



APRIL - JUNE 2022 | 2ND QUARTER

## NEWSLETTER

# CENTER FOR FAMILY & CHILD ENRICHMENT, INC.

Pediatric and Family Health & Wellness Center

[www.cfcecares.org](http://www.cfcecares.org) | [www.cfcewellness.org](http://www.cfcewellness.org)

## Inside This Issue

### Board of Directors Annual Meeting

Sat., May 21, 2022 (held in-person and virtually)  
(cont. p.3)

Special thanks to everyone who took time out of their busy schedule to attend our Annual Meeting. CFCE's rich history has been built on service. It is the service delivered by our caring staff, strong commitment of our donors, partners and the community that has helped "children and families help themselves to live a better life and build a stronger community." We are challenged to find new ways to meet the goals set out in our services agenda and I am happy to say that we met them in a big way. Thank you for your contribution and we look forward to the next 45 years and beyond!

T. Delores Dunn  
President/Chief Executive Officer





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Center for Family & Child Enrichment, Inc  
 Location: 1825 NW 167th St - Suite 102, Miami Gardens, FL 33056  
 Hours of Operation: Mon - Fri 9-5 / Sat 8-12 (Pediatrics Only)  
 305.624.7450/ info@cfceinc.org  
 www.cfcecares.org | www.cfcewellness.org

# CFCE Board of Directors Annual Meeting May 21, 2022



CFCE congratulates all of this year's award recipients who were recognized at the Board of Directors' Annual Meeting held on May 21, 2022 at its newly renovated headquarters in Miami Gardens, FL.

(top right) CEO Delores Dunn honored foster parent Lori Nolasco Walton and family. Ms. Walton has been fostering children in Miami Dade County for more than 12 years. [*cont'd p. 10*]

(bottom left) Board Member Pablo Bermudez accepted the Board member of the Year Award for Board Vice Chairman John Turner.

(bottom right) Director of Youth Intervention Services Mary E. Williams received Employee of the Year Award.

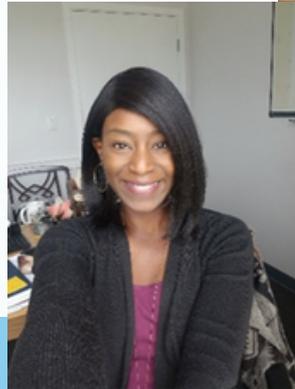


# Agency News



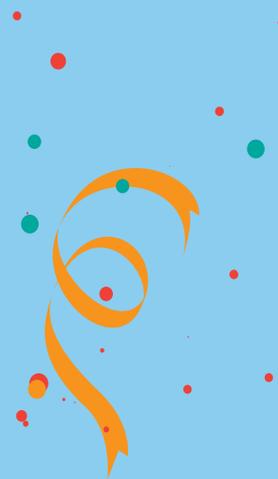
## CFCE Adoption Unit Meets Its Goal!

Congratulations to our Adoption Unit staff on meeting this fiscal year's goal of finalizing 54 adoptions. Special thanks to Gina Johnson, Adoption Unit Supervisor and her team!



## COA Reaccredits CFCE through 2026!

Congratulations to our CFCE team on a successful reaccreditation effort. On May 20, 2022, the Council on Accreditation (COA), shared the good news that CFCE has been reaccredited for another four years! The COA accreditation process is an in-depth strength-based review of an organization. COA's whole-organization approach ensures that everyone—from human resources to finance to direct care and clinical staff—is working together to carry out our mission. We are proud to have received this recognition!





# Board Member Spotlight



## **Benson Charles, MBA**

*Director*

Benson Charles serves as Treasurer for the Board of Directors of the Center for Family and Child Enrichment, Inc. (CFCE.) He joined the Board in 2018 at the request of CFCE CEO and President T. Delores Dunn.

### **“Why did you get involved with CFCE?”**

Once I discovered the mission of CFCE and learned of the great service CFCE was providing not only in Miami Gardens but the greater community, I decided that this was a project that I could participate in. From that time forward, “my work with CFCE and serving on the Finance Committee has been very satisfying”, said Mr. Charles. He likes numbers and helping people by guiding them along to greater success with their financial affairs. “My approach with CFCE is like any other client: where I assess, consult, make recommendations and

assist to hopefully provide results in better systems and improved efficiencies for the agency.”

### **Tell us about your professional experiences?**

For 25 years, I owned and operated two businesses. First, an accounting and tax firm (B Charles Accounting and Tax Services), which helps small business owners save money, make more profits and save taxes. I also lend my expertise through my real estate firm, Help You Save Realty, which provides residential and commercial real estate services. Prior to that, Mr. Charles worked at Jackson Memorial Hospital - Public Health Trust as a Budget Administrator for many years.

