

Gwen Cherry Park Foundation, Inc.

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2011 - 2012**

“It is far easier to build strong children, than to repair broken men.”

- Frederick Douglass

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NFL YET at Gwen Cherry Park

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A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE GWEN CHERRY PARK FOUNDATION (# CH21734) MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends of the NFL YET Center,

The past year has been a year of expansion and excitement. With grants from the NFL Charities and Miami-Dade County's Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond Program, the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation constructed a 5,000 square foot addition to the NFL YET building at Gwen Cherry Park. This additional space will be used for educational programs, meeting rooms, office space and a multi-media center. We also added a Miami Dolphins Fitness Center which provides state-of-the-art fitness games for children to exercise, stay healthy and have fun.

The children of the NFL YET Center are fortunate to have a passionate advocate in District 2 County Commissioner Jean Monestime. This year, he has provided the political clout and visionary leadership to help us expand and improve the Gwen Cherry Park and the NFL YET Center.

Efforts are well under way to initiate a first class, full service Seniors' Program at the NFL YET Center. This important program is being developed by the Miami-Dade County Community Action Agency (CAA). My dream is to transform this successful youth center into a successful, fully utilized family center.

Our children are depending on us to maintain the academic, health, athletic and computer programs at the NFL YET Center. Unfortunately, funding from governments, nonprofit organizations and businesses have dropped substantially because of the economic downturn across Miami and the United States. Please consider making a **generous donation** to the **Gwen Cherry Park Foundation, Inc.** to help continue providing many positive programs for children in this underserved community to "SAY YES" to.

Thank you for your support!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H.T. Smith'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

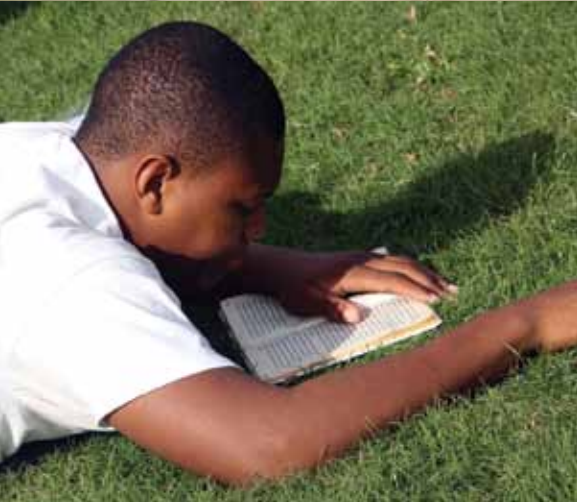
H.T. Smith, Chairman

HISTORY of the NFL YET

Under the leadership of H.T. Smith and with the strong support of the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee, a \$1,000,000 grant was secured from the NFL Charities as seed capital to construct an NFL Youth Education Town (YET) at Gwen Cherry Park. An additional \$2,600,000 was raised from local businesses, firms and organizations. The NFL YET Center was constructed by Hall of Fame Miami Dolphins player Dwight Stephenson and was dedicated on December 16, 1996.

This 27,000 square-foot facility embraces the Scott Carver neighborhood by offering two computer rooms, a library, an arts and crafts room, a game room, a multi-purpose area, a 9,000 square-foot air conditioned gymnasium, a fully equipped kitchen, a reception area, as well as administrative offices for the dedicated staff.

This state-of-the-art facility is located on 38 acres of land at Gwen Cherry Park. The park includes three lighted multi-purpose athletic fields, two lighted basketball courts, two lighted tennis courts, a lighted 400-meter running track, a lighted baseball diamond, a lighted softball diamond, a picnic area, a swimming pool, an amphitheater, a recreation center and a tot lot.



and the Foundation

In 1997, the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation, Inc. was established as a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization to provide leadership in fundraising to support programming at the NFL YET Center. The Foundation is led by a Board of Directors that sets policy for raising and spending financial contributions to support the work on behalf of the community, particularly our youth, who are serviced by the NFL YET Center.

The Foundation works with Miami-Dade County and its community partners to ensure that people in the neighborhood receive first class park programming and facilities. The programming at the NFL YET Center is provided by Miami-Dade County Parks & Recreation Department, Communities in Schools of Miami, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Miami-Dade.

