



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

*"It is easier to build strong children, than to repair broken men."*

*— Frederick Douglass*

**GWEN CHERRY**  
**PARK**  
FOUNDATION



[www.gwencherryparkfoundation.org](http://www.gwencherryparkfoundation.org)



INTRO

# Gwen Cherry Park Foundation Inc., provides financial support for the NFL Youth Education town at Gwen Cherry Park.

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## About the Park

### NFL YET Center Amenities

- Computer room
- Air conditioned gymnasium
- Library
- Multi-purpose rooms
- Miami Dolphins fitness arcade
- Arts and crafts room
- Large dividable classrooms
- Game room
- Covered patio
- Reception area
- Kitchen
- Administrative offices

### Park Amenities

- Synthetic Athletic Field for Football, Soccer and LaCross
- 2 lighted athletic fields
- 2 lighted tennis courts
- Fitness zone with
- 800-person bleacher seating
- Lighted baseball diamond
- Tot lot
- Lighted 400-meter track
- Lighted softball diamond
- Amphitheater
- 2 lighted basketball courts
- Swimming pool
- Picnic area

✦ Table of Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Chairman's Report   | 04 |
| Synthetic Athletic Field Dedication 2020                        | 05 |
| Student Highlight - Arya Wilson & Carlos Castillo               | 08 |
| Year in Review – How We Pivoted in 2020                         | 09 |
| Virtual Learning Day Camp                                       | 11 |
| Boys & Girls Club Skills Camp                                   | 12 |
| Antonio Brown's Whole Lotta Money & School Supply Giveaway 2020 | 13 |
| Fourth Annual T.Y. Hilton Christmas Festival                    | 14 |
| Finance - (Expenditures, Grants, Funding)                       | 15 |
| Partners and Board Members                                      | 16 |
| Donor List  | 17 |
| Thank You   | 18 |



# Chairman's Report



2020 was a year like none other. Our community and country experienced the triple crises of a once-in-a-generation public health emergency, its economic ramifications, and the social unrest stemming from police brutality laid bare by videotapes of shocking acts of police killings.

I am pleased to report that the dedicated staff at Gwen Cherry Park made the necessary adjustments and sacrifices to ensure that the children and families of the park were provided much needed food, water, supplies, information, and online educational and organizational services. All of this was in strict accordance with the COVID-19 protocols that were issued by Miami -Dade County. In addition to regular park services on-line and in person, Park staff worked above and beyond the call of duty to coordinate distribution of thousands of hot meals for families; hundreds of bags of food for pets (dogs and cats); 500 turkeys for Thanksgiving; 911 Christmas toys, and hundreds of book bags, tablets and other school supplies. The highlight of the year was the Dedication of the park's new state-of-the-art \$1.5 million Synthetic Athletic Field. Funding for the Field was provided by the NFL Foundation and the Miami-Dade County Parks Department. The Dedication was held during Super Bowl festivities here in Miami and was attended by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, Miami Dolphins' Owner Steve Ross, District 2 County Commissioner Jean Monestime, Miami Dolphins' Legends Nat Moore and Dwight Stephenson, and many more dignitaries, community members and

children from the park. Speaking on behalf of the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation, Inc., I welcomed the dignitaries and community members to the "Park of Champions", and noted that after winning six National Pop Warner Football Championship that it is fitting that Gwen Cherry Park now has a championship athletic field where quality football, soccer and la crosse can played. THANK YOU to the Gwen Cherry Park's staff, the After School Program's staff, and our community volunteers for providing helping to serve our community during this time of crisis. You allowed many in our community to believe as I do LIFE IS GOOD!



