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JCPenney Afterschool Fund Grant improves lives of South Florida students

Generous donation benefits afterschool programs in North Miami and the West Grove

Miami, Florida (May 2008) – A JCPenney Afterschool Fund Grant providing \$94,000 to help hundreds of children at two organizations – [The Family Christian Association of America's](#) sports program in North Miami and at [the Coconut Grove Cares](#) Barnyard After School Program in the West Grove.

In addition to the grant, the JCPenney Afterschool Fund also donated \$13,000 in gift certificates, enabling 260 children to shop for back to school clothing in the fall. United Way staff, JCPenney associates, and parents chaperoned the shopping sprees at JCPenney Dadeland and Aventura.

The purpose of the JCPenney Afterschool Fund is to increase the number of after school programs and promote awareness of the need for quality programs. The multi-million dollar educational fund works with national organizations known for their proven outreach and advocacy programs. Thanks to the funding, children at both locations made impressive gains.

The [Family Christian Association of America's](#) sports program in North Miami aims to improve fitness levels and encourage children to show respect for authority both on and off the field. As a result of this program, 90% of participants increased their cardiovascular and flexibility levels and also demonstrated good teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for authority both on and off the court.

The [Coconut Grove Cares](#) Barnyard After School program provides homework assistance, computer lab training, individual and small group tutoring. Children also learn about conflict resolution, which teaches non-violent problem solving skills. Other activities in the program include field trips, crafts, dance and drama that introduce the children to a variety of artistic expressions, and a nutrition and fitness program that provides swimming lessons and a healthy snack. As a result of program activities, 75% of participating children improved their math and reading scores, 85% improved their social skills and were more attentive, and 90% are more willing to share.

About United Way of Miami-Dade

United Way is working to advance the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. We are focused on improving education, income and health – the building blocks for a good life. Our goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. We invest in quality programs, advocate for better policies, engage people in the community and generate resources.

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