The ultimate goal of the Foundation is to build an endowment large enough to guarantee that there is a perpetual fund for the vital programs at the NFL YET Center.

HISTORY



Community Partners



Miami-Dade County Parks Department

Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department is the largest park system in the United States. The Department is responsible for the general facility operations and management of the NFL YET Center at Gwen Cherry Park. It seeks to provide quality programs to the youth that attend the center and provide professional staff and well-maintained facilities.



Communities In Schools of Miami

Communities In Schools of Miami is an accredited affiliate of Communities In Schools, the nation's leading dropout prevention organization. Its mission is to surround students with a community of support and empower them to stay in school and achieve in life. At the NFL YET Center, Communities In Schools is responsible for the coordination and delivery of the educational services that include homework assistance, literacy classes, social skills programs, visual and performing arts and a computer lab equipped with academic software.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Miami-Dade

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Miami-Dade provides sporting competition and optimistic leagues for boys and girls activities such as tackle football, cheerleading, dance, basketball, T-ball and softball. These programs allow youngsters to display their talent and team sportsmanship. The organization also collaborates with Communities In Schools in providing computer lab programs.

PARTNERS

Year in Review



NOVEMBER 2011

- Thanksgiving Dinner/Family Evening
- Gwen Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association Legal Clinic

DECEMBER 2011

- Christmas Festival & Toy Give-A-Way

FEBRUARY 2012

- Oratorical Contest
- Valentine's Day Dance
- Puppet & Magic Show
- Black History Show

MARCH 2012

- Good Behavior Pizza Party
- Dr. Seuss Birthday Reading

APRIL 2012

- Miami Heat Playoff Pep Rally

MAY 2012

- Graduation Ceremony

JUNE 2012

- Summer Camp

JULY 2012

- Building Expansion Dedication
- Commissioner Monestime's Book Bag Give-A-Way

AUGUST 2012

- Charles Schwab School Supplies Give-A-Way

SEPTEMBER 2012

- Good Grades Ice Cream Party
- Dolphins Pep Rally
- Seniors' Program Launch

OCTOBER 2012

- Open House
- Coping with Homelessness Workshop
- Coach Across America "Up 2 Us" Campaign
- Breast Cancer Walk
- Harvest Day Celebration



NFL YET Building Expansion

As a result of the community embracing the NFL YET Center for all types of meetings, programs, activities and special events, there became a need to expand the size of the building to accommodate increased activities. In response to this urgent need, the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation built a 5,000 square-foot addition to the NFL YET building at Gwen Cherry Park. The Groundbreaking Ceremony was held on June 23, 2010. Former District 2 County Commissioner Dorrin Rolle, Miami-Dade Parks & Recreation Director Jack Kardys, Miami Dolphins President Mike Dee, Miami Dolphins Wide Receiver Brian Hartline, Miami Dolphins Senior Advisor Nat Moore and Foundation Board members Jerry Sawyer, Elaine Black and H.T. Smith participated in the program, which was attended by hundreds of people from the community.



NFL YET Addition Groundbreaking-June 23, 2010

EXPANSION



NFL YET Addition Dedication-July 24, 2012

The new wing of the NFL YET Center opened this summer with a formal Dedication Ceremony held on July 24, 2012. District 2 County Commissioner Jean Monestime served as the keynote speaker. The new wing features two classrooms, a multi-media room, administrative offices and restrooms. It was constructed by Dwight Stephenson's construction company and funded by grants from the NFL Charities and the Miami-Dade County Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond Program and by the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation.

Grants Funded

November 1, 2011 – October 31, 2012



Thanksgiving Dinner/Family Evening Event

The Foundation provided funds to Communities in Schools for a family evening created to increase family interaction between children and their parents and grandparents.

Gwen Cherry Bulls Football and Cheerleading Championship

The Foundation provided funds to the Boys and Girls Clubs for a football team to attend a regional championship. It also provided funds for the cheerleading team to attend regional and national championships.



NFL YET Center Christmas Festival & Toy Give-A-Way

The Foundation provided funds for this day long program to provide encouragement for the youth participating in park activities, to build self-esteem and to make sure they have fun, joy and excitement during the holiday season.

