



ACHIEVE

MIAMI

INSPIRING MINDS ENRICHING LIVES

2022-2023 IMPACT REPORT



MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER



Leslie Miller Saiontz

Founder and President

“My dreams of what Achieve Miami could be are coming to life now more than ever, and yet we still have so much more to do. As our city continues to grow in both numbers and needs, we are more ready than ever to step up, take charge, and make great things happen.”

Together with a small group of teachers and volunteers who saw educational inequities in our community, I started Achieve Miami in 2015, hoping to make a difference. Achieve Miami is committed to the idea that every student should have the resources, opportunities, and support they need to become their best selves.

Watching the organization grow through 2023 has been a joy, and I am truly proud of our impact. We have had. Our programs supported over 2,200 students and engaged over 1,000 high school volunteers- our largest group to date. Our Achieve Scholars had 100% high school graduation and 100% college acceptance. We expanded Achieve Music to include our first middle school band and they rocked!

This year we also established our effectiveness as a large-scale think tank by launching our second county-wide initiative, the ground-breaking Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP). TAP has already created a new pathway for much-needed teachers to enter our Miami-Dade County schools, aiming to ensure that every child has a teacher.

Three critical factors helped bring us to this point: leadership, increased community awareness of Achieve's mission, and team culture.

One of our most transformational moments was when Lydia Muniz accepted the position as Executive Director. Since joining, she has elevated Achieve to a new standard of excellence with her focus on data and evaluation, building organizational capacity, and board development. She streamlined processes, pushed our team to new levels of productivity, and created a widely recognized brand that makes us all proud.

This was also the year that Achieve Miami reached new heights of support from the community, including:

- A record-breaking Give Miami Day, raising \$2.6 M from 498 donors and coming in first place among all nonprofits
- Established new corporate partnerships with NBCUniversal, Panera Bread Foundation, Raymond James, Telemundo, & the Leon Lowenstein Foundation
- Features in Bloomberg, Best Colleges, South Florida Business & Wealth, Miami Herald, Telemundo, CBS Miami, WSVN, and NBC Miami

And lastly, Achieve Miami's organizational culture has been solidified. When you walk into our office, or a Saturday program, or a musical performance, you know immediately that you are in the presence of something special. Students are joyful and confident in celebrating their learning; educators feel proud and appreciated; our core team members represent a clear voice and passionate vision as they articulate the need for our programs and our incredible impact.

To my fellow Miami lovers, I challenge you to learn more about Achieve Miami's great work and find ways to get involved as we tackle some of our community's most pressing challenges.

Leslie Miller Saiontz

OUR WORK

Achieve Miami partners with educators, students, and schools to bridge disparities, provide meaningful educational experiences, and demonstrate the power of students learning with and from each other.

WHO WE ARE

We are a community of schools, educators, 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.



OUR 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 expanding access to education in communities with fewer opportunities.

Community

We believe in collaborating with partners in schools and neighborhoods to connect young individuals to their community.

Connections

We believe that fostering connections for young people brings profound benefits to everyone involved.

Learning

We believe in measuring, listening, and improving.

Sharing

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

ACHIEVE SUMMER



Achieve Summer combines project-based learning, mentorship, and exciting enrichment activities to help every student learn and grow. We use innovative teaching strategies to create excitement and to show students how reading, math, and science are relevant to their lives. Over the course of six weeks, elementary, middle, and high school students not only maintain, but also enhance their academic and social skills. Additional students, high school volunteers, and paid interns gain valuable leadership skills, while teachers and leadership team members benefit from daily professional development. Achieve Summer reimagines what teaching and learning can look like to ensure that every participant has a meaningful, joyful, and memorable summer experience.



ACHIEVE SATURDAYS



Achieve Saturdays combines literacy, mentorship, and connection across lines of difference to create lasting positive impact on our greater Miami community. Twice a month, a diverse group of high school student volunteers from across Miami-Dade come together to read, write, and connect with local elementary students in need. Thanks to the benefits of one-to-one mentorship with their “Big Buddies” and increased literacy practice, elementary students demonstrate higher academic achievement, increased well-being, and improved social-emotional skills. Meanwhile, high school volunteers gain valuable leadership experience, strengthen communication skills, build empathy, and connect with peers from diverse neighborhoods and backgrounds, united by a shared mission to make a meaningful difference in their communities.

