



Miami Lakes Youth Center (the “Spot”) Council Report to the Town Council From December 1st, 2016 through July 25th, 2017

Report Date: July 25, 2017

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Miami Lakes Youth Center Council by David Turino, Chairperson on this day, 25 of July 2017.

The Spot:

Located at 6075 Miami Lakes Drive, is 4,000 square foot facility with multipurpose activity rooms, a classroom area for after school educational programs and tutoring, and an outdoor patio area with a half basketball court and a new state of the art playground.

The Spot offers many amenities including: Study Area, Game Room, Flat Screen Television, Microsoft Xbox One Console, Insignia Flex Tablets 8G, Amazon Kindles, Billiard Table, Table Tennis, Open Patio, 1/2 Basketball Court, and free Wi-Fi access.

December 2016 - July 2017 Highlights:

Supervised, weekly events and activities are offered at the Spot. These include, among various others: (i) Team Building Activities, (ii) Seminars, (iii) Workshops, and (iv) Other quality educational, fun, and engaging activities and events. A representative sample of events at the Spot include:

- Rock Star 101
 - Participants formed mini “rock bands” and were encouraged to go outside their comfort zone to perform in front of each other and build confidence. This was an amazing success.

- Code Explorers
 - Participants were exposed to Code Explorers where they were given a crash course on coding. This was so successful that the Spot has received several requests for weekly coding classes!



- Healthy Eating Workshop
 - A certified nutritionist put on a Healthy Eating Workshop for our Town's youth on a Saturday morning. This event, which was a big success, included packet handouts and free samples for the participants. I
- Deering Estate Field Trip
 - We explored Biscayne Bay's aquatic life and caught fish, shrimp, crabs and puffer fish while learning about the marine life living in the sea grass.



Our community service events have been excellent. With 3 events so far in 2017, our community's youth has accumulated 325 community service hours! Community service events during the period comprised of:

- Park Clean Up
 - 45 volunteers met at the Youth Center and were taken to various parks around Town on the Town's 'Moover' buses.



- Feeding South Florida
 - 26 volunteers participated in the Feeding South Florida event where we sorted food to be distributed to those in need. More than 25,000 meals were sorted that Saturday afternoon!



- Beach Clean-up
 - 20 volunteers participated in the Frost Museum of Science beach clean-up and a tour of native plants and wildlife. Several pounds of trash and invasive plants growing in the area were successfully removed.

Participation:

- Participant count continues to increase. Monthly program participation has ranged from 24 participants during the month of December of 2016 to 78 participants during the month of June of 2017. The average monthly program participation during the period of this report was 38 participants.

Current Areas of Focus:

- The overall goal is to make the Spot's offerings available to as many of the Town's residents as possible.
- The Spot's council believes that increased awareness (of the Spot's offerings) will result in increased attendance (as it appears that the general populous is not fully aware of the Spot's wonderful offerings).
- To maintain and increase awareness, we recommend:
 - Continued local media advertisement (i.e. The Miami Laker newspaper)
 - Continued work on establishing liaisons with local schools (i.e. MLK-8 Center)

Youth Center's Council Members:

Member Name	Council Position	School Represented
David Turino	Chairperson	School for Advanced Studies
Gabriela Perez-Robles	Vice Chairperson	Monsignor Edward Pace
Vanessa Perez-Robles	Secretary	Monsignor Edward Pace
Savannah Hernandez	Marketing & Recruitment	Miami Lakes K-8 Center
Daniella Brunetti	Research & Planning	Mater Lakes Academy
Gabriela Brunetti	Member	Mater Lakes Academy
Ryan Campos	Member	Barbara Goleman High
Mia Concepcion	Member	Miami Lakes K-8 Center
Katerina Sliwinski	Member	Miami Lakes K-8 Center
Ariana Rejas	Member	Terra Environmental High

The Youth Council recently voted in three new members that have been sworn in!

Member Name	Council Position	School Represented
Julianna Ines Correa	Member	Miami Lakes K-8
Christina Gonzalez	Member	Bob Graham Educational Center
Michael Turino	Member	Barbara Goleman High

Closing Comments:

The Spot's Council continues to work hard on selecting and implementing quality events which are fun, educational and add value to the Town's youth and residents.

Through this involvement, the Spot's Council members may pursue their civic interests by volunteering their time while learning valuable skills in the areas of: time management and organization, public speaking, team building and collaboration, participation in a democratic process, etc.

It has been my honor to serve on the Spot's Council and would like to take the opportunity to thank the Mayor and the Town's Council Members for the Spot. I feel that our community is privileged to have such a special place where youth can enjoy, learn, and just be kids in a safe and beautiful environment.

Respectfully, David Turino, Chair, for the Youth Center's Council.