



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 3, 2023

Victory For Youth Receives Funding from The Children's Trust for Youth Development Programming

Investment will support after-school and summer programming, keeping kids safe, engaged and learning.

MIAMI-DADE- On April 17, The Children's Trust Board of Directors approved funding recommendations for its Youth Development initiative, its largest investment area. More than 140 programs, including Victory For Youth, were selected during a competitive Request for Proposals and review process. These funds will help directly support children and families through after-school and summer programming in Miami-Dade County.

Trust-funded Youth Development providers offer high-quality programming for children and youth in kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as young adults involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems and/or living with disabilities. The Trust is investing over \$76 million to allow for the increased cost of programming as well as expanding programming to existing and new providers. As well as providing nutritional meals and safe spaces for children and youth, Trust-funded after-school and summer camp programs focus on homework and learning, while also requiring physical activity and encouraging health and social and emotional wellness.

"The Children's Trust is proud to invest in an extensive network of youth development providers that offer an array of dynamic after-school and summer programming to keep our youth learning, active, and engaged in the world around them," said President & CEO of The Children's Trust James R. Haj. "We look forward to partnering with these organizations to ensure our children have every chance to succeed and their parents know their kids are cared for while at work."

This particular investment into Victory For Youth will provide free after school and summer camp programs to middle and high school students attending SLAM! (Sports Leadership & Management School). SLAM! is a Title 1 school located in the boundaries of Little Havana and the downtown area. The middle school has 94% and the high school has a 92% Free and Reduced Lunch Rate.

All program participants (grades 6-12) will receive academic support/homework assistance. At-risk high school participants will receive additional support meeting graduation requirements. All after-school and summer camp activities are fully inclusive of youth with disabilities.

Participants will be enrolled in fun and engaging activities that include sports (baseball, basketball, soccer, flag football, volleyball), STEM (gaming), art, and music. Social Emotional learning will be incorporated in all programs(s) activities.

“I am excited to partner with The Children’s Trust in providing a fun, engaging, educational and safe after-school and summer program for all youth. All youth, despite their economic status or exceptionality, deserve access to an after school or summer program where they can be afforded opportunities to excel in school, explore different areas of interest, feel empowered, and self-sufficient.” Said Roly Gonzalez, Executive Director/Founder of Victory For Youth.

To learn more about Victory For Youth’s Youth Development programming and more, visit

www.victoryforyouth.org

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Victory For Youth will develop and build strong programs that empower and will engage all students in fun, interactive, student- centered activities that create a desire to learn, address their health and social emotional wellness, increase student retentions in middle school and increase graduation rates in high school and preparing students for post-secondary readiness and self sufficient.

About The Children’s Trust

The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to fund strategic investments that improve the lives of all children and families in Miami-Dade County. For more information visit www.thechildrenstrust.org.

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