



Special Needs Advisory Board Report to Town Council February 2025

MISSION STATEMENT: To create a model town for inclusion by identifying specific Miami Lakes families with an interest in matters pertaining to individuals with special needs, connecting them to existing programs, services and events; and, serving the Town Council in an advisory capacity to identify unmet needs and assist with the discovery of possible solutions.

MEMBERSHIP

Name	Committee Position
Vivian Levy	Vice Chair
Jesenia Orellana	Member
Julie Padron	Secretary
Madelin Santana	Member
Francisco Tollinche	Member
Clarimar Zeledon	Member
Kimberly Trelles	Member

NOTE: Currently, there are no vacancies in the Special Needs Advisory Board

UPDATES:

1. Together with Arts for Autism, we continue to offer dance class for children and adults with special needs taking place every Saturday at 11am (Level 1) and 12pm (Level 2) at Mary Collins Community Center. The students performed at the Main Street Festival of Lights again this year.
2. We are expanding our Martial Arts program from 1 x week to 2 x a week Mondays and Wednesdays at the Youth Center.
3. We had a successful 2 semesters of the Animation Program with Miami Dade County
4. Sponsored Hope for Autism's Fashion Show and Holiday Party.
5. Hosted our first Sensory Friendly Movie "The Garfield Movie" at the Miami Lakes Theater o Main Street.
6. Hosted a Fall Picnic for special needs families with UM CARD at Veteran's Park
7. Sponsored cooking class for Gigi's Playhouse
8. Annual Painting with a Twist Valentine's Event

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BUDGET 2025

Community Awareness (Marketing & Materials)	\$	9,367.84
Community Programs (Dance, Martial Arts, Animation, etc)	\$	24,600.00
Social & Recreation (Committee & Town Events)	\$	24,929.62
Trainings & Workshops	\$	9,585.32
Grants & Aids (Donations to non-profits in our community)	\$	12,302.60
	TOTAL	\$ 80,785.38

FUTURE PROJECTS/PENDING MATTERS/CONSIDERATION:

1. Sensory Park Feature
2. Workshops for special needs families
3. Annual April Resource Fair with Arts for Autism
4. Continue to support and partner with local organizations and service providers
5. Advise the Town on inclusive practices for all events
6. Annual 4th of July Sensory Friendly Room at Mary Collins Community Center
7. Work together with Parks and Recreation to implement Sports Program
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Respectfully submitted to Council,

Special Needs Advisory Board