ACHIEVE MUSIC



In the Achieve Music program, 300+ 2nd to 8th grade public students discover the transformative power of music. Through daily after-school programming in band, voice, percussion, and music theory, students not only cultivate skills in playing instruments, reading music, and collaborating in ensembles, but also unlock broader personal development. Music, a unique discipline requiring focus, critical thinking, and vision, serves as a catalyst for creativity and individualism. As students engage with Achieve Music, they experience growth not only in musical proficiency but also in essential life skills such as self-control, confidence, active listening, and verbal intelligence.



ACHIEVE SCHOLARS



Achieve Scholars is a selective college and career readiness program that sets Title I high school students on a path to success after graduation. Through year-round workshops and mentoring, Scholars are guided through the college process, focusing on the application, selection, and enrollment process, scholarships, FAFSA completion, and essay-writing, as well as individualized academic counseling and ACT tutoring. They receive training in workforce development, financial literacy, digital literacy, and foundational career-readiness skills like critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and effective communication. As students transition to college or post-secondary opportunities, they seamlessly become part of the Achieve Alumni program, ensuring ongoing support and engagement beyond graduation.

ACHIEVE CLUB



The Achieve Club unites students from 60+ high schools across Miami in their collaborative efforts to give back to their community. This dynamic club provides a myriad of impactful service and leadership opportunities. Students act as “Big Buddy” mentors to elementary students, organize service projects, and engage in meaningful, hands-on learning experiences. The Achieve Club helps students gain a broader vision of their greater Miami community by exposing them to challenges, connecting them with peers with different backgrounds and perspectives, and empowering them to make a difference.



ACHIEVE ALUMNI



Navigating the critical first year of college can be daunting, especially for our first-generation college students transitioning from adolescence to adulthood. The Achieve Alumni program recognizes this challenge and provides ongoing support to graduates of Achieve Scholars. Through a series of workshops and one-on-one mentorship, Achieve Alumni participants are empowered to make informed decisions and shoulder the responsibilities of college life. Workshop topics range from College Life and Financial Literacy to Campus Resources 101, Mental Health, Defining Your Major, Study Abroad, and Preparing for Summer. This tailored support ensures a smoother transition into the complexities of the college experience.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Tiana Turner



“ In my 5 year journey with Achieve Miami, I’ve had the privilege of experiencing incredible growth and invaluable opportunities as a volunteer, intern, alumni, and staff member. ”

In 10th and 11th grade at Krop Senior High, I served as a Big Buddy, connecting with both the young participants and fellow peers who dedicated their Saturdays to mentorship. Every session brought a new Little Buddy looking up to me as a role model and friend. I later joined Achieve Miami as a paid intern after graduating high school ... My role as a Virtual Engagement Tech was to ensure that our programming ran smoothly ... From there, I joined the Achieve Alumni [program], where I learned about scholarship opportunities and got to connect with other former volunteers. Over time, my responsibilities expanded to serve as an intern at Achieve Summer and Achieve Saturdays... I had the opportunity to step in as the Achieve Saturdays Site Director ..., deepening my appreciation for our work. At Achieve Summer, I collaborated with the core team to bring fresh ideas ..., including hosting our first student talent show.

Achieve Miami’s growth opportunities are unparalleled. They identified my strengths, and helped me develop myself as a young leader. The skills were always within me, but Achieve Miami nurtured them and gave me the confidence to use them.

Achieve Miami inspires growth ... **Achieve Miami has a unique, indescribable magic, and I truly believe that everyone should experience it.**

- Tiana

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

MIAMI CONNECTED

Miami Connected is a community-driven initiative providing free internet access, digital navigation training, and enhancing equitable access to technology for students and families across Miami-Dade County.