**H.T. Smith**, Chairman



## SYNTHETIC ATHLETIC FIELD DEDICATION 2020

On January 30, 2020, a Dedication Ceremony was held at Gwen Cherry Park to celebrate the unveiling of the new \$1.6 million state-of-the-art Synthetic Athletic Field. The Field was built with funds donated by the NFL Foundation and Miami-Dade County, and will allow youth to play football, soccer and lacrosse. In addition to the Field, a new scoreboard and padded bleachers were installed. The Dedication Ceremony was part of the week-long festivities of Super Bowl LIV held in Miami Gardens. Along with the Dedication Ceremony, the youth participated in NFL Huddle for 100, and Urban Farming. Gwen Cherry Park Foundation's Chairman H.T. Smith welcomed the visitors and community members to the Park where champions are made. Smith told the crowd that the Gwen Cherry Bulls have won six National Pop Warner Football

Championships, two National Dance Championships and a National Cheerleading Championship. Some of the many dignitaries who attended the Dedication Ceremony included Roger Goodell, NFL Commissioner; Stephen Ross, Miami Dolphins Owner; Rodney Barreto, Chairman of the Super Bowl Host Committee; District 2 County Commissioner Jean Monestime; Jackie Nespral, NBC 6 Newscaster; Dwight Stephenson, former Miami Dolphins Hall of Fame Center; Nat Moore, Miami Dolphin's legend, and Audrey Edmondson, County Commission Chairwoman. After the program, the youth "christened" the athletic field by running a series of football drills that were participated in by girls and boys. The youth also planting flowers and trees as a part of the new Urban Farming program. Fun was had by all!

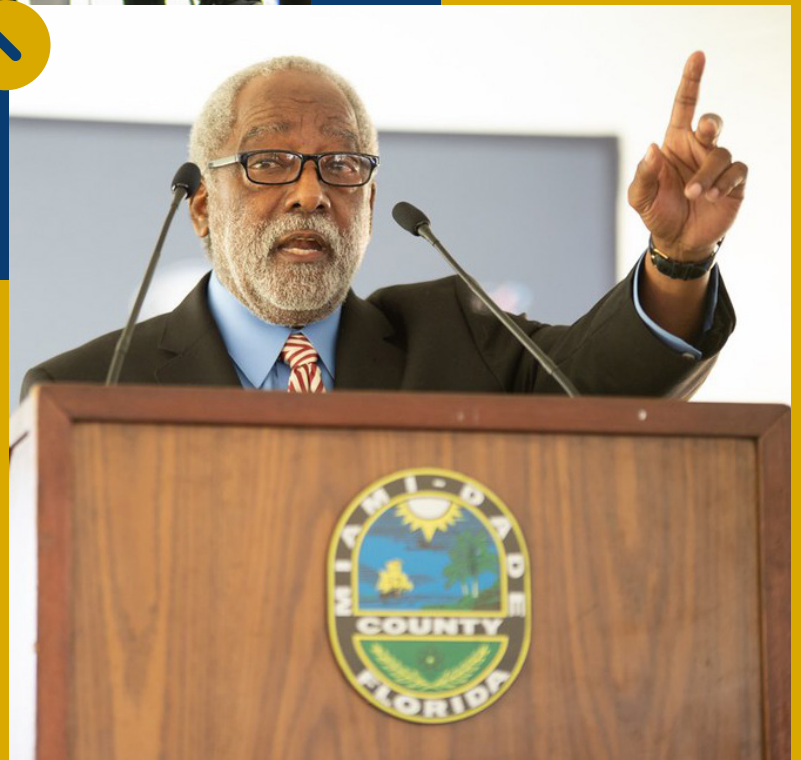
# SYNTHETIC ATHLETIC FIELD CEREMONY 2020



Commissioner Roger Goodell



Chairwoman Audrey Edminson



Chairman H.T. Smith

Commissioner Jean Monestime





Nat Moore, H.T. Smith, Dwight Stephenson, Jerry Sawyer



Commisioner Goodell and 5000 Role Models



# Student Highlights



## Arya Wilson

Arya Wilson is an academic achiever and a two sport athlete. Arya is an honor roll student at WJ Bryan Elementary School. She enjoys the company of good friends and exemplifies leadership qualities among them. Arya has aspirations of becoming a hair dresser and makeup artist.



Arya Wilson has been a part of the Gwen Cherry Park Family for 2 years.

