



# 2015

25th Anniversary Edition  
Impact Report

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**For decades, the Sun Sentinel Children's Fund has been a leader in seeking solutions aimed at the root causes of domestic violence. We are deeply grateful for their funding and their partnership.**

**- Mary Riedel, President and CEO, Women in Distress of Broward County**



Dear Friend,

A quarter of a century ago, the *Sun Sentinel* and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation joined forces to address the growing needs in South Florida and established the Sun Sentinel Children's Fund, a McCormick Foundation Fund. We are grateful to be part of the Broward and Palm Beach communities, funding nonprofit organizations that are making a difference.

Over the last 25 years, the Sun Sentinel Children's Fund has touched the lives of thousands of disadvantaged children, families and adults. We are committed to helping those less fortunate in our community improve their lives and become self-sufficient. By supporting qualified nonprofit organizations with programs concentrating on child abuse prevention & treatment, child & youth education, housing, and hunger, we fulfill that commitment year after year.

The important work accomplished by the Sun Sentinel Children's Fund is only possible because of the generosity of our loyal donors and *Sun Sentinel* readers. With their support, we have partnered with local nonprofit organizations committed to making an impact on the vital issues facing the region. From grants made in 2014, our grantees reported that their programs achieved significant impacts helping those in need:

- More than 1,000 families were able to find housing or remained in their own homes
- Of the middle school students in their tutoring programs, 75% improved their test scores or advanced to the next grade
- In their mentoring programs, 94% of high school students stayed in school and moved towards obtaining their diploma
- More than 23,400 children and youth gained access to additional educational programs

While we take a moment to honor this milestone and celebrate all that has been accomplished, we know there are still so many in need of our help. That's why the Sun Sentinel Children's Fund will continue to assist those who need a hand.

This report tells the story of the extraordinary work being done. We hope you find it as uplifting as we do. Remember – none of this would have been possible without your help. Together, we are building a stronger South Florida community for everyone.

Thank you for your commitment and support.

Howard Greenberg  
President, Publisher & CEO  
Sun Sentinel Children's Fund

David D. Hiller  
President and CEO  
Robert R. McCormick Foundation



25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Edition



# Featured Grantees

## Here's Help

Can cooking classes, growing vegetables or hosting a radio show help young people overcome alcohol or drugs? Since 1969, Here's Help has shown that the answer is yes.

"We call our clients students because active learning has the power to change everything," says Chief Administrative and Financial Officer Steve Safron.

In 2014, over 70 students aged 13-17 gained real-world skills at the agency's 38-bed residence in Miami Gardens. More than 100 received outpatient assistance from a second location in South Miami.

"These are first-time offenders referred to us by the Dade and Broward County courts," Safron explains. "Most haven't attended school regularly and can't point to anything they've created or completed in life that gives them pride."

At Here's Help, they commit to staying sober, engaging in school and taking one skill-building course – from auto mechanics, horticulture, culinary arts to the radio shows originated by CEO John "Footy" Kross, a local DJ on WQAM.

Mario Pelaez, a former Here's Help student, says his WQAM internship helped him build a drug-free life. "Now my goal is to empower others in recovery to develop the same drive to do better."

Inspired by caring staff and volunteers, nearly 80% of all youths referred to Here's Help complete the program, developing talents that prepare them for a productive future.



## Broward Partnership

"Children who've lost their homes shouldn't also lose a piece of their childhood," says Tim Dwyer, Grants Manager with the Broward Partnership. "We're devoted to helping kids be kids."

## Women in Distress of Broward County

More than 2,000 calls pour into the 24-7 emergency line at Women in Distress of Broward County every month, says President and CEO Mary Riedel. Many calls are also an opportunity to help children living with domestic violence.

In 2014, the agency cared for 3,300 victims of physical, sexual or emotional abuse through their confidential and free services. Nearly half are children who've witnessed abuse or have been targets themselves. "Mothers come to

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**From day one, the Sun Sentinel Children's Fund has been our partner in seeking lasting solutions for the cycle of homelessness that threatens so many families and kids. We couldn't move forward without their generous support.**

**- Tim Dwyer, Grants Manager, Broward Partnership**

The Partnership was formed in 1997 after local leaders built a 200-bed shelter in Ft. Lauderdale, an answer to the area's tent city, occupied by thousands of homeless.

