



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Make a cash donation our use your credit card on our Web site: [www.educationfund.org](http://www.educationfund.org) and click "Donate," or call Mimi Pink at 305-558-4544, ext. 116.

Make a donation of surplus or gently used inventory to The Education Fund's Center for Educational Materials. Your company could receive an up to 200% tax deduction! Call Stacey de la Grana at 305-558-4544, ext. 107 to donate.

Honor a loved one by making a donation in their name. Call Mimi Pink at the number listed above.

Include The Education Fund as a beneficiary in your will. Call Linda Lecht at 305-558-4544, ext. 102 for more information.

Specifically designate The Education Fund as a recipient of any donation you make through payroll deduction programs. If you designate, please be sure to email Mimi Pink at [mpink@educationfund.org](mailto:mpink@educationfund.org) so we can ensure your donation reaches our organization.



6713 Main Street, Suite 240 | Miami Lakes, Florida 33014  
P. 305.558.4544 | F. 305.558.4964 | [www.educationfund.org](http://www.educationfund.org)



FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# THE EDUCATION FUND

The Education Fund was founded in 1985 with a one-time seed grant from the Ford Foundation. We design and implement initiatives that involve the entire community in improving Miami-Dade County Public Schools, which is the fourth-largest school district in the United States and one of the poorest.

For its entire history, The Education Fund has acted on the belief that the community begins with the quality of its public schools. By raising student achievement, particularly for children from financially disadvantaged homes, we raise the hopes and improve the future for entire families. By preparing and inspiring school leaders and teachers in public schools, we bring stability to our community.



## MORE ABOUT THE EDUCATION FUND

Our goal is to maximize every child's potential and ensure that each one graduates with every opportunity for success. This goal will guarantee the health of our community's economic and civic future. Our initiatives allow the community to effect change, while at the same time galvanizing private-sector investments and greater awareness of issues in public education.

The Education Fund's initiatives are strategic in their efforts to improve learning opportunities for all children. We don't engage in one-shot programming. Instead, we work to ensure we are not duplicating services or resources, but rather leveraging the investments of our donors.

Below is a brief synopsis of our current programs:



**Our Plant a Thousand Gardens Collaborative Nutrition Initiative (CNI)** is now in 51 elementary schools that serve at-risk populations. This student-centered, seed-to-table garden project improves academic achievement and increases student learning through collaborative learning. Our methods have been validated by The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, which selected CNI for its prestigious "Sapphire Award" for "demonstrating excellence in addressing health disparities within the community." CNI was also selected as the top Exemplary Practice in Childhood Obesity Prevention by the University of South Florida's College of Public Health. Our annual year-end independent evaluations continue to show that more than 50% of students show positive change in their eating habits and attitudes, and more than 50% of parents show the same.

**SmartPath** is designed to improve postsecondary access and success for low-income and first-generation students and to build local partnerships to change the way college-access supports are provided. The Education Fund was one of only three local education funds nationwide selected to participate in the model that launched this work. Now, The Education Fund is in eight underserved high schools. Statistics provided by the national evaluator confirm that we are making statistically significant progress in creating a program which can successfully be implemented in any school in our district and across the nation. College enrollment rates in our three demonstration schools increased by close to 35% and high school graduation rates increased by 25%, increases which far outpaced the district's averages.



**Our Center for Educational Materials** collects surplus inventory and supplies from the business community and makes them available for free to public school teachers throughout Miami-Dade County. The Center earned the prestigious NOVO award for non-profit excellence from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. To date, the Center for Educational Materials has distributed \$7.4 million in donated supplies to more than 20,000 teachers, impacting more than 1 million students.

**Our Teach-A-Thon** is a county-wide campaign designed to impact individuals' perception of teachers and teaching quality. Based on the walk-a-thon model, participants seek pledges while raising awareness about what it takes to be a high-quality teacher and what policies we should espouse in order to ensure our children are being taught by highly qualified and well-trained teachers. Since its inception, The Education Fund has recruited 1,652 business professionals to serve as teachers for a day in 951 classrooms in M-DCPS.



**Teacher Innovator Grants** award small cash grants to teachers who want to try something new in the classroom to stimulate learning. Additionally, for many teachers, this mini-grant program gives them confidence to apply for larger or more complex grant programs, while bringing much-needed resources into their cash-strapped classroom. Since 1985, The Education Fund has awarded more than 4,000 individual classroom grants, benefitting more than a quarter of a million students.



**Our IMPACT II network** gives teachers the resources and the opportunity to share successful classroom-tested projects with their peers. Through the *Ideas with IMPACT* catalog, the *Idea EXPO* – The Teacher Conference and Idea Packets, teachers share methods to reach every single student. IMPACT II remains the only formal district-wide effort to share best K-12 classroom practices in all subjects, and the *Ideas with IMPACT* catalog is the only "best-practices" publication given to all teachers. Every year, up to 1,000 teachers attend the *EXPO*, with most every one paying the cost of registration from their own pocket. That so many were willing to sacrifice their money and time is a testament to the value our teachers place on this event. The annual catalog is distributed to 20,000+ teachers throughout the district.