### **For what other charitable organizations have you served?**

For 20 years, Mr. Charles served on the Board of the Children’s Home Society of Florida (CHS) and while there chaired the Finance and Audit Committee for the Southeastern Division in Miami and the Finance Committee for the State of Florida. He was an esteemed member of the Board of Directors and played a unique role in the development of the Children’s Home Society of Florida Foundation.

###



## Directors Attend Health Choice Network (HCN) 28th Annual Board Educational Conference

Board members Dr. Deborah Finley, Nelson Alubi, M.D. and Mykita Cherry-Prime attended the HCN Educational Conference for health centers along with CEO T. Delores Dunn, Director of Quality Improvement and Risk Management Zoraida Torres and Chief Medical Officer Michelle Kirwan. Board members attended special sessions regarding governance and the importance of board members.

As a part of our board member engagement, it is always nice to receive feedback. "The sessions I attended

focused on board governance," shared Dr. Finley. "Specifically, we had the opportunity to get clarification on board responsibilities in terms of 1) fiduciary duties of care, loyalty and obedience; 2) stewardship of federal and other public funds; and, 3) special responsibility to the community (public trust)." It was a great conference, concluded Dr. Finley.

###

# Pastor's Quarterly Luncheon

June 1, 2022



L-R (Myrtis Ramsey, Wanda Brantley, Rev. Clinton Preston, Dr. Michelle Kirwan, Minister Derrick Peters & Spouse Arethia, Rev. Michael Hallmon, Joanne Pierre, Ms. Doretha Nicholson, Michelle Prescott, CEO Delores Dunn and Dr. Hussein Anan)

Chief Medical Officer Michelle Kirwan, M.D., provided a medical update and introduced Dr. Hussein Anan, Primary Care and Sports Medicine physician for the Center for Family and Child Enrichment's Pediatric & Family Health and Wellness Center. "I'm a firm believer that our well-being comes from within and a healthy mind and spirit are the key to a strong body and a positive attitude in life," said Dr. Anan while presenting on the Disparities in Healthcare Quality Among Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups.

"Health disparities are differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of diseases and other adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups in the United States". [National Institute of Health]. Disparities are found in factors such as stage and severity of disease presentation, co-morbidities, patient compliance and disease related mortality.

Minority stress includes chronically high levels of stress faced by members of stigmatized minority groups. It may be caused by a number of factors such as interpersonal prejudice and discrimination, poor social support, or low socioeconomic status. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, CFCE seeks to address these barriers by providing

convenient and affordable options and services to meet the community's healthcare needs. For adults and children we . . .

- accept most insurances; Medicaid, Medicare, HMO and offer sliding scale fees for uninsured patients.
- use prompt interpretation services including ASL and multilingual staff and providers to facilitate communication.
- offer different transportation options to ensure access to service (eg., mobile vans, shared ride vouchers and telehealth services).
- remain engaged in the community through health fairs, outreach events in local religious and educational centers as well as virtual programs to increase the public health awareness; and
- offer dietary and nutritional counseling with one on one sessions, educational classes, including the Jasmine Project to reduce Black infant mortality and improve health outcomes for pregnant women.

Visit our Pediatric & Family Health and Wellness Center @ [www.cfcewellness.org](http://www.cfcewellness.org)

# Community Engagement

## *Explore Foster Miami*



Karen Guy, Doretha Nicholson and Georgia Downey at Explore Foster Miami Quarterly Meeting.

## *Live Healthy Miami Gardens Walk/Run*



CFCE staff, friends and board member Pablo Bermudez joined the City of Miami Gardens Live Healthy Miami Gardens Walk/Run.

# Community Engagement (cont'd)

## Children's Trust Youth Advisory Council Mental Health Fair



(l-r) CFCE's Sorcha Wool and Valerie Dukes

The Center for Family and Child Enrichment, Inc. was pleased to participate in the Children's Trust Youth Advisory Council Mental Health Fair on Saturday, April 23rd at Betty T. Ferguson Complex. Therapists Valerie Dukes and Sorcha Wool were on hand to answer questions, provide resource materials and engage with attendees at this important event.

The Children's Trust Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), open to all Miami-Dade County high school students, serves as the youth voice of The Children's Trust. It is a leadership development program with a focus on service and advocacy, especially relating to children and families. YAC has a focus on community engagement and Civic Activism. The Children's Trust | Youth Advisory Committee ([www.thechildrenstrust.org](http://www.thechildrenstrust.org))

## Church Community Gives Back to Help Children in Foster Care

Senior Pastor John F. White II, of **Immanuel Temple**, members of his church gathers with CFCE staff and volunteers to aid children with shopping for Easter outfits. 70 children were assisted. According to CFCE's very own **Lakeisha Moss**, for the last 18 years, Pastor John F. White II has led 3 congregations during Lent to be a blessing to needy kids on the Saturday before Resurrection Sunday. "From Tallahassee to Miami and now in Pembroke Pines, we have asked Marshalls Store to open early."