The Sun Sentinel Children's Fund has been there since the start, providing vital support for programs that help nearly 90% of all families who come to the shelter.

During their stay, kids receive healthy meals, a safe environment and a support system linking them with additional resources. Parents receive comprehensive assistance to get back on their feet.

A new family dormitory opened in 2014 increased the shelter's capacity by 75% to serve parents like Kevin and Nailah, who came to South Florida with their two children. When a temporary stay with relatives didn't work out, their money ran out quickly.

They turned to the Partnership, who quickly found them a new home to make a fresh start. As Kevin says, "We learned there is help, there is light – and not just a dark, dark tunnel."

our 132-bed shelter with infants and toddlers all the way up to young teens," Riedel says.

The shelter's safe, loving environment gives each family the essentials to make a fresh start. Kitchen pods are stocked with supplies for fresh meals. Staff members work with local districts to arrange confidential transfers to new schools, and moms receive holistic support.

Staff therapists help the children find their voices – crucial to breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

"We understand the pain these kids feel," Riedel says. "The scars can leave them with anxiety, attachment issues and learning deficits that set them up for a lifetime of difficulties."

While most families stay just 6 to 12 weeks, the positive effects are far-reaching. "We help moms relocate when necessary, find job opportunities and create independent lives," Riedel notes. "Reaching them at the right time is the key to lasting prevention and progress."

# Sun Sentinel Children's Fund Milestones

<b>1990</b> Established & first grant approved	<b>1994</b> \$1 million granted since inception	<b>2000</b> \$10 million granted since inception	<b>2004</b> Hurricane Relief Campaign	<b>2013</b> Honored as "Outstanding Foundation of the Year" by Association of Fundraising Professionals	<b>2015</b> \$42 million granted since inception
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## LifeNet 4 Families

"Imagine choosing between paying rent or feeding your kids while going hungry yourself," says Melanie Geddes, CEO and President of LifeNet 4 Families, formerly the Cooperative Feeding Program.

Geddes and her staff meet parents facing these tough choices daily. They work with nearly 600 volunteers to transform donated produce into hot, nutritious meals – more than 93,000 in 2014 alone – and 90 food boxes a day for thousands in the Fort Lauderdale area.

"We help kids by supporting parents who have suffered job losses, health issues, domestic violence, foreclosures and other obstacles. We provide nourishment and point them toward sustainable answers."

She relates the story of a young mother, recently arrived from another country with her school-aged daughter. "She was a U.S. citizen, but through a series of problems, she and her child were homeless. They came for meals every day while case workers helped them find a place they could afford."

Just one food box can turn a family's life around, Geddes adds. "The mother of a newborn baby who was facing eviction came to us, worried about losing custody of her child. We provided a hot meal and supplies of formula, bread, milk, cereal, diapers ... all the essentials to help her face the next step. Whether it's one emergency food box or months of support, we strive to help families in crisis stay strong."

## Florence Fuller Child Development Centers

A.C.E.S. stands for academics, character, education and sports – elements that transform a child's future. Every day, some 250 kids in Boca Raton prove just how well the formula works at the A.C.E.S. after-school program.

"We are a complete resource for students from kindergarten through age 12," says Ellyn Okrent, CEO of the Florence Fuller Child Development Centers, where A.C.E.S. kids come for nutritious snacks and meals, physical activity, enrichment classes and homework help.

"Our kids come from low-income, healthy homes where parents work minimum-wage jobs," explains Okrent. About 65% live with only one parent, so safe, enriching after-school care is critical.

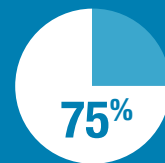
Fuller school buses transport the students from local schools to two learning centers, where they are introduced to a world of possibilities. "This year we had music, dance, art and STEM enrichment programs – even a Friday fishing club," Okrent says.

Through A.C.E.S., kids receive caring attention that improves classroom performance, helping 98% move to the next grade level.

