



United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades & Okeechobee

## **2019 Allocation Team Report Quality Life Center – Team 13**

### **Overall impression of the Agency:**

The Team enjoyed learning about the Agency's mission of helping children by providing a safe space for kids to develop and reach their full potential. The Team felt that the Agency provides critical programs to children and their families through its Arts Character Education program. The Team had a clear understanding of the use of United Way funding and thought that this was an excellent investment.

### **Agency's Programs:**

- **Quality/Impact** – The Team enjoyed hearing from the mother who shared her experiences with the program. The Team was very impressed that her daughter will be touring 10 historically black colleges across the United States and that she has set this goal for herself at such a young age. The Team wishes her good luck in her future endeavors and knows she will go far. The Team liked that the programs are data driven and that the Agency monitors the progress of each of its youth. The Team congratulated the Agency on having 90% of its VPK students meet or exceed the state standards for school readiness.
- **Capacity/Volume** – The Team thanked the Agency for serving 264 students last year, amounting to 124,000 hours of service. The Team enjoyed hearing about the expansion of the Teen Program and look forward to hearing about the successes of this expansion at next year's site visit. The Team was also pleased that the Agency has plans to expand its high-quality VPK program.
- **Access/Outreach** – The Team liked that the Agency holds a monthly mandatory meeting for the parents of its students that is both engaging and educational. The Team thanked the Agency for waiving its tuition for students over the age of 10 to eliminate any financial barriers to service those families may have, as 90% of the families the Agency serves fall into a low-income demographic.

### **Partnerships and Collaboration:**

- **Agency Partnerships** – The Team was pleased with the Agency's list of partnerships, particularly with the Lee County School District. The Team felt the Agency has done a great job developing meaningful partnerships across the community which benefit the Agency's youth and their families. This stood out especially when the Team learned that if a student gets a 'C' or below in one of their classes, they are required to have tutoring from a volunteer with Barry University.

- **United Way Partnership** – The Team thanked the Agency for continuing to be a good United Way partner. The Team could see that the Agency has a true appreciation for the United Way partnership.

**Agency Leadership:**

- **Overall impression of the Leadership and Management of Executive Director/ Senior Management Team.**

The Team enjoyed meeting the new Chief Executive Officer and was very impressed with the dedication and knowledge of all the staff the Team met at the site visit.

- **Overall impression of the Board of Directors and their ability to oversee the Fiscal Management and Sustainability of the Agency?**

The Team thanked the Agency for continuing to develop its Board and encouraged the Agency to continue to expand its recruitment efforts beyond its existing 9 positions. The Team enjoyed hearing from the Agency's Board Members and thanked them for their participation in the site visit.

**Team's recommendations for 2020:**

The Team recommends that the 2020 allocation for Quality Life Center be increased to \$55,500, to be used as follows:

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| • Arts, Character, and Education (ACE) Youth Programs<br>(Parent Volunteer Coordinator) | \$46,000 |
| • Early Learning Program (Staff)  | \$ 9,500 |