This year was the greatest outpouring for this effort that I have been blessed to share in. \$14,000 given to kids in Foster Care to go shopping. Each child had \$212 to spend. What blessing me today was several kids said I have enough even when their total was well under the \$212.

Thank you to the servant leaders of The Immanuel Temple who met us at 7:45 am to assist kids with shopping. Thanks to the members and Kingdom Partners that gave so we can share in Love Out Loud. Grateful for the opportunity to provide free lunch for the staff of Marshalls who came to work early so we can share in LOL. #theitchurch #lent #loveoutloud



# Foster Parent Spotlight



## ***Interview with Ms. Lori Walton-Nolasco***

Ms. Lori Walton-Nolasco is the youngest of six siblings. She is an Interpreter for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing with the Miami Dade County Public School System. She is also a proud mother of two sons and has been a foster parent for more than 12 years. CFCE was pleased to honor Ms. Lori this past May 2022 for her outstanding contributions as a foster parent.

"In a word, she is exceptional," said Renant Saintilmon, CFCE's Foster Parent Liaison. She receives children at all times of the night. She goes above and beyond to provide services for children in her care. She communicates very effectively, she is timely, organized, honest, works with difficult age groups, a good mentor, supportive, an excellent advocate for her children, identifies issues and strengths to quickly resolve problems. She is gracious, but firm, not afraid to speak her mind.

## ***What motivates you to give so much?***

"God has been good to me and I like giving back to help others." My strong belief in God is my biggest motivation.

From age 14, Ms. Lori worked at a daycare for babies with special needs. When she graduated from high school, she went on to work at Crisis Nursery, a facility for abused, abandoned and neglected children.

## ***After more than 12 years, what has sustained you to keep fostering?***

"I believe if you can save one your work is not in vain," said Lori. "Some will listen and take what you try to teach them and others might not, however, if you can save one or two your work is not in vain."

She also shared how good it feels when children age out and still remember her. Here, she recounted a recent visit from two former foster youth. One came to her home to say thank you and the other said "thank you mom for taking care of us. We were not always the best behaved kids, but you still took care of us."

For some, I was the only mother they ever knew love from and they still call me mom. Ms. Lori takes pride in the positive impact she has had on the lives of so these youth. I always feel happy to know they are doing well and are successful and doing positive thing and making a positive living choices and that makes me feel good, said Lori.

# Partnering for Success with Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers

The **Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association** has partnered with CFCE by creating the "Better Days" program. Better Days is committed to working with teen girls residing in CFCE's residential home to provide educational, enrichment and social activities. To kick off the program the girls were gifted luggage filled with fun items from a daily journal to fragrance products. Through monthly engagement Better Days volunteers discussed topics such as self-esteem, self-awareness and life after 18. Other monthly programs are planned including etiquette and dining lessons and more. Special thanks to the members of The Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association for partnering with CFCE. To support this effort, just click on the Better Days hyperlink in this article, then select "Better Days Program" from the donate pull-down menu. Donate @ [gscbwla.org/foundation](https://gscbwla.org/foundation).



# CFCE Employee and Board Member of the Year



**Mary Williams**  
**Director of Community-Based Youth Intervention Services**

At this year's annual meeting, CFCE recognized Ms. Mary Williams as Employee of the Year. Mary Williams started her career at CFCE as a case manager with the CINS/FINS program in 2007. She was promoted to Program Director in 2013 and then to Administrator of CFCE's Community-Based Youth Intervention Services program.

Mary leads a dynamic team of nine staff members. She always goes above and beyond to serve her clients and staff. She believes in helping people who are in dire need of assistance no matter their circumstance or condition. "I always relate or picture myself in their situation and that helps me to give clients the best service," said Mary.

Her Christian love of people and her compassion for community services led her to complete a Master's degree in Family Counseling at Jacksonville Theological Seminary. Her previous experiences of working with families from other community-based organizations such as the Family Christian Association of America, James E. Scott Community Agency and North Miami Senior High has fueled her desire to pursue a lifelong career in social services.

Mary is excited to be a team member of CFCE, which takes a holistic approach to family services and development for youth

and families in Miami-Dade County. Mary is active in the community with engagement and outreach. She represents CFCE at Florida Network of Youth and Family Services meetings, serves on the Board of the Juvenile Justice Circuit 11 Advisory Board and collaborates with other local youth intervention agencies and governmental entities. Mary's favorite pastimes are shopping, traveling, golf, fishing, decorating and participating in Bible study.

\*\*\*



**Mr. John Turner**  
**Vice Chairperson, CFCE Board Member**

Mr. John Turner currently serves as the vice-chairman for CFCE's Board of Directors. He is a retired insurance agent both in Cleveland, Ohio as well as here in Miami. After relocating to Miami, Mr. Turner owned and operated a Fed USA franchise agency in Miami Shores until he retired in 2008.

