



ACHIEVE

MIAMI

IMPACT REPORT

INSPIRING
MINDS

ENRICHING
LIVES



MESSAGE ►
FROM OUR
FOUNDER

THIS HAS
BEEN A
JOURNEY
FOR ME.



“The magic in our programs lies not only in educational gains, but in bringing together students from all different backgrounds and helping them forge connections and gain new perspectives.”

Dear Achieve Miami Supporters,

Seventeen years ago, I walked into a Kindergarten classroom as a first-time volunteer. Those initial days spent immersed in the local school system opened my eyes to the inequality pervasive in education, and reinforced that our children deserve so much more.

Today, Achieve Miami is tackling these challenges head-on. By helping to level the playing field for children from all walks of life, empowering students from all corners of our community to help bridge socio-economic divides, and developing the next-generation of teachers, we are transforming Miami's education landscape.

As we enter our eighth year, I reflect on how we got here and, more importantly, where we are going. In 2015, we launched Achieve Miami with our inaugural Saturday literacy program that brought together high school students from one low-income public school and one private school to mentor students at a Title I elementary school in Liberty City. We were impressed with the reading gains the elementary students made in just a few months, and were pleasantly surprised by the meaningful connections formed between the high schoolers as they supported each other in their common goal of mentoring their younger peers.

From there, Achieve Miami quickly expanded its programming in response to our students' needs. We launched Achieve Scholars to bring much-needed college readiness to underserved high school students, Achieve Music to provide meaningful after-school enrichment opportunities, and Achieve Summer to reinforce connections built during the school year and prevent the dreaded “summer slide.”

Achieve Miami is now in seven elementary schools and 60+ high schools, reaching thousands of kids across Miami-Dade County each year. We have six core programs that engage students from kindergarten through their first year of college. While we are proud of these early accomplishments, we are the first to acknowledge that we have more work to do!

Each year brings new victories, new challenges, new connections, and new opportunities. The pandemic challenged us to be flexible and pushed us to reimagine our work, but our commitment to our local partners never waned. Between distributing hundreds of computers to children in need, connecting tens of thousands of students to high-speed internet so they could learn remotely through our Miami Connected initiative, and distributing food to countless families, we responded to our community's needs.

And now, in response to the greatest educational challenge facing our students – the chronic teacher shortage impacting communities across our country – we are delighted to announce the launch of the Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP), an innovative collaboration between Achieve Miami, the University of Miami, and Teach For America Miami-Dade. TAP is setting out to create a pipeline that directs a new cohort of talented educators into the teaching profession, helping to ensure that Miami will never again be plagued with empty classrooms.

At Achieve Miami, we have a front row seat to the most important issue facing our community: education. Read on to learn more about who we are, what we've done, and how our partners are shaping a new path for our incredible students.

Leslie Miller Saiontz
Founder and President



WHO WE ARE

We are a community of educators, schools, students, local leaders, volunteers, consultants, and more. Our shared beliefs and values influence the work that we do and the impact we hope to achieve.

EDUCATION STARTS WITH COMMUNITY

OUR MISSION

Achieve Miami seeks to bridge disparities, provide meaningful educational experiences, and close opportunity gaps for students throughout Miami-Dade by providing academic and enrichment programs that demonstrate the power of students learning with and from each other.



OUR CORE VALUES

All of our work at Achieve Miami is grounded in the following core values:

Opportunity:

We believe in providing high-quality opportunities for learning and growth.

Equitable Access:

We believe in working to open access to relationships and learning in communities with fewer opportunities.

Community:

We believe in working with partners in schools and neighborhoods to build relationships that connect young people to community.

Connections:

We believe that making connections for young people has profound benefits for everyone involved.

Learning:

We believe in measuring, listening, and improving.

Sharing:

We believe in sharing what we learn so others can benefit.

OUR PROGRAMS

Achieve Miami has a vision to impact students. Currently, we have six different programs in action.



ACHIEVE
SUMMER

Through our Achieve Summer program, we prevent the summer slide while creating a meaningful and joyful experience for our students. At Achieve Summer, students maintain – and even improve – their academic and social skills over summer break. For elementary students, our high quality summer program combines rigorous academics, meaningful mentorship, and exciting enrichment opportunities, all infused with summer camp energy. Transformative learning, meaningful connections, and lessons which build on students' individual and cultural experiences make the program feel like fun and games. High school volunteers and paid summer interns obtain valuable leadership, presentation, and mentorship skills, while teachers engage in daily professional development.

Every participant- from the youngest elementary student to the high school volunteer to the teacher and the site director- experiences meaningful personal, professional, and academic growth.