This year, Miami Connected exceeded expectations:

13

Community-based
organizations trained
as grantees

106,018

Households
connected

\$68.9 M

Secured via ACP
funding

TEACHER ACCELERATOR PROGRAM (TAP)

The teacher shortage is acutely affecting students across the nation. Achieve Miami's Teacher Accelerator Program is addressing this problem by creating a pipeline of talent for the teaching profession through recruiting, preparing, and mentoring aspiring educators for our students.

TAP's pilot year (2023) included exciting milestones:

51

Teacher
candidates served

256

Hours of professional
development provided

90%

Felt confident and
prepared to teach

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Pineda



“Achieve Miami has impacted me in a great way!”

I started out working in a shelter for undocumented kids that crossed the border in search of their families in the United States. Unfortunately, the shelter had to shut down and everyone was let go. While I was working in the shelter, I would admire the teachers who worked with the kids, helping them to achieve their dreams, so when I was looking for a new place to work I found Achieve Miami.

It was perfect. They were hiring for an assistant music teacher. I felt like it was a calling. Uniting my passion for music and working with children, it was hard not to apply.

A few days later, I got an interview invitation and soon after I got the job! It was a dream come true. Working as an assistant music teacher was so inspiring that I decided to do it during the summer as well. When the new school year came I got promoted to Music Teacher, teaching guitar and ukulele to the kids, which is great because those are my favorite instruments to play. This job has inspired me to keep going in the field of education... to go to college for my Associates Degree in Music Education and eventually pursue my Bachelor Degree.

Achieve Miami has given me so much.

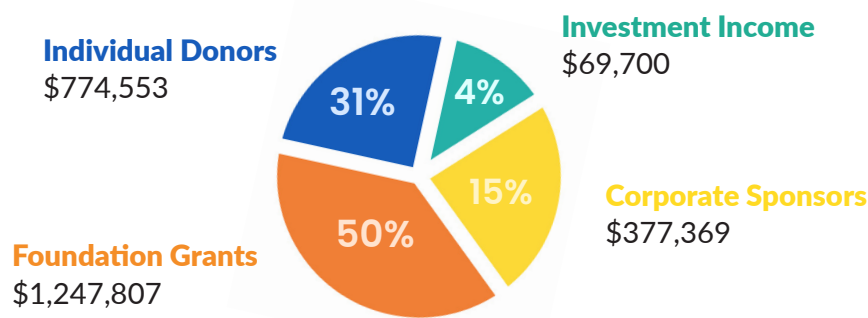
- Mr. Pineda

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The success of Achieve Miami's programs hinges on the dedicated leadership and support of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and the ongoing commitment of our donors. This fiscal year, Achieve Miami experienced robust financial health and growth, achieving the highest annual revenue to date. This position empowers us to deliver impactful educational experiences, bridging opportunity gaps for students across Miami-Dade County.

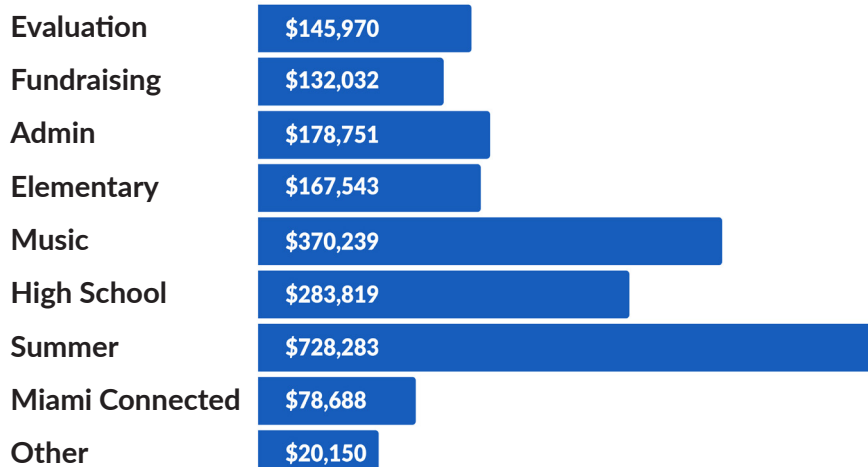
FY REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE: \$2,469,428