Mr. Turner became intimately involved with the foster care system in 2008, when he and his wife took the foster care training course given by CFCE. "My wife Elizabeth, has been an awesome partner," said Mr. Turner. Together, the Turners took in their first child in 2010 and continued fostering until 2021 after fostering over 50 young men of all races and ethnicities.

Mr. Turner joined CFCE's Board of Directors in 2015 and has served with distinction for the past six years.



# Celebrating Family Reunification



**CFCE's Full Case Management Unit gathers to deliver a congratulatory message to all of the reunified families!**



"Know that the judges and staff are not your enemy. I was proactive even before I had an assigned case plan from the judge." When asked if there is any advice she would give? "Whatever is in your case plan---do it! God helps to take you through every step. If you have parenting classes, do it! Family therapy, do it! This process will better you in life and make you stronger. Be brave for your children so they can depend on you."

During the month of June, child welfare professionals throughout South Florida celebrated families who have completed the rigorous requirements for reunification with their loved ones. The month's festivities culminated with the Power of Parents: Stronger Together event held on Saturday, June 25, 2022 at Dave and Busters in Dolphin Mall. The day was filled with fun activities for the children and the presentation of well-deserved awards for their parents.

CFCE congratulates all of the reunified parents on completing the steps for family reunification! "I had a wonderful experience with CFCE. I learned to keep priorities, define objectives and recognize the low negative points to avoid," shared one CFCE parent who is looking forward to focusing on herself and her children so she will never have to come back into the system again.



(top l-r) CFCE CAO Michelle A. Prescott, Esq. with Director of Child Welfare Programs, Kerry Lewis, Esq.; (bottom) Kerry's son, Jayden Nelson who gifted the families with a beautiful rendition of "Flying Without Wings".

# Honoring CFCE's Amazing Administrative Professionals



HUB Staff (Gloria Medina, Angela Turner, Bruce Baskin, Undrea Mobley, Tanisha Turner and Teriba Ivory)



Chief Behavioral Health Officer Ron Gay and staff



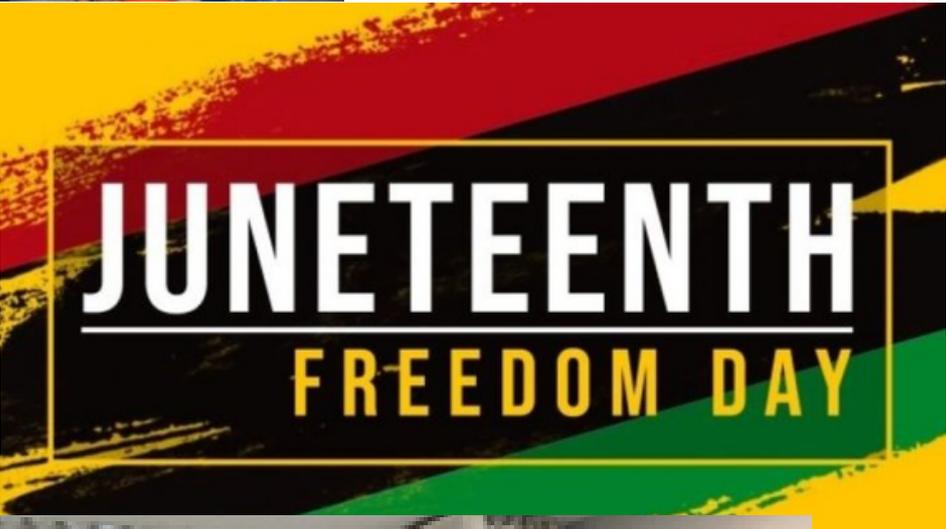
CEO T. Delores Dunn and CFCE Supervisors recognize Administrative Professionals Day

# Juneteenth Celebration Breakfast



CFCE Board Member Mykita Cherry-Prime (4th from right) joins CFCE staff in the celebration, followed by a tour of our state-of-the-art Pediatric & Family Health & Wellness Center.

"This is the first new paid holiday for employees in over 30 years, and arguably the most consequential! In observance of this momentous occasion, I was pleased to have our staff join us for breakfast." T. Delores Dunn, President & CEO, Center for Family & Child Enrichment, Inc.



# Annual Passport to the World Luncheon



In celebration of Caribbean American Heritage Month (June), CFCE's Child Welfare staff relaunched its Annual Passport to the World Luncheon on Friday, June 24. CFCE is a proud multi-cultural organization so this celebration included EVERY country, not just those from the Caribbean. This event has been on hold for the past two years due to COVID. "It was wonderful to join together to celebrate what makes us unique," said event committee chair, Denise Danvers.



