

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Women's Fund of Miami-Dade Invests Nearly \$400,000 In Community Programs That Empower Women And Girls**

**Miami**—This morning, Women's Fund of Miami-Dade -- the only grantmaking organization in Miami-Dade entirely dedicated to funding gender-specific programs -- distributed \$394,000 to 42 local non-profit organizations (see attached) that work with low-income women and at-risk girls. The Fund's Grantee Partners were awarded their checks this morning before an audience of 350 Women's Fund supporters at Jungle Island. The event was entirely underwritten by BankAtlantic, Florida's most convenient bank.

"We know these programs will have a dynamic impact on the lives of women and girls," said Betty Weinkle, Women's Fund's Board Chair. "Because we received more than twice as many requests as we were able to fund this year, we also know there is still a lot of work left to be done to ensure that women and girls live in safe, just and healthy communities throughout Miami-Dade County."



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The grants, which range from \$2,500 to \$25,000, will go toward a variety of services and advocacy, including:

- Ending gender-based violence
- Providing legal support to incarcerated women to ensure successful re-entry
- Building economic stability and opportunity
- Providing comprehensive reproductive healthcare
- Connecting girls aging out of foster care with mentors
- Teaching journalism and technology to at-risk girls
- Increasing access to education

"As a teacher and mentor, it is imperative to strengthen our next generation of women," said Jessica Joseph, the founder and Executive Director of Sister Love, a program that works with 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls at the Liberty Square Housing Community. "It is our job in today's society to empower our youth, to give them the education and job skills needed to participate in a global world and global workforce"

Women's Fund of Miami-Dade was founded in 1993 to fill the enormous funding gap that existed for programs addressing the unmet needs of women and girls. Since then, the Women's Fund has supported, through money raised from local donors, over 250 unique projects across the County. Women's Fund's grantmaking, advocacy and assistance to innovative gender-specific projects throughout Miami-Dade County are creating social change that will have a lasting impact on all women and girls. The Fund's website is [www.womensfundmiami.org](http://www.womensfundmiami.org).