



# Issues That Matter

By Linda B. Carter  
President and CEO, Community Foundation of Broward

## \$6 Million Project to Address Student Isolation in Broward

The Community Foundation of Broward has made the largest grant in its 34-year history -- \$3 million to be matched by Broward County Public Schools to create a fresh new approach to address the social, emotional and academic needs of isolated, struggling middle school students. With recent events showcasing what could happen when students aren't connected to teachers and peers within the formative middle school grades, the Community Foundation and our Fundholders were compelled to act.

Following months of collaborating and planning with Broward Superintendent of Schools, Robert Runcie, and an intensive review process by the Foundation staff and Board, the decision was made to move forward with this cutting-edge 3-year partnership – because it's important. Middle School is a critical pivot point where students either get on track toward graduation or enter a downward spiral toward dropping out.

This partnership is an extension of the Community Foundation's highly-successful *School is Cool* initiative, which began in 2012 and has already helped boost Broward's high school graduation rate. The earlier work showed that lower performing students are often isolated, and isolation leads to alienation. Unaddressed, this can lead to self-destructive behavior and social issues, of which we are now all too familiar following the Parkland tragedy earlier this year.

This historic grant aims to break the cycle of isolation for struggling students and move them toward success in school through:

- ◆ Social/Emotional and intense academic support for at-risk students through the addition of 20 new staff members (to include new school counselors) in 10 Broward middle schools by Fall 2018.
- ◆ Creation of individual learning plans for these students so they receive personalized support in the same way students identified as "special needs" are currently supported.
- ◆ Enhanced peer-to-peer mentoring to decrease student isolation and increase motivation and student engagement.
- ◆ New opportunities, through local nonprofits, to engage isolated students in compelling extracurricular activities and build critical connections with peers and trusted adults.
- ◆ Continued refinement of the program with plans for the district to self-support and roll-out to all Broward middle schools in 2021.

This is a major investment in our community's future made possible through the generosity of 24 trailblazing donors who established unrestricted Funds at the Community Foundation of Broward. Their philanthropy tackles the relevant, timely and important issues Broward faces today - and provides the resources needed to address the big issues our community will see in the future. This is a perfect example of Broward taking care of its own – and it's what we mean when we say we are **Greater Together**.

### THIS HISTORIC GRANT HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY SUPPORT FROM THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF BROWARD FUNDS:

Mary and Alex Mackenzie Community Impact Fund  
Mary N. Porter Community Impact Fund  
The Allen Family Fund for Children  
Broward's Tribute to Children Fund  
The Sherman "Red" Crise and Evelyn R. Crise Memorial Fund  
The Huizenga Fund for Children  
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Norman R. and Ruth Rales Fund  
Kathleen Kinney Slappey Fund  
LaVere G. and Mabel R. White Fund  
Margaret Garrison

**Ask us how we can help you create the change you want to see in our community.**

Please contact the Foundation's Vice President of Philanthropic Services Nancy Thies at 954-761-9503 or [nthies@cfbroward.org](mailto:nthies@cfbroward.org).



- ◆ 450 charitable Funds
- ◆ \$180 million in assets
- ◆ 34 years of experience
- ◆ \$100 million in community grants
- ◆ Ranked in top 100 community foundations

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