## Miami-Dade Chamber and Broward Black Chamber of Commerce Joint Legislative Wrap-Up



Joint Legislative Wrap-Up Session held on May 12, 2022 in Miami Gardens FL. (l-r) Broward County Black Chamber of Commerce President Shaheewa Jarrett Gelin, Miami Dade Chamber President and CEO G. Eric Knowles, State Representative Felicia Robinson, CFCE Development Manager Karen Guy and State Senator Shevrin Jones



If you are willing to welcome a group of siblings into your home, you can **Become a Foster Parent.**

There is always a need for families who are interested in and willing to learn about fostering a sibling group. Giving siblings a chance to be together as a family can help improve their emotional health,

**Foster Hope.  
Foster Love.  
Foster Family.**

1-855-786-KIDS (5437)  
[www.citrusfcn.com](http://www.citrusfcn.com)



   @citrusfcn #FosterHopeAndLove

**For more information:  
[kguy@cfceinc.org](mailto:kguy@cfceinc.org) | 305.474.1737**

# "Black Tie & Sneakers Ball" for Youth in Care

hosted by  
Citrus Family Care Network & Miami Dade Police Department



Alicia Curtis (Citrus, Recruitment Specialist), City of Miami Gardens Councilman Robert Stephens, III, and Joann Pierre (Citrus, Recruitment Supervisor)



Miami-Dade Police Department celebrates youth in care at their "Black Tie & Sneakers Ball". Citrus Family Care Network helped youth prepare for the ball with fresh haircuts for the guys, new hair styles for the girls, shopping for outfits for the ball and selecting their new sneakers. Special thanks to City of Miami Gardens Councilman Robert Stephens, III for sponsoring five CFCE youth for the ball!



# Meet CFCE's Child Welfare Superstars



**Passed Phases 1 & 2 of Supervisor Proficiency Process**



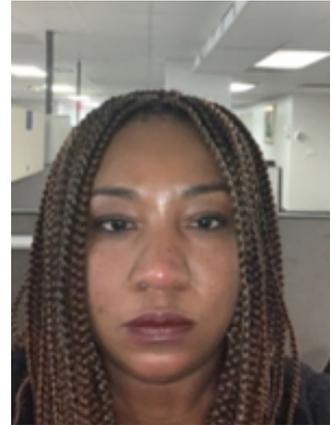
Mikala Mitchell  
Dependency Case Manager  
Supervisor

**FFCR Child Welfare Professional of the Month March 2022**



Latoya Louis  
Case Manager

**Excellence in Case Management Documentation**



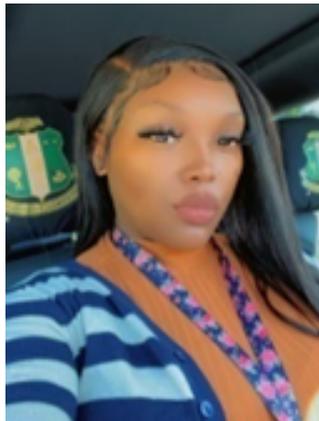
Melinda Williams  
Case Manager

**Excellence in Case Management Documentation & Aced Phase 1 of Supervisor Proficiency Process**



Bianca Harris  
Case Manager

**Received her full Child Welfare Certification**



Kendia Aikens  
Case Manager

**Passed Phases 1 & 2 of Supervisor Proficiency Process**



Vianca Moore  
Case Manager

**Kudos to:**

**Dianne Edwards, Permanency Director and the Permanency Team for being recognized by Citrus for Post 12 Months Permanency Staffing.**



## Meet CFCE's Behavioral Health Heroes



Kerry Green  
Clinical Supervisor

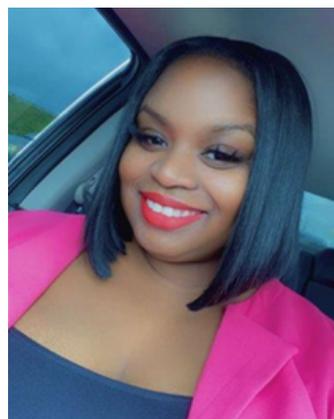


Lance Jackson  
Substance Abuse Clinical  
Coordinator

## Meet CFCE's Youth Intervention Champions



Krizia Santana  
SNAP Case Manager



Gillian Hamilton  
Administrative Assistant



SNAP Cycle 2 graduates with City of Miami Gardens Police Officers and CFCE Staff Member Krizia Santana

## SNAP Graduation

Congratulations to the parents and children who graduated from our cycle 12 class. “It is a big commitment for parents and their children to make it through SNAP for thirteen weeks and you did it!” said, Krizia Santana, SNAP Facilitator/CINS-FINS Case Manager.

SNAP helps troubled children and their parents learn how to effectively manage their emotions and minimize problems.