ACHIEVE

SATURDAYS

Underserved elementary students (who may otherwise be left behind), surge ahead in their reading, writing, and presentation skills at Achieve Saturdays. Twice a month, a diverse group of high school student volunteers from across Miami-Dade come together at four elementary school sites to read, write, and connect with underserved elementary students. Students' academic accomplishment, well-being, and social-emotional skills soar, especially when paired with a high school "Big Buddy" who serves as a nurturing mentor who inspires and motivates their "Little Buddy." The high school student volunteers acquire leadership experience, strengthen their communication skills, build their empathy, and connect with peers from different neighborhoods and backgrounds as they join together in a common mission to make a positive and long-lasting difference in the lives of the little kids and their communities.





ACHIEVE MUSIC

Music is unique because it demands focus, critical thinking, and vision while promoting creativity and individualism. In the Achieve Music program, students realize their full potential through the power of music. Achieve Music educates over 200 public 2nd to 6th grade elementary students through daily after-school programming in band, voice, percussion, and music theory. Students not only develop skills in playing an instrument, reading music, and working with an ensemble, they also increase their self-control, confidence, listening skills, and verbal intelligence.

ACHIEVE SCHOLARS



Many talk about the path to success; we take students by the hand and lead them along it. Each year, 200+ high school sophomores and juniors receive personalized guidance on college admissions and enrollment through our Achieve Scholars program. Students benefit from intensive academic advising and college planning, college application assistance, financial aid and scholarship application assistance, test preparation resources, and more. Our leadership trainings develop our students' foundational career-readiness skills and "soft" skills such as critical thinking, creative problem solving, teamwork, and written and oral communication. Once students graduate and move on to their colleges or post-secondary opportunities, we transition them into the Achieve Alumni program.

ACHIEVE ALUMNI



We recognize that the first year in college, the bridge between childhood and adulthood, can be stressful, especially for many of our students who are first-generation college students. With this understanding, we stay present for our graduates of Achieve Scholars, scaffolding them with the support they need to make decisions and take on the full responsibility that comes with being a college student. Students in our Achieve Alumni programs engage in a series of workshops and one-on-one mentorship which empower them to successfully navigate this critical first year of college. Workshops we offer include College Life, Financial Literacy, Campus Resources 101, Sexual Health, Mental Health, Defining Your Major, Study Abroad, and Preparing for Summer.

We bring together diverse high school students from across Miami to connect, communicate, and collaborate to improve their Greater Miami community. The Achieve Club offers a wide variety of meaningful community service and leadership opportunities that directly impact underserved elementary students in Miami. Achieve Club members are exposed to new people and ideas while given significant responsibility and support, helping them to become thoughtful and inclusive leaders, as well as engaged citizens and advocates.

ACHIEVE CLUB



TESTIMONIALS

Here is what some of our volunteers and supporters have to say.

“ Achieve Miami creates a unique kind of magic. Through a multitude of programs, Achieve has figured out how to bring together students from all different backgrounds to increase educational equity and, simultaneously, the strength of the Miami community. I’ve never seen a program quite like it. ”

- Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent Los Angeles Unified School District



ANTHONY CAMARAZA DIAZ

Anthony served as a dedicated Big Buddy volunteer and Achieve Scholar, immensely growing academically and personally through his involvement with Achieve Miami.

I am a senior at Robert Morgan Educational Center and an Achieve Scholar. Growing up in Cuba made me the fighter that I am today. To create a better future for me and my family, my parents and I immigrated to the United States when I was 9 years old- leaving everything I knew behind.

As a native Spanish speaker, the language differences made my academic life extremely hard. For years I was considered below average, I received little to no help from teachers, and only rejection and judgment from classmates. I did not have any friends, and having to sit alone during lunch destroyed my confidence. Luckily, I was fortunate enough to be introduced to Achieve Miami.

As an Achieve Scholar, I was able to participate in free ACT tutoring - something my family could not afford. I learned what was needed to prepare for college and how to apply for financial aid. My success coach helped me with writing my personal statement and resume. I was given access to opportunities and knowledge I would not have found on my own. The Achieve Scholars program helped to develop my skills and confidence because I was able to interact with my peers without feeling judged. Because of this, I was allowed to participate in an internship this past summer working in the clinic Open Door Health Center.

I am now able to follow my dreams in the top 10% of my graduating class. I was chosen as a Posse Scholarship Finalist and I have already received an acceptance from FIU. Achieve Miami has helped me immensely through my high school career process, and for that, I will forever be grateful.