"For the community, this is pure prevention," says Okrent, noting that early school success builds self-esteem so kids are less vulnerable to substance abuse and teen pregnancy. "We're setting the stage for healthy lives."



## What our grantees achieved with your support...



**75% of middle school students** improved their test scores or advanced to the next grade



Over **1,000 youth and their families** found housing or were able to stay in their own homes

In their mentoring programs, **94% of high school students** stayed in school and moved towards obtaining their diploma



Over **23,400 children and youth** gained access to educational programs and received tutoring

# Thank You!

We are honored to present these 40 nonprofit organizations who have received grants totaling **\$529,000** during 9/1/14 – 8/31/15 through the Sun Sentinel Children's Fund, a McCormick Foundation Fund.

Their programs and services provide the tools and opportunities that help low-income children, families and adults improve their lives and create a brighter future. We applaud their dedication to strengthening the South Florida community.

Their great work would not be possible without the support of our generous donors. Thank you!



## Sun Sentinel Children's Fund Grantees

(9/1/14 – 8/31/15)

### Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment

Achievement and Rehabilitation Centers (ARC Broward)  
Children's Harbor  
Children's Home Society of Florida, Intercoastal Division  
Grandma's Place  
Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services  
Jack & Jill Children's Center  
Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation  
Kids in Distress  
Nova Southeastern University  
Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center  
Women in Distress of Broward County

### Hunger

LifeNet 4 Families

### Child and Youth Education

Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County  
College Summit  
Community Foundation of Broward  
Firewall Centers  
Florence Fuller Child Development Centers  
Helping Abused Neglected Disadvantaged Youth (HANDY)  
Here's Help  
Hispanic Unity of Florida  
Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County  
Milagro Center  
PACE Center for Girls  
Russell Education Foundation

### Smith Community Mental Health

SOS Children's Villages – Florida  
Take Stock in Children of Broward County  
Urban League of Broward County  
Urban League of Palm Beach County  
Women of Tomorrow Mentor & Scholarship Program  
Young at Art (YAA)  
Youth Automotive Training Center of Broward

### Housing

Broward Partnership Children's Home Society of Florida  
Covenant House Florida  
Henderson Behavioral Health  
Place of Hope  
Salvation Army

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**I can't express how grateful we are for the Sun Sentinel Children's Fund. The investment they've made in our kids over the past two decades has made a world of difference in South Palm Beach County.**

**- Ellyn Okrent, CEO,  
Florence Fuller  
Child Development Centers**

## Keep up the great work!

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Daytime Telephone

Email Address

### Payment Options:

Yes, I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_

One time     Monthly (credit card only)

Enclosed is my check payable to the Sun Sentinel Children's Fund.

Please charge my:

Visa     MasterCard     AmEx     DiscoverCard

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Do you wish to have your name published as a donor?  Yes     No

To donate online visit: **SunSentinelChildrensFund.org/Donate**

The Sun Sentinel Children's Fund is a fund of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. The Foundation is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization, IRS registration #36-3689171. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Future monthly gifts will be charged the first week of the month. A written acknowledgment will be sent for your records. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free, within the state, 800-HELP-FLA. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. Florida registration for the McCormick Foundation is CH811. The McCormick Foundation and the Sun Sentinel respect your right to privacy and do not trade or sell donor names.

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## About the McCormick Foundation

### ROBERT R. McCORMICK FOUNDATION

The Robert R. McCormick Foundation, established in 1955, is committed to fostering communities of educated, informed and engaged citizens. Its Communities Program strengthens communities by giving disadvantaged people the opportunities they need to improve their lives.

The McCormick Foundation partners with media organizations, such as the *Sun Sentinel*, as well as sports teams and philanthropic organizations, to raise money through the Sun Sentinel Children's Fund and make grants in local communities.

The McCormick Foundation matches all donations at 50%. In addition, the Foundation and our partners pay all expenses, ensuring 100% all donations, plus the match, is granted to build stronger communities.

To learn more, visit: [McCormickFoundation.org](http://McCormickFoundation.org)

*The Robert R. McCormick Foundation is a recognized 501(c)(3) public charity, IRS registration #36-3689171.*