CFCE extends a special thank you to City of Miami Gardens police officers who took the time to attend. “Participation from police officers is an integral part of the SNAP program” said, Valerie Dukes, SNAP Facilitator and CFCE Therapist. Officers engage with children and families as part of their Officer Friendly program to acquaint children and adults with law enforcement officials which helps to foster positive relationships between law enforcement and the community.

###

## CINS/FINS Staff Participate in Walking One Stop

On June 13, 2022, CFCE joined other members of the Opa Locka Walking One Stop Initiative to access the needs of the Opa Locka community. Members walked door-to-door and our very own Janee’ Butler assisted with recruitment for our S.N.A.P. (STOP NOW AND PLAN) program. Special thanks to the officers of Opa Locka Police Department for being on hand to guide everyone safely through the community.



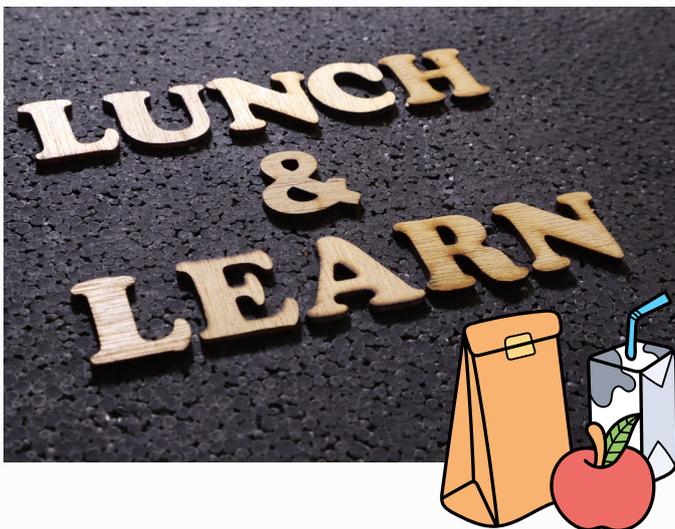
# Black Health Summit



CFCE's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Michelle Kirwan and Chief Behavioral Health Officer Ron Gay recently attended the 1st Annual Black Health Summit 2022 sponsored by the Health Foundation of South Florida.

The focus of the summit was to address the health disparities that patients face in black and brown communities. CFCE's Pediatric & Family Health and Wellness Center is doing their part by ensuring that these Primary Health Care services along with Behavioral and Mental Health services are available to all clients in the City of Miami Gardens and throughout the greater Miami Dade County.

## Lunch and Learn with CFCE



Taking PRIDE in Our Health.

Other L&L topics covered this quarter were Nutrition - Eat Well, Be Well (Elise Karnegis, RD, LDN, CDCES) and Taking Care of You! (Lathosha Alexander, MSW, LCSW, CPC and Lance Jackson, LMHC, NCC). Elise discussed the benefits of good nutrition on our overall health. Lathosha and Lance spoke about the importance of mental health and self-care, especially as we continue to recover from the after-effects of a worldwide pandemic.

Be sure to join us for our next Lunch and Learn series entitled **"Have You Had The Talk?"** when our Behavioral Health staff will focus on the best ways to discuss difficult topics with teens and young adults. **The series will begin on October 20, 2022.**

Special thanks to Hussein Anan, M.D., CAQSM, Primary Care and Sports Medicine physician with the Center for Family and Child Enrichment's Pediatric & Family Health and Wellness Center, for completing another series of informative Lunch & Learn sessions! Dr. Anan shared with us on important topics such as Heart Health, Self-Care for Men and, in recognition of PRIDE month,

If you are interested in a particular topic or would like to be a presenter at a future Lunch and Learn, contact the CFCE Development Office at [kguy@cfceinc.org](mailto:kguy@cfceinc.org).

# CFCE Kicks Off 2022 Freedom School Summer Learning Program



CFCE proudly kicked off another year of Freedom School for the children in our community. We offer this important summer learning experience for our children to prevent summer learning loss and to spark a passion for reading and learning.

The Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools is a six-week program designed to help children in underserved communities with diverse backgrounds fall in love with reading and close the achievement gap. The program includes a culturally diverse literary curriculum, fun activities and access to comprehensive summer enrichment programs for children, ages 5 - 15.

"We are excited to host another summer of this very popular program," said Susan Frazier, Director of CFCE's Freedom School program. We appreciate the community leaders who come out each summer to read to our scholars, donate backpacks or field trip activities which enhance the educational experience.



# Leading the Way, Impacting Child Welfare Citrus Family Care Network



**Esther Jacobo, Esq.**  
Director, Citrus FCN

Since July 1, 2019, Citrus Family Care Network (Citrus FCN) has been the Community Based Care (CBC) Lead Agency for child welfare services in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. The mission of Citrus FCN is to oversee, modernize, integrate and improve the coordinated System of Care serving Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, to be able to protect children, strengthen families, and engage community networks in order to ensure prompt, effective and high-quality services and care. CFCE is proud to be a partnering agency with Citrus FCN and would like to say “thank you” for the resources and support FCN has provided to help children in care thrive.