Black History Month Celebration and Oratorical Contest

The Foundation provided funds to Communities in Schools for a program to educate youth on the history and contributions of African-Americans and their accomplishments in our society. The activities also promoted literacy and performing arts skills.



Score Store for Kids

The Foundation provided funds to Communities in Schools for the expansion of the Score Store to encourage the children to have better behavior and teach the relationship between hard work and earning potential.

End of Year Graduation Ceremony

The Foundation provided funds to Communities in Schools to help congratulate the students for their academic success and celebrate their advancement to their next grade level in school.



Community Impact

Like the other families at the park, Lea Kasprzak was invited to attend the Communities in Schools' Thanksgiving Dinner, which was sponsored in part by a grant from the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation. The dinner was prepared by a caterer whose children grew up participating in the park's programs. Even though there were over 200 people in attendance, Ms. Kasprzak and her daughters were able to find space at a table in the middle of the room. She ate her meal. While her daughters were anxious to eat dessert and say "Hello" to their friends, their mom was planning for her family's Thanksgiving meal in two days. Distracted, she did not hear her name called to win one of the raffle prizes: a turkey or a box of canned goods. Ms. Kasprzak had the winning ticket for the turkey. Grateful, after picking up her prize, she commented, "Well, that is one less thing off of my shopping list for Thanksgiving."



My name is Yolanda Hudson. I am the mother of four boys who are young achievers at the NFL YET Center. I am a disabled single parent who was forced to leave my job as a bus driver. The NFL YET Center has been a great source of support and nurturing for my children and me.

Starting in 2011, I enrolled my four boys in the program sponsored by Communities in Schools to assist them with homework, computer training, reading and nutrition. The program provided my kids transportation to and from the Center, school supplies and healthy snacks. The staff also provided much needed crisis intervention, moral support and encouragement as we dealt with personal, financial and educational challenges. The wonderful staff even encouraged me to volunteer at the NFL YET Center.

The volunteer time has helped to enhance my relationship with my children, while making a difference in the lives of all of the children at the NFL YET Center. The staff made me feel very much appreciated and helped me through the daily struggles that are faced by a disabled single parent of four young, active boys.

The NFL YET Center has been a real safety net for me and my four boys. Thank you so very much!

Score Store

The Score Store at the NFL YET Center is an incentive program that rewards children in direct proportion to their academic, behavioral and civic performance. The Score Store is stocked with items ranging from candy blow pops to color televisions and other electronics. It is restocked with a variety of items that the children periodically request to be purchased and stocked in the store.



The Score Store is open on Mondays. Each child may earn up to 40 points per week. Participating in the program encourages children to do well in school, work positively in the area of conflict resolution, attend the after school program consistently and be helpful with others. In exchange, they are rewarded with points that can be traded for the items in the Score Store.

Shortly after the Score Store was successfully opened, it was changed from a points system to “Good Bucks” system. Good Bucks is a currency that helps older children experience the “real world” reimbursement of time and talent for treasure. In addition to teaching behavioral consequences and rewards, it also teaches the responsibility that comes with counting, budgeting and managing money. To date, more than 247 students have participated in the Score Store program at the NFL YET Center. Communities in School has noticed an increase in the positive responses of the youth at the NFL YET Center as a result of implementing this program.

My name is Renaiya. I am in the 3rd grade. I like the after school program because it is fun and my tutors help me when I need it. I learn a lot from my tutors. I like the Kidzlit, arts & crafts, sparks, the snacks and the Score Store.

Last year, I won a T.V. from the Score Store. I did this by saving all my points and not using them every week. It was very hard to save my points because of all the good toys and books they had. I saved them because I wanted to win the big prize. This program taught me how to save my own money and be patient to get what I really wanted, which was the T.V.

This program helps me continue to do well in school and continue to make good grades. That is why I come to the program every day and have good attendance.



Guardian Angel Award

The Guardian Angel Award is presented annually to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the mission of the NFL YET Center at Gwen Cherry Park. These contributions may include substantial volunteerism, significant philanthropy, and major fundraising. The contributions are evaluated based primarily upon the positive, measurable effect they have on supporting and sustaining academic or athletic programming or upgrading the facilities at the NFL YET Center at Gwen Cherry Park.