## Carlos Castillo

Carlos Castillo has been a part of the Gwen Cherry Park Family for 4 years. Carlos is an honor roll student at Henry Reeves K-8 Center. Carlos regularly completes his homework at the NFL Center at the park. Carlos completed this past nine weeks with all A's & B's. He positively engages with other participants at the park, and brings a special spark to our center. He specializes in developing power point presentations. He is a promising scholastic achiever with aspirations of advancing technology.





## YEAR IN REVIEW - HOW WE PIVOTED IN 2020

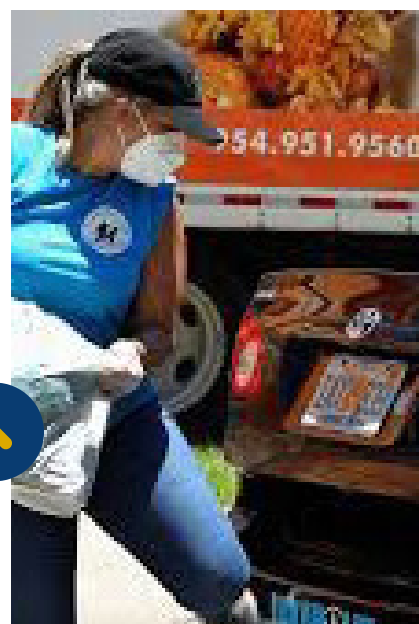
2020 required many organizations and communities to pivot to meet the needs of its members. Gwen Cherry Park was no different. Let's take a look at how our dedicated staff, community partners and volunteers supported the needs of our community members with hot meals, bags of food for families and their pets, school supplies, gift certificates, tablets, and funding.



Florida Marlins & Feeding South Florida

Food Distributions

**5,000 meals**



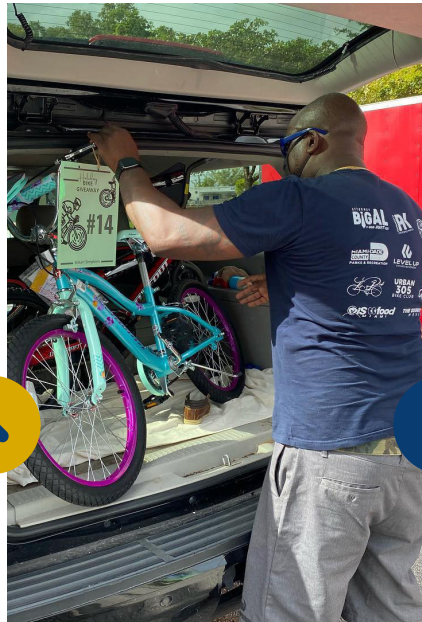
Miami Dolphins

Food Distributions

**250 meals**

## Total of 7,000 Meals Provided & 500 Bookbags

Since the pandemic began Gwen Cherry Park has been an active site for providing assistance to the surrounding communities. Actively partnering with different agencies and organizations, we have been able to impact so many families in need. Below is a breakdown of our efforts.



Miami Heat

Thanksgiving Turkeys  
& Papa Keith

Animal Services

Food Distribution

Giveaway and Papa Keith  
Food Distribution

Pet Food Distribution.

**250 hot meals**

**250 hot meals  
500 turkeys**

**500 bags of food**

## GWEN CHERRY PARK/NFL YET CENTER

# Recreational Programming

## Summer Camp & Virtual Learning



Gwen Cherry Park Summer Camp was a huge success with providing youth with an eight week camp. On a daily basis participants were being taught life and social skills through play and sport. Our participants were gaining mentorship in the following areas: teamwork, communication, and perseverance. We utilizing our new multi-purpose synthetic turf field for the development of athletic skills, by way of drills, and football combine like activities. Our youth had an amazing time collaborating and competing with each other. With safety measure in place, we maintained a 9:1 ratio with participants and counselors. Youth were separated in cohorts with their personal Arts and Crafts supplies an athletic equipment. Additional monitors were provided by our department for supervision and sanitization. Throughout the summer we used almost every square inch of our park to maintain a physical distance and still provide a fun driven experience for our campers. Once public schools were re-opened, we were able to service families that needed their children to do virtual school in a safe and supervised environment

at the NFL YET Center. Participants were assisted with staying on task and provided activities in between classes for engagement, creativity, and enrichment while utilizing our multipurpose rooms as classroom settings. Public schools provided laptops and hotspots, while the NFL Yet Center provided monitors to supervise youth and a safe environment for students to learn.



BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF MIAMI

# Skills Camp



Gwen Cherry Park NFL YET Center has an active program partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Miami who provides our year around youth sport activities. Unfortunately, this year's sports season was canceled due to the pandemic. With proper planning between the NFL YET Center and the Boys and Girls Club, an eight week Skills Camp was provided to youth in our area. COVID prescreening was implemented before each session, masks were worn by players and coaches, safety measures were put in place to ensure we maintained a 9:1 ratio for players and coaching staff. Spectators were required to remain in their vehicles and other guidelines were implemented to ensure the safety of our youth participants.



ANTONIO BROWN'S

# Whole Lotta

## Money & School Supplies Giveaway 2020



On Saturday, August 22, 2020, Gwen Cherry Park hosted the “Antonio Brown Whole Lotta Money & School Supplies Giveaway”. The event was sponsored by NFL Pro Bowl Wide Receiver Antonio Brown – an alumnus of the Park – and radio personality Papa Keith of 103.5 the Beat. Over 550 backpacks and school supplies were given away to students. Some lucky students were given computer tablets, \$100 gift certificates and footballs autographed by Antonio Brown. This important event was a smashing success that came at a time when so many families are reeling financially as a result of the economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



✦ T.Y. HILTON'S

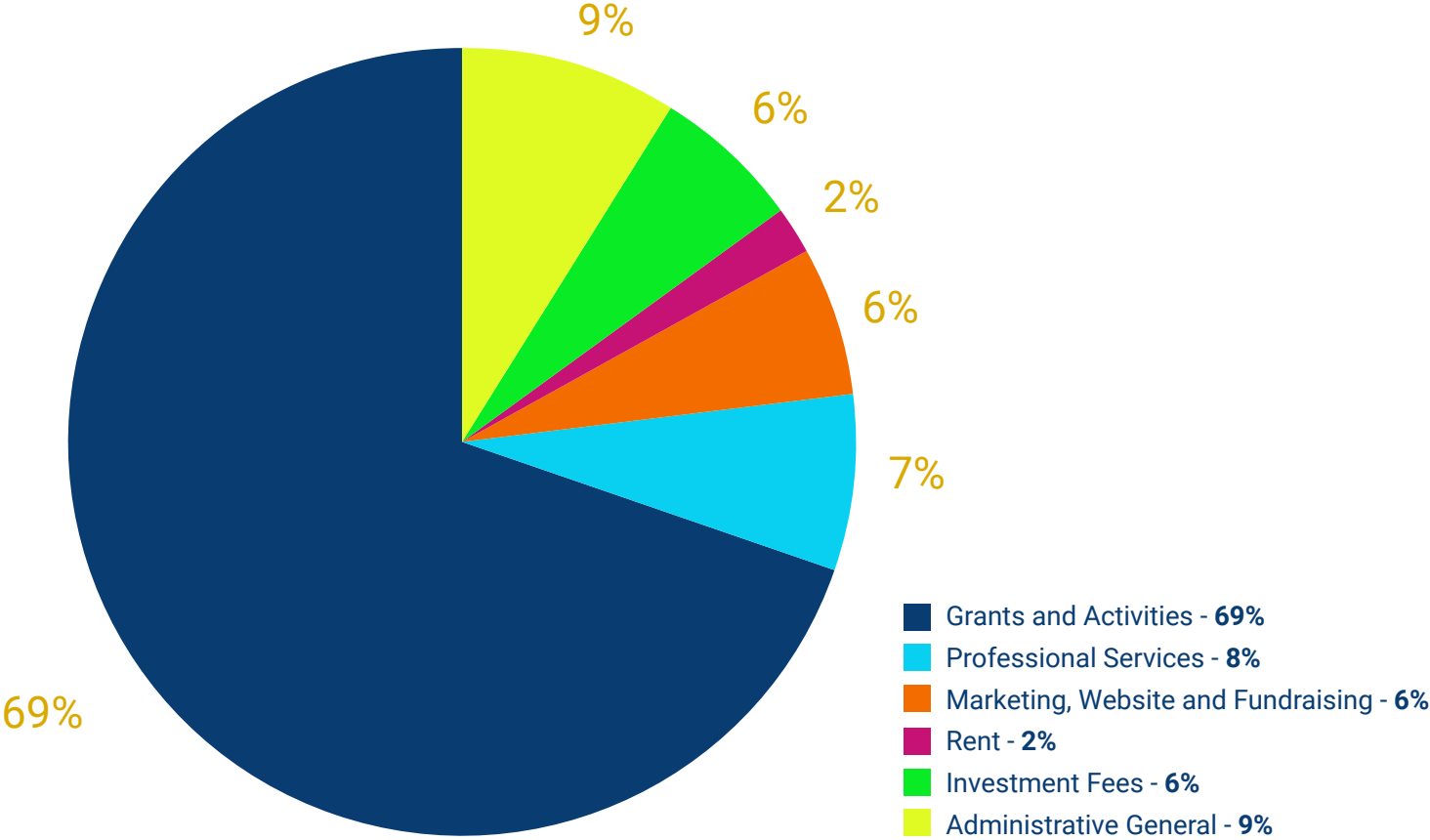
# Fourth Annual Christmas Festival

The Annual Christmas Festival and Toy Giveaway was a two-day event this year because of COVID-19 protocols. On the first day of the Christmas Festival, activities were held inside the gymnasium where bicycles and toys were given to youth who excelled in academics, athletics or in the Afterschool Program. On the second day, a drive-thru toy giveaway was held in the parking lot. Families drove up, opened their trunks and gifts chosen by the youth were placed in the trunk by park staff and community volunteers. While we could not include pony rides, bounce houses, rock climbing, face painting, and outdoor games, the youth and their families were very happy to receive Christmas gifts. Over 725 gifts were given out. This holiday celebration is designed to reward the children for participating in the academic programming at the YET and to build self esteem. The Christmas Festival is the most anticipated event of the year, providing fun, excitement, and gifts during the holiday season.



