

Dear friends:

The past year has been an extraordinary one. Together, we have accomplished a great deal. This report highlights some of our most significant achievements.

Tony Argiz Board Chair
Harve A. Mogul President & CEO



LIVE UNITED

We believe that everyone deserves opportunities to have a good life: a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family, and good health. But, sadly, this reality is increasingly beyond the reach of thousands in our community.

We know that children who enter kindergarten ready to learn are more likely to graduate and become productive adults, yet more than one third of our children are behind. One in three working people do not earn enough to provide for their families. Florida ranks dead last when it comes to children's access to healthcare. Three in 10 Miami-Dade residents have no health insurance.

Together, we must work to change those statistics. It takes the whole community – government, business, faith groups, nonprofits, the labor movement, and ordinary citizens – working together to create lasting, sustainable change.

It also takes each of us doing our part. As people, we are all connected and dependent on one another. We all win when a child succeeds in school, when a family becomes financially stable, when people have good health.

That's what it means to LIVE UNITED. We invite you to join us in this mission. Give to United Way and invest in solutions that are making a measurable difference in people's lives; advocate for issues that are important to you; and volunteer.

By getting involved, we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better life for all.

Advancing the common good

We have a community plan that is focused on advancing the common good. It's our strategic approach to delivering measurable results in education, income and health – the basic building blocks for a good life. Our goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place.

Why education, income and health? Education is the foundation for a good life. It leads to better jobs with better pay, the key to achieving financial stability. Good health allows children to learn better and adults to increase their income through productive work.

Following is a snapshot of the work we are doing in each of the areas:

Education: Helping children and youth achieve their potential
Our focus: providing a quality early education that leads to school readiness, achieving academic success in the classroom and developing productive and engaged young adults.

At the heart of our work in this area is our United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education, a national teaching and learning center dedicated to elevating the quality of early childhood education for all children in Miami-Dade and throughout the nation. Since it opened, more than 7,000 adult learners – parents, teachers, child care providers and administrators – have attended trainings ranging from helping parents become their child's first and best teacher to helping administrators earn professional development credits. Experts from around the country have come to the Center to share their knowledge and



expertise. We opened the Center's two libraries – the resource library filled with materials aimed at adult learners and Storyville, the children's library. At our Demonstration School, attended by 122 young children, we are modeling leading early education curriculums which serves to further our mission to change the system of early education.

Our work has captured the attention of national leaders. The Buffett Early Childhood Fund has accepted the Center into its Bounce Learning Network, a group of like-minded early childhood centers committed to the highest levels of quality. Dr. David Perkins, Harvard professor and director of Project Zero, selected the Center to pilot his visible thinking theory in the early years, an approach to learning that helps children communicate their thought process through pictures.

More than 10,000 students received academic support through United Way-funded programs, including FCAT preparation and intensive tutoring in math, science and reading. In one program alone, 75% of the students increased their reading skills.

Income: Promoting financial stability and independence

To help people become financially stable, we develop job skills and employment opportunities that lead to increased income, create permanent and transitional housing that get people out of crisis and provide financial education that leads to increased savings.

We launched an online financial resource center filled with tips on budgeting, saving money and preventing foreclosure. In the coming year, our work will expand as we have been selected as one of two national pilot sites for a one-stop financial center that will offer a full range of financial help – from free tax prep to benefits enrollment to employment services.

We created a public awareness campaign about the earned income tax credit (a refundable tax credit up to \$4,400), how to apply for it and where to receive free tax preparation, through a grant from Bank of America. As a result, 3,269 tax filers received a combined \$735,868 in tax credits.

Health: Improving people's health

The progression to a healthy life begins before birth and follows through every stage in life: pre-natal and infant care, access to preventive health, healthy lifestyle choices for young people and adults, wellness for older adults and respite for those caring for aging parents.

More than 4,000 older adults improved their ability to care for themselves; another 10,000 received hot, nutritious meals – all of which allows them to continue living on their own. For those caring for their adult parents, the availability of respite care for both the caregiver and the aging adult, enabled 100% to remain in their homes.

1,700 boys and girls participated in a healthy lifestyles program focused on the prevention of pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS. 100% completed the course, all with increased knowledge on the risks associated with sexual activity and how to avoid them.



Our Women Leaders traveled to Washington, DC and Tallahassee to advocate for quality early childhood education. In Washington, DC, we met with all of South Florida's congressional delegation, our two state senators, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

In Tallahassee, we zeroed in on the continued

funding of T.E.A.C.H., the only state-funded early education teacher development program. Our voices were heard. The Florida legislature voted to fully fund the program in 2008-2009.

We continued to speak out in support of a strong public school system, traveling to Tallahassee to meet with legislators about adequate funding for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Along with our community partners, we convened our third Medicaid Forum. The University of Florida presented the preliminary results of its ongoing Medicaid Reform evaluation to over 90 Miami-Dade community leaders, legislators, health services providers and others.

As part of a business leaders engagement effort funded by the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, we continue to meet with United Ways at the state and national level, identifying ways to better involve business leaders in our quest to change the way we deliver early education.

Volunteer

Volunteers devoted more than 70,000 hours to help United Way and Hands On Miami, our partner in volunteerism, improve lives.

Through our partnership with the NFL, we teamed up with the Miami Dolphins for Hometown Huddle, a day of community service. Dolphin players and cheerleaders organized a junior training camp and helped to refurbish an afterschool facility's gym.

In total, the combined value of our community's giving, advocacy and volunteerism through United Way totaled more than \$112 million. We turned every \$1 invested directly into the community plan into \$1.95 worth of help.

Give

Together, 200,000 Miami-Dade County residents, organizations and corporations invested in the well-being of their community, collectively donating more than \$53 million to United Way of Miami-Dade. Giving to the community plan increased by more than 6 percent.

Donations came through workplace campaigns,

individuals and corporate gifts and special events including the 12th annual Miami Wine & Food Festival and the 9th annual Mayor's Ball, the most successful to date, which alone raised \$2.2 million.

Young Leaders and Women Leaders did their part. The 7th annual Women's Leadership Breakfast brought together 756 women in a celebration of philanthropy and service. The Young Leaders' annual holiday party collected more than 300 toys for children.

The Endowment continued to show growth, reaching \$13.9 million, and introduced a new Local Contributors program, to recognize individuals who have been giving for 10 years or more.

We activated Operation Helping Hands, our disaster response program in partnership with The Miami Herald/el Nuevo Herald, to help address the food crisis in Haiti.



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LIVE UNITED.



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