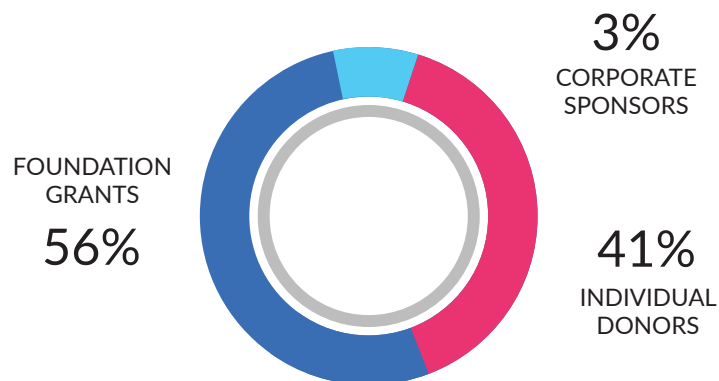
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Achieve Miami's programs would not be possible without the leadership and support of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and the continued commitment of our donors.

Last year marked another year of fiscal health and growth for Achieve Miami. Revenue totaled the highest annual amount raised to date.

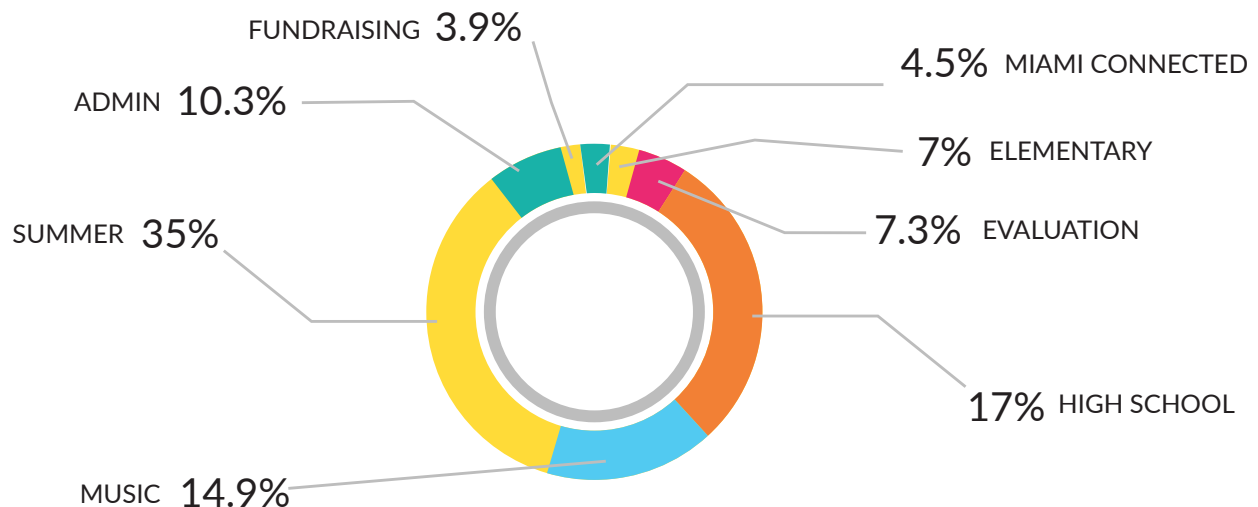
Our financial strength enables us to provide meaningful educational experiences to close opportunity gaps for students throughout Miami-Dade County.

FY REVENUE



TOTAL REVENUE: \$2,297,981.61

FY EXPENSES



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,797,475.79

*Revenue in excess of expenses earmarked for next fiscal year programs

ACHIEVE MIAMI SNAPSHOT

Achieve Miami seeks to close opportunity gaps for Miami-Dade students in need by bridging disparities and providing meaningful educational experiences.

Achieve Miami accomplishes this by providing meaningful educational and enrichment programs that demonstrate the power of students learning with and from each other. Our education non-profit sets all students on a path to success.

1,735
TOTAL
STUDENTS
SERVED



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS	
Asian	1.15%
Black	38.01%
Caucasian	12.26%
Hispanic	39.33%
Native American/Alaska Native	1.32%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	.26%
Prefer not to say	7.76%

AREAS SERVED

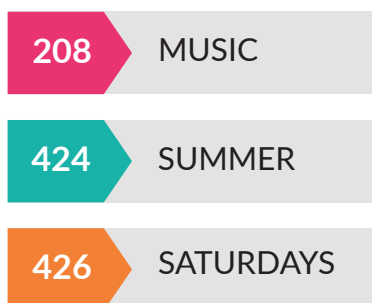
Overtown
Liberty City
Miami Gardens
Little Haiti
South Dade
Homestead



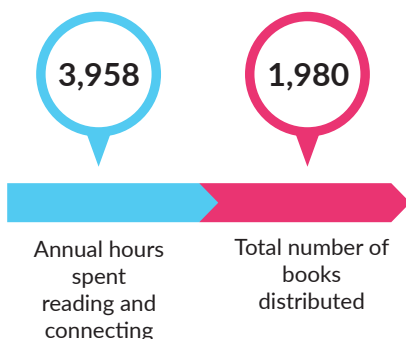
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS = LITTLE BUDDIES

Little Buddies, our elementary school students from underserved neighborhoods, participate in the Summer, Saturdays, and Music programs.

