

Annual Report 2019 – Paul’s Place

By Taylor Kilpatrick

Paul’s Place continues to remain steadfast in our commitment to bring meaningful services to “*at risk*” children in the Delray Beach Community. We provide a safe haven for our students, nutritious meals and snacks, tutoring as well as enriching their lives in as many ways as possible. Paul’s Place has transformed into a program that is far more comprehensive than any other after-school program in the area. Our students do not “age out” of the after school. Rather, we strive to support our students through high school and into college and beyond.

Currently we have a record daily enrollment of 35 students ranging in age from 5 years-19 years old. In addition, we have college students who continue to arrive at Paul’s Place to receive academic counseling, help with financial aid, computer access or just a quiet place to study. It is our hope that our relationship will empower them to successfully navigate through college culminating in the attainment of a college degree.

Here are some of the benefits that we continue to provide:

- Serving the daily academic needs of our elementary, middle and high school students with separately tailored academic programs guided by staff and loving volunteers, followed by supervised recreational activities and a hot family-style meal
- Earned Friday Field trips
- Providing a music course led by Pastor Julius Sanna once per week. A stated goal is to sing at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Paul’s Place Sunday. In addition, the students performed at the first Haitian-American Cultural Day at Delray Beach City Hall.
- Providing arts and crafts one day per week led by a local Haitian Artist which included the creation of a new mural.
- Providing biweekly tennis lessons through the Delray Beach Youth Tennis Foundation
- Providing mentors for all of our students through our partnerships with Big Brothers Big Sisters and Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services. Our mentors provide the Paul’s Place students with support, guidance, and encouragement.
- Making regular contact with our students’ teachers, guidance counselors and principals. Advocating for our students to ensure they are receiving the appropriate academic and behavioral interventions.
- Guiding parents through critical social services, like obtaining employment, housing and hardship relief
- Identifying scholarship opportunities at private schools for our most driven students
- Funding pre-college assistance, including private SAT/ACT tutoring and college tours

- Providing a Summer Enrichment Program which offers activities for our middle and high school students. Some of the activities include career planning, book club, yoga, youth counseling, music and a variety of field trips.
- Funding The Paul's Place Scholarship Fund which provides need-based scholarships to our high school graduates as they embark upon a college degree and assistance to our students enrolled in private schools.

Overseeing our largest group of students since the establishment of the after school program are: Kathy Fazio, Executive Director, Taylor Kilpatrick, Director, Miliene Dallegrand, Assistant Director, LaPorsha Francis and Shamarla Parks-Bullard as Assistants. In addition, Paul's Place, on a daily basis, relies on the support of numerous dedicated and loving volunteers.

Paul's Place is unlike any other after-school program. Experience has taught us that changing the fate of these low-income students requires more than a safe place to play. It takes an intervention. With that in mind, we are making every effort to influence the positive outcomes of these children. We are grateful to the Clergy, Vestry and Parishioners of St. Paul's for always supporting us as our mission continues into its 20th year.