



City of Miami— Community Relations

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CRB Joins Community in Building a Library in Liberty Square

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The Community Relations Board partnered with Hands on Miami to open a community library at the Liberty Square Community Center. The project was part of Hands on Miami's



Local children help paint the mural

Open a Mind with a Book initiative and thousands of books were donated to fill the newly acquired bookshelves at the community center. The Community Relations Board donated a special section to the library: a children's reading corner. The books donated by the CRB and Books & Books were specifically geared for children in pre-K to 3rd grade and were handpicked by CRB members to relate to the CRB's mission to foster mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect.

Please see page four of this newsletter for more pictures of this event.



Chelsea Dombroskie, from New World School of the Arts, designed the mural

The Community Relations Board is currently accepting applications. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Office of Community Relations at (305)416-1351 or e-mail us at arojas@miamigov.com.



Community Relations Board Members

Barbara Bisno, CRB Chair

Appointed by: Comm. Marc Sarnoff
District 2

Anthony Jennings, CRB Vice Chair

Appointed by: Comm. Michelle Spence-Jones
District 5

Mary Coombs, CRB Secretary

Appointed by: Comm. Marc Sarnoff
District 2

Marlene Casar-Sanchez

Appointed by: Comm. Joe Sanchez
District 3

Lyse Cuellar-Vidal

Appointed by: Comm. Tomas Regalado
District 4

Schiller Jerome

Appointed by Mayor M. Diaz

Andres Lemos

Appointed by Mayor M. Diaz

Patricia Maldonado

Appointed by: Mayor M. Diaz

Carlos Morales

District 1

Appointed by Comm. Angel Gonzalez

Dr. Amada Vargas

District 1

Appointed by Comm. Angel Gonzalez

Marjorie Weber

Appointed by: Comm. Michelle Spence-Jones

District 5

Haydee Wheeler

Appointed by: Comm. Tomas Regalado

District 4

Teresa Zorrilla-Clark

Appointed by: Comm. Joe Sanchez

District 3

Crystal Curry

Student Member

Booker T. Washington Sr. High

Dylan Giordano

Student Member

MAST Academy

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Arbor Day 2009

In observance of National Arbor Day, the City of Miami's GreenMiami Initiative held a tree-planting day of service on Friday, April 24, 2009. Close to 100 volunteers, including members of the CRB and staff of the Office of Community Relations, gathered at Archbishop Curley High School to obtain instructions on how to properly plant and care for a tree. Afterwards, volunteers were separated into teams and sent on their mission: planting as many trees as possible to help make the Little Haiti and Buena Vista East communities a greener place to live.



CRB member Marjorie Weber (left) assists in the initial phase of tree-planting

Aside from playing a vital role in the green infrastructure, trees create a safer and healthier community, and can positively impact the social and economic structure of an area. For example, crime rates decrease in areas with more greenery, residential property value tends to increase in areas with foliage, and children who live in green areas perform better in school.

The trees that were planted at this year's Arbor Day were: Mahogany, Gumbo Limbo, Wild Tamarind, Silver Buttonwood, and Live Oak.

Read to Me

On Tuesday, May 5th, 2009, staff from the Office of Community Relations took part of the "Read to Me" program and spent some time with the students of Holmes Elementary School in Liberty City. Holmes Elementary is home to nearly 400 students who range in age between 5 and 12 years old.



Jenny De Falco reading to 2nd grade students

The Office of Community Relations promoted reading and emphasized its importance by leading "story time" for the students. It was also an opportunity to celebrate National Teacher's Day and show our teachers how much they are appreciated.

City of Miami Student Receives Princeton Prize

Princeton University annually sponsors an award program for high school students who are committed to improving positive race relations—the Princeton Prize in Race Relations. Race relations encompasses an understanding of people from different racial backgrounds and a willingness to get along, improve communication, and increase mutual respect among all races. This year's Princeton Prize in Race Relations winner was Tranette Myrthil from Miami Edison Senior High.



Tranette Myrthil (center) poses with CRB member Patricia Maldonado and OCR staff Natasha Colebrook-Williams and Ada Rojas

award because of her efforts to broaden communications between students and teachers. The CRB and OCR staff was present at the Princeton Prize award ceremony to witness Ms. Myrthil receive her well-earned prize.

**The City of Miami Goodwill Ambassadors were among the first to respond to the dispute at Miami Edison Sr. High.*

Goodwill Ambassador Recognition

The Community Relations Board created the Goodwill Ambassador Program in order to assist in promoting harmonious relationships during major special events and demonstrations, and to facilitate peaceful conflict resolutions. Goodwill Ambassadors are trained to identify conflicts and intervene by providing mediation and/or diffusing the problem.

In celebration of the great work done by the Goodwill Ambassadors, the Office of Community Relations organized a recognition dinner on their behalf. Several City officials attended and congratulated the group on their wonderful work. In attendance were Mayor Manny Diaz, City Manager Pete Hernandez, Commissioner Joe Sanchez, Commissioner Tomas Regalado, and Lieutenant Joseph Schillaci, among others.



City Manager Pete Hernandez, Lieutenant Joseph Schillaci, and members of the CRB congratulate the Goodwill Ambassadors

CRB Mission

The City of Miami Community Relations Board's mission is to foster mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect among the diverse population that resides in the City.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Meeting dates and times are subject to change. For more information on upcoming meetings and/or events please call the Office of Community Relations at 305-416-1034.

“ One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.”- Chinese proverb

For Newsletter Inquiries or Letters to the Editor Contact:

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Community Relations Board Meeting

3rd Thursday of each month
Miami Riverside Center
444 SW 2nd Avenue, 10th Floor Conference Room
Miami, Florida 33130
6:00 PM

CRB Programs & Community Outreach Committee Meeting

1st Wednesday of each month
Location to be Announced
12:00PM

CRB Law Enforcement Committee Meeting

1st Thursday of each month
Location to be announced
6:00 P.M.

Pictures from Liberty Square Library