Although we have spent 77% of our time as Lead Agency in the midst of a pandemic, we have been able to launch a number of innovative initiatives focused on preservation and prevention, behavioral health integration, permanency, caregiver supports and placement stability. With the assistance and collaboration of key partners, like CFCE, our region is one of the top performers in the state, with high rankings in most DCF performance measures,” said Citrus FCN Director Esther Jacobo. “Our System of Care has made great strides in reducing the number of children in foster care and in group care. Simultaneously we have focused on providing the best possible care for children and teens who are in foster care, regardless of their placement setting, by enhancing support to caregivers and making it a priority to promote, build, maintain, and enrich positive relationships from caring adults.”



**Nadine Rolle**  
Recruitment and Retention Manager,  
Citrus FCN

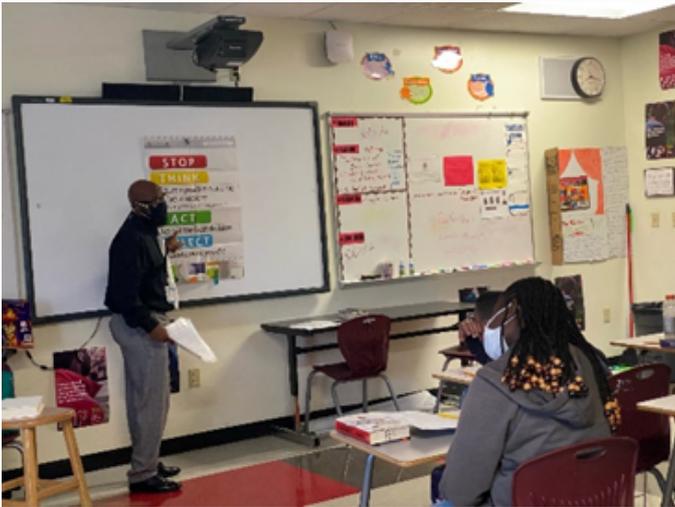
There is an urgent need in Miami-Dade County for members of the community to support children, youth and families involved in child welfare by engaging with the System of Care. The primary need is for foster parents who can provide safe, loving, and temporary homes for children and teenagers who entered the foster care system through no fault of their own after suffering abuse, neglect or abandonment. Those most in need of quality foster homes are teenagers who have behavioral health challenges and histories of trauma, as well as groups of siblings who should be placed together.

“Children in care are part of the community,” said Nadine Rolle, Citrus FCN Recruitment and Retention Manager. “We want to continue engaging different individuals, volunteers and community partners, including the police, to be more involved with children in the foster care system to remove the barriers and stigma of what a person might think of children in foster care.”

Ms. Rolle and her Foster Parent Recruitment Team are constantly out in the community identifying individuals who can provide safe, loving, and temporary homes for children and teens in foster care and developing relationships with community partners to enrich connections and resources available for the youth. The team also regularly and actively works with youth in group homes; primarily engaging teenagers through a variety of activities and projects.

(cont'd p. 26)

## Behavioral Health Education Too Good for Drugs



CFCE kicks off another session of Too Good for Drugs. The curriculum reaches students in 45 schools in Miami-Dade County. Lessons taught include activities to strengthen knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and skills for students to utilize at school, in the community, and with their families.

“We teach students about caring, courage, honesty, responsibility, cooperation, fairness, respect, and self-discipline”, said Behavioral Health Case Manager Ellieton Lewis. There is even a parent component where our Prevention Team Leaders work with parents on their behaviors.

Students learn how to set and reach personal goals, 2) manage potential obstacles that can get in the way of reaching their goals; 3) plan action steps; 4) evaluate choices; and 5) problem solve using the steps for responsible decision making. Students also examine how goals, peers, media, and family influence the decisions that they make.

The curriculum teaches children about behavior management and strategies to stay away from drugs. “This program is very important” said Lewis. “It teaches kids that decision-making happens instantly and constantly, however, the consequences of those decisions could last forever so knowing the difference between making positive compared to negative decisions is important.”

## Circle of Brotherhood Throws Trunk Party for Aging Out Teen

CFCE gives a big shout out to the Circle of Brotherhood for hosting a trunk party to celebrate the birthday of a CFCE teen who was aging out of care. Trunk party guests celebrated and brought gifts to help Jay with items needed for his new apartment. Miami Dade County Police Officers also attended, and offered hugs, gifts and support for Jay. Guests gathered to pray for Jay who expressed his appreciation by reading a special poem to thank the Circle of Brotherhood and everyone who helped him along his journey. He seems to be on the right track and now working.



