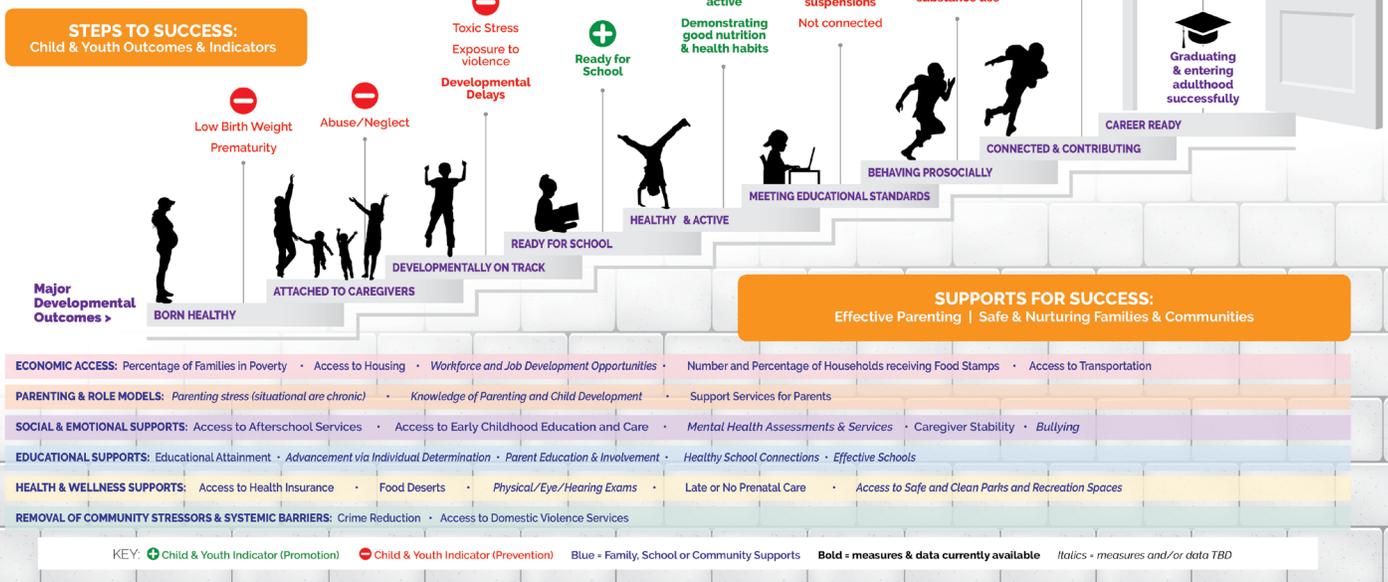
Click [here](#) to join us in envisioning and creating a culture that values our youth from cradle to career.

Take the *Pledge*, be listed as a Collective Impact Partner of

Steps to Success

The Steps to Success represent 6 domains of child and youth development – physical health, behavioral health, academic readiness, social/emotional well-being, career readiness and connection and contribution to community and society. These steps represent key markers of success that allows us to access developmental outcomes. As children and youth make their way up these stairs, we are able to track their progress or lack thereof. The indicators, or measures, for these different areas are shown above the stair steps in the green text (for things we are trying to promote) and orange text (for things we are trying to prevent). Understanding what this data looks like for different subpopulations within Palm Beach County is also essential. In order to achieve those outcomes, children and youth need key supports along the way, through a combination of effective parenting and safe and nurturing families and communities. A sample of possible measures are listed below.

Steps to Success & Supports for Success



Editor/Graphics
Erin Baker