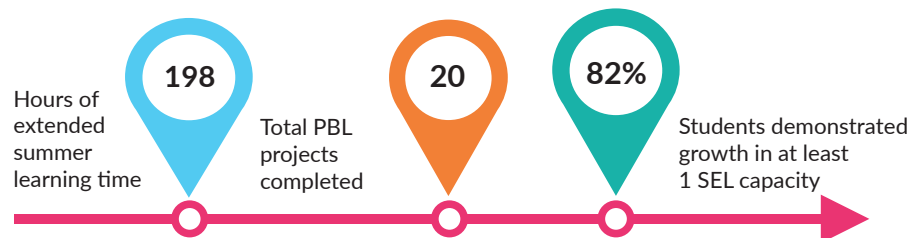
NUMBER OF STUDENTS



ACHIEVE SATURDAYS



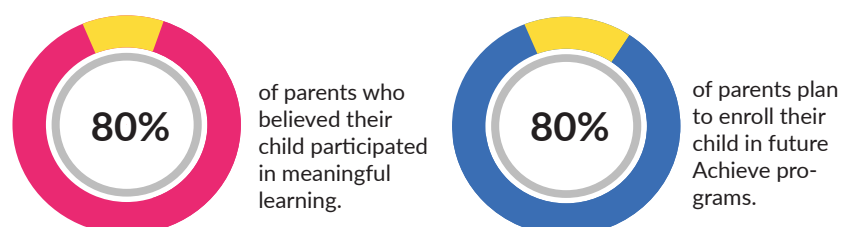
ACHIEVE SUMMER



ACHIEVE MUSIC



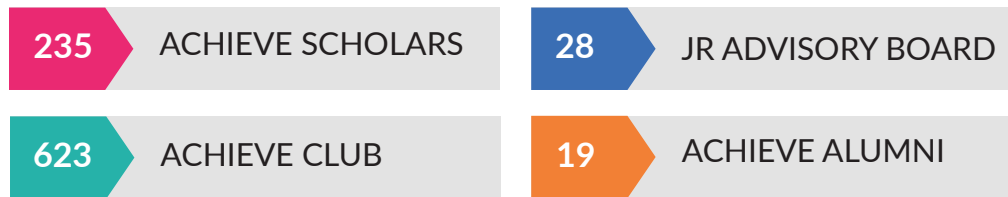
PARENT PERSPECTIVE



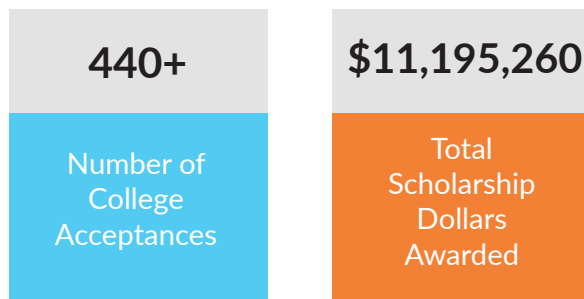
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS = BIG BUDDIES

Big Buddies, our high school students from across Miami-Dade, participate in the Achieve Scholars, the Achieve Club and the Junior Advisory Board and continue their participation as Achieve Alumni.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS



ACHIEVE SCHOLARS



Current number of high school locations for scholars



ACHIEVE SCHOLARS FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE

Neither parent/guardian attended college	31%
One parent/guardian attended college	31%
Both parents/guardians attended college	23%

LEADERSHIP

Achieve creates lasting impact in our community by empowering and building the capacity of our staff as educational leaders through professional development and coaching.

NUMBER OF LEADERS

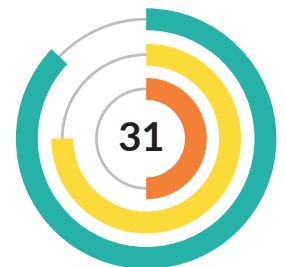


22,576

Hours donated by high school club volunteers

\$676,151.20

Economic value of volunteer work



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Number of hours offered for teachers

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Miami Connected

2021 - Achieve partnered with The Miami Foundation to launch Miami Connected, a groundbreaking initiative to provide free broadband internet, digital literacy, and workforce opportunities in technology for low-income students and families across Miami-Dade County.