Leading the Way . . . (cont'd from p. 24)

The Center for Family & Child Enrichment, Inc., is pleased to partner with Citrus FCN and the Circle of Brotherhood in an effort to increase the number of foster homes particularly in the Northern end of the county. To learn more about becoming a foster parent, email: [info@cfceinc.org](mailto:info@cfceinc.org). To complete a pre-screening application and attend an orientation with Citrus FCN, visit: <https://cfncaregivers.powerappsportals.com/pre-screen-application/>

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## Family Reunification Celebration

**Many thanks to CFCE Board Members on the Fund Development Committee** for your participation in the Family Reunification Celebration Drive. Your donations enabled CFCE to donate gift cards to reunified families. Special appreciation to:

**Committee Chair Dr. Deborah "Dia" Finley and Interactive Communication, LLC**  
**Pablo Bermudez**  
**Mykita Cherry-Prime**  
**Rev. Fernie Johnson**

"It gives us great pleasure to help the families reached by CFCE," said Dr. Finley. "We want others to consider serving, giving and getting more involved to help the children and families cherished by CFCE." Special thanks to CFCE staff Karen Guy, Kerry Lewis, and Michelle Prescott for also donating to assist with the Family Reunification Celebration Drive.

## **LEADS (Life-Skills, Empowerment, and Development Services, Inc.)**

Representatives of the LEADS Program visited CFCE's residential cottages in June to educate youth in care on safe sexual practices and proper personal care and hygiene. Participants learned about the 5-R's: Reflective abilities; Regulation of Self; Respect for Self and Others; Relationship Skills and Responsibility-taking. LEADS provided gift cards for the residents and made a monetary contribution to support our residential program.

CFCE Residential Director Armando Bringuier said "the experience was wonderful for our children". LEADS provided health information for the youth for them to better take care of themselves and avoid unhealthy situations. Having community partners is invaluable for children who through no fault of their own end up in the child welfare system. This type of program allows the kids to see other "caring leaders engaging in helping them build skills relationships that will help them be more productive and better relate to the greater community," said Armando. The monetary support from LEADS will help to provide a field trip for residents later this year.

###



**CFCE sincerely appreciates MONAT Global for donating gift bags to our families.**

# Special Thanks to Our Donors!

Atlantic Coast Enterprises, LLC  
dba Ace Jiffy Lube  
Batchelor Foundation, Inc.  
William Berry  
Brown and Brown  
Lewis Davis  
Henry Schein Foundation  
(hosted by the NACHC)  
Brittany Lambert

JasMics Foundation, Inc.  
Life Skills Empowerment &  
Development Services (LEADS)  
National Christian Foundation  
of South Florida (Lori Bean &  
Bean Automotive Group)

Miami-Dade County 2022  
Safe Summers Initiative Grant,  
Vice Chair Oliver G. Gilbert, III,  
District 1  
Monica Mortimer  
Network for Good  
Doretha G. Nicholson  
The Children's Trust  
United Way of Miami Dade

Hmm . . .  
**How Can I Help?**



### Community Service Days

- Lead a community service project with your company, group, team, church/synagogue
- Lead activities (eg., CFCE facility painting, on-site beautification projects)

### Organize Fundraiser/ Drive

- Toy Drive
- Gift Card Drive
- Thanksgiving Drive
- Family Reunification

### Direct Care

- Foster a Child
- Be a Respite Home for a Child
- Help Children in Need
- Tutoring
- Mentoring
- Job Coaching
- Sponsor Activities & Arts

### Sponsorship

- Support our Summer Freedom School & After School Educational and Enrichment Programs
- Purchase tables/ads at special events
- Sponsor/host outings for children in foster care
- Donate gift cards for graduations, achievement milestones, birthdays, special occasions, activities, outings and more

### Special Events

- Support fundraising events
- Support foster parent activities

### Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteer your time, talent or treasure
- Launch an engagement activity with your family, church/synagogue, group or business

**To Donate to CFCE:**





# Event Calendar



**CFCE Board Meeting  
Sep 21, 2022**

**Still offering COVID vaccines, boosters & testing for ages 5 and up!**



**Pediatric & Family Health & Wellness Center**



**Join Our Team**



**[For more info click here](#)**



**Lunch & Learn  
Topic:  
Have You Had The Talk?  
Oct 20, 2022**

**Dearest Reader,**

**Save the Date for the most anticipated event of the year! You are cordially invited to attend the first Annual City of Miami Gardens Mayor's Ball. Hosted by Mayor Rodney Harris, the event will be held on November 5, 2022 at St. Thomas University's Gus Machado College of Business. This will be a Bridgerton-inspired affair so do come in your very best Regency-era attire. And who knows? Perhaps you will be named the Diamond of the Season!**

Proceeds to benefit CFCE. For sponsorship information:  
kguy@cfceinc.org | 305.474.1737  
[cfcecares.org/events](http://cfcecares.org/events)



**We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!  
Center for Family & Child Enrichment, Inc.**