FINANCE

# Schedule of Expenditures



## Gwen Cherry Park Foundation Board of Directors



H.T. Smith  
CHAIRMAN



Elaine Black  
SECRETARY



Jerry C. Sawyer  
DIRECTOR

## Gwen Cherry Park Foundation Staff Leaders



Eric Wright, Jr.  
PARK DIRECTOR



Misti Barber  
AFTERSCHOOL DIRECTOR



Bernard Summerall  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB SUPERVISOR

## Partners

T.Y. HILTON





## Major Donors



**NFL Foundation**  
**T.Y. Hilton**  
**Commissioner Jean Monestime**  
**Trio Foundation of St. Louis**

**Fain Family Foundation**  
**The Winston-Salem Foundation**  
**South Florida Sports Foundation, Inc.**

## Contributors

William Aaron  
Hank Adorno  
Bruce Alter  
Talia and Kevin Attai  
Olivia S. Benson  
Elaine Black  
Minca Brantley  
Gustavo Bravo  
Anthony Brunson  
Rosalind Bryant  
Donna Burke-Burney  
Alfonso Burnside  
James Bush III  
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Coral Lopez Castro  
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Dean Colson  
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Miesha Darrough  
Miguel de la O  
Michelle Delancy  
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Leon Dixon  
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Coach Eddy  
Robert and Pamela Edwards  
Cynthia Everett  
Colleen and Richard Fain  
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H. Scott Fingerhut  
Joan Fleischman  
Vincent Flynn  
Ronald Frazier  
Tomas Gamba  
Carl and Janice Garmon  
Veronika Garmon  
Danielle Geathers

Latasha Getters Hines  
Cheryl Gonzales  
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Wendell Graham  
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Igor Hernandez  
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Bobby Johnson  
Cynthia Johnson-Stacks  
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Markenzy Lapointe  
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M. David McGriff  
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# GWEN CHERRY PARK FOUNDATION



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## Annual Report 2020

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