Teacher Accelerator Program

2022 - In tandem with The University of Miami and Teach for America, Achieve Miami will launch the Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP) to create a career path in education for graduating college students to combat the teacher shortage impacting Miami and communities across the U.S.



STORIES & TESTIMONIALS

“It has been refreshing to see students enjoy learning new skills and being able to apply these strategies to their everyday lives. I believe that this could be an effective method in changing education to benefit children.”

-Achieve Summer Teacher

CLUB

Jordan volunteered with Achieve Miami from 8th-12th grade. After working with underserved students and helping to develop their literacy skills, he quickly became aware of the struggles our students face and was inspired to do even more. He fundraised and recruited for Achieve, organized countless community-wide book drives, and assisted in multiple food distributions during the pandemic.

SUMMER

Two years ago, the rising fourth grade class at one Achieve Summer site decided to help their community by creating an edible garden and sharing the fruits, vegetables, and herbs with their neighborhood. The school principal was so excited about the project that she started a gardening club at the school to keep the program going throughout the year. The garden is still thriving today!

When schools shut down due to Covid, Oscar started attending virtual Achieve programming. He was a third grader and a recent immigrant who spoke very little English. Even with other Spanish speaking Littles and Bigs, 1-1 breakouts, and other supports, he was very withdrawn and did not speak much. After one short year with Achieve, Oscar has grown tremendously, becoming an active participant and excelling in reading and writing in English!

SATURDAYS

“

“My favorite Achieve Saturday was when my little buddy started enjoying and understanding what she was reading!”

- Achieve Miami Big Buddy

MUSIC

Daniel is a talented Achieve Music middle school student. Since 2nd grade, he has demonstrated a passion for music, but was skilled at playing only one instrument. Through his time in Achieve Music he has taken initiative to learn more – now mastering the piano, drums, percussion, the recorder, and the trumpet. Daniel has also evolved from a shy student to a program leader, often running the percussion music break out rooms to help the other students in the class.

Jamison started out as an Achieve Scholar and is now part of our Achieve Alumni program. He's a second-year student at Syracuse University, preparing to double major in Psychology and Business. With the aid of our workshops, he gained the knowledge and confidence to fully embrace his college experience, joining multiple campus clubs such as Black Student Union, The Renegade magazine, and The Mixtape Magazine.

ALUMNI

Hudmayah joined Achieve Miami when she was in middle school; always helping out in any way she could at our Achieve Saturdays program. In her junior year of high school she became an Achieve Scholar and took full advantage of the program by participating in every opportunity we offered. As a result of her dedication and commitment, Hudmayah has excelled in her classes and has already been accepted into multiple institutions! She is on the right path and is excited for her future, thanks to the Scholars program.

SCHOLARS



FUTURE IMPACT Since its founding in 2015, Achieve Miami has continuously improved its programs and processes based on data-driven evaluation of what works best for our students. We will broaden our impact by increasing our programmatic presence in the communities we already serve and create additional opportunities for future students.

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WE WILL:

Expand our existing programs in intensity and scope – for example by increasing music education from two days to five days per week within current school locations, and by expanding programs to new partner schools.

Continue developing strategic partnerships with like-minded organizations to dramatically increase Achieve Miami's impact. For example, we are thrilled about the launch of the Teacher Accelerator Program, a groundbreaking collaboration between Achieve Miami, the University of Miami, and Teach For America, to address the teacher shortage.

Leverage the expertise and unique experiences of our community partners to bring a wider range of resources to set our kids up for success.

We hope to continue expanding the reach of Achieve Miami to impact as many young lives as possible, but we cannot do it without your ongoing commitment and support. Education is key to opportunity and every child has a right to reach their full potential! The need is great.

PLEASE CONTACT RACHEL SAIONTZ GEARY AT RACHELGEARY@ACHIEVEMIAMI.ORG TO BE A PART OF THIS JOURNEY.

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*at time of publication - 08/01/2022



THANK YOU

TOGETHER WE DREAMED,
PLANNED, AND ACHIEVED.

Thank you for helping us enrich, empower, and
encourage the children who need our help the most.

AJNFF



AVENTURA
MALL



THE BARRY &
MIMI STERNLICHT
FOUNDATION



B. CARLIN FOUNDATION



ACHIEVE

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MIAMI

GET INVOLVED!

Help to improve the odds of success for children throughout our Miami-Dade community.