FY EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2,105,474



POPULATION SERVED

2,272
TOTAL
STUDENTS
SERVED



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Black	36.6%
White/Hispanic	20%
White	15.5%
Hispanic	9.6%
Black/Hispanic	4.4%
Asian	1%
Two or more	3.5%
Prefer Not To Say	9.4%

AREAS SERVED

Overtown
Liberty City
Miami Gardens
Little Haiti
South Dade
Homestead



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

381

MUSIC

442

SUMMER

491

SATURDAYS

ACHIEVE MUSIC

1,188

Total hours of
music played

38

Total live
performances

100%

Students maintained or
grew music theory skills

ACHIEVE SUMMER

216

Hours of extended
summer learning time

25

Project Based Learning
projects completed

90%

Students grew in at
least 1 SEL capacity

ACHIEVE SATURDAYS

180

Hours students spend
reading and connecting

2,200

Total number of
books distributed

98%

Students felt more
confident reading

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

High school students from across Miami-Dade participate in Achieve Scholars, serve as Big Buddies in the Achieve Club, lead on the Junior Advisory Board, and continue their development as Achieve Alumni.

326

Total college acceptances

\$8,805,110

Total scholarships awarded

100%

Students who received one or more college acceptances

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

310

ACHIEVE SCHOLARS

1,203

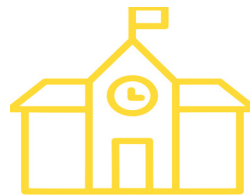
ACHIEVE CLUB

47

JR ADVISORY BOARD

38

ACHIEVE ALUMNI



10

ACHIEVE SCHOLAR LOCATIONS

LEADERSHIP

Achieve creates lasting impact in our community by empowering and building the capacity of our staff and volunteers.

NUMBER OF LEADERS

13

FULL TIME STAFF

18

INTERNS

96

PART-TIME STAFF

75.5

Total hours of Professional Development offered to teachers

\$833,319

Economic value of volunteer work





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS

Two fantastic Big Buddies, **Remi and Kayla**, created an exciting and engaging **soccer curriculum** to introduce and immerse our **Little Buddies** in the joy of playing the sport with passion and skill!

Big Buddy **Jack**, embarked on a heartwarming mission and **successfully collected more than 5,000 books** for our Little Buddies in the **Achieve Saturdays** program.

Ryan, an incredible former Big Buddy, recently conquered the Ironman Competition, not only **achieving personal triumph**, but also **raising an astonishing \$16,600** for Achieve Miami!

Big Buddies from **Miami Country Day School** participated in a service activity where they taught their Little Buddies about plant growth and later **planted flowers together** in the school's center garden.

QUOTES & TESTIMONIALS

“

I understand why it's named 'Achieve' because here you can do just that, achieve. You can achieve, grow and reach heights you never thought possible.

-Summer Teacher

”

“

[Achieve Saturdays] helped me realize that the younger generation needs more positive support from their older peers. It is a learning experience for both parties and helps me realize that as a community we work for a positive, loving environment.

-Big Buddy

”



FUTURE IMPACT

Education is key to opportunity
and every child has a right to
reach their full potential!

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, creating greater learning opportunities for more students.

Increase programming focused on workforce development for our high school students.

Continue developing and expanding strategic partnerships with like-minded organizations to dramatically increase Achieve Miami's impact. For example, we plan to expand our Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP) to two new universities this upcoming year.

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.

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

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OUR TEAM

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The Mendelson Family
The Miller Family
The Rubell and Simkins Families
The Wright Family

THANK YOU!

TOGETHER WE DREAMED, PLANNED, AND ACHIEVED.

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

AJNFF

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M A L L

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RAYMOND JAMES®



“

**[Achieve Miami] gives
children an outlet to
be themselves
amongst others.**

”

MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON
THE SUCCESS OF STUDENTS
ACROSS MIAMI-DADE.

GET

INVOLVED

achievemiami.org

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