

## **Challenge Growing Broward's At-Risk Youth Reading and Math Skills**

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (July 14, 2013) – For the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County, a \$200,000 challenge grant from the Salah Foundation has mobilized more than \$700,000 to expand two critical programs that greatly increase reading and math skills for Broward County's at-risk youth.

The Youth Education Success (YES) program is a comprehensive academic success initiative that combines six different components to meet the educational needs of at-risk youth including: homework help; i-Ready computer assisted reading and math instruction with an individualized monitoring and assessment system; mentoring; high-yield activities such as reading, writing, and educational games; parent and community involvement, and collaboration with Broward County schools. This program fosters parent involvement through regularly scheduled parent-teacher mini-conferences to discuss each student's progress.

"We have been able to reduce the number of children on our waiting list to access YES. Thanks to the Salah Foundation's challenge grant, this critical program more than doubled to 589 youth since expanding in February," said Brian Quail, President/CEO. "We were able to implement the i-Ready online instruction platform for reading and math that is focused on the new Common Core State Standards for public school learning. We are also grateful to our donors who generously stepped up to make gifts toward the challenge."

Maximizing Out of School Time (MOST) addresses "summer academic loss" by enhancing children's daily academic, social, fitness, and cultural arts components during the summer through: daily homework/reading activities inclusive of reading, math and science; organized physical fitness activities and water safety; eating nutritious breakfasts/lunches/afternoon snacks approved by the US Department of Agriculture; and sessions focused on social and life skills, character and leadership development, family involvement, and a community service learning project.

The MOST program, currently in progress through August 9 is serving more than 700 youth this summer – up from 400 last year. BGCBC was able to maximize those same grant monies from the Salah Foundation to secure additional funding from the Children's Services Council.

"We are anxious to see how the kids have improved during the summer session," said George Taylor, Esq. Salah Foundation board member. "It's exciting to see them engaged in reading and math when they could be doing other summertime activities. Our partnership in philanthropy strengthens with every success they have."

### **About The Salah Foundation**

Salah Foundation is a private foundation that supports non-profit organizations in the United States that strengthen families and communities and advances individuals to become productive and responsible citizens. There is a special interest in education, medical research, community development and self-sufficiency programs aimed at the economically disadvantaged, the young, the elderly and the disabled. Salah Foundation runs a targeted grant process and select organizations will be invited to apply.

### **About The Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County joined the national organization in 1965 and have grown along with the movement. One of the largest Boys & Girls Club organizations in the nation, we operate in 12 facilities with a membership of over 12,000 youth. As a nonprofit 501(C) (3) private agency, we rely on funding raised by our Board of Directors, special events, general donations, corporate sponsors, foundation support, endowments, and the Broward County government.

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