The Guardian Angel Award winners to date are:

2012

Commissioner Jean Monestime



2011

Virgil Valdez



2010

Commissioner Dorrin Rolle



2009

Judge Norman Gerstein



AWMVA
AWARD

Board of Directors

2011 - 2012



H.T. Smith
CHAIRMAN



Elaine Black
SECRETARY



Erica N. Wright
TREASURER



Jerry C. Sawyer
DIRECTOR



Andre G. Crenshaw
DIRECTOR

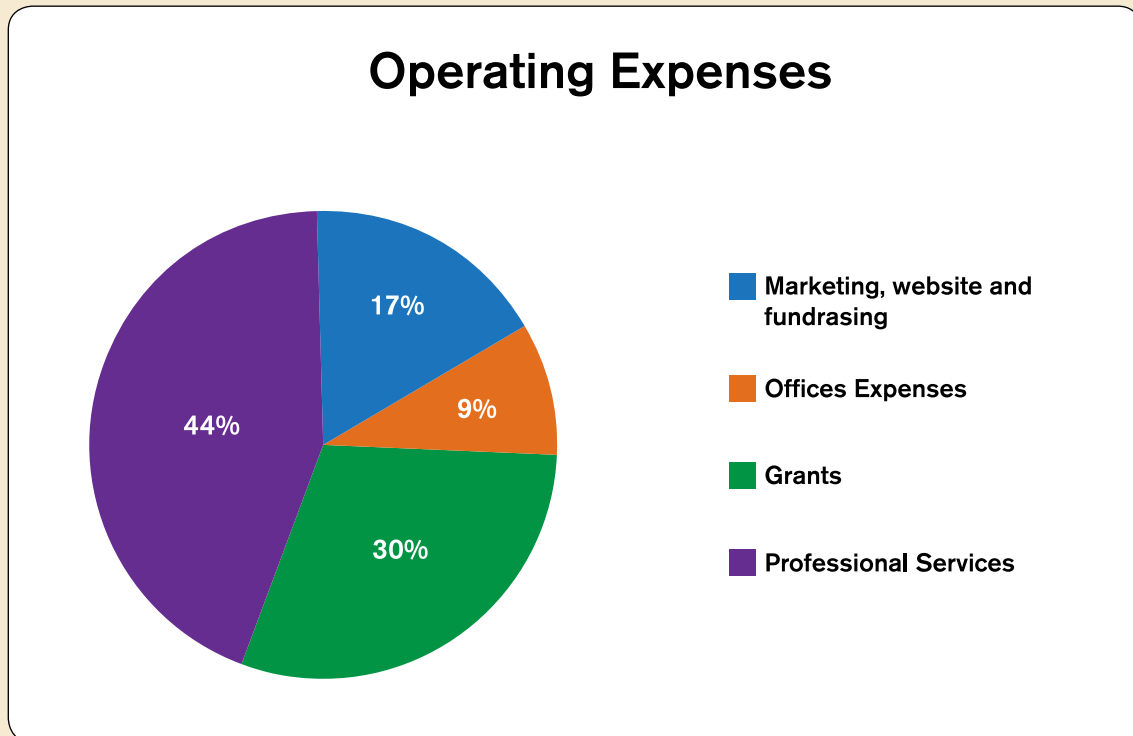


Vicki Antonio
GCPF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Bobby Johnson
NFL YET DIRECTOR

Annual Budget



We would like to thank the following persons and organizations for their generous financial support of the Foundation during 2011 - 2012¹

Bill Clay, P.A.

Beth F. Bloom

Burn Notice (Season 6) TVM Productions

Gisela Cardonne Ely

Antonio Dixon

Anthony Gaitor

Gold & Gold, P.A.

Larry R. Handfield

Robert Josefsberg

Dennis G. Kainen

Norma S. Lindsey

Miami-Dade County

Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond

Miami Dolphins Foundation

Barnaby L. Min

Richard A. Sharptein

Cynthia Johnson Stacks

Sharpton, Brunson & Company, P.A.

Detra Shaw-Wilder

The Paul J. DiMare Foundation

Thomas R. Spencer

John Thornton

Virgil Valdez

V. Lynn Whitfield

Wetherington Klein & Hubbard, P.A.

Carol G. Wyllie

¹From November 1, 2011 – October 31, 2012



Dolphins Indoor Virtual Fitness Center



Computer Room



NFL YET Aquatic Park

