



LITTLE HAITI OPTIMIST CLUB

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & SUMMARY OF SOME OF OUR PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

In December 2014, Little Haiti Optimist Club in partnership with several other organizations, produced **Art Beat Miami** during **Art Basel** week. **Art Beat Miami** is an experience of art, cultural exchange, food & music inspired by Haiti and artists worldwide. The community was invited to discover multidisciplinary works of art by internationally and locally recognized artists. Attendees enjoyed live music, food, mural exhibitions, special events, and conversations with artists as well as a youth art educational workshop.

Sun Life Financial and the Miami Dolphins awarded LHOC a \$50,000 **Sun Life Rising Star** Grant. With the grant, LHOC is preparing **40** Miami Edison Sr. High School Seniors for college through their **Road Map to Success** Program from October 2014 to June 2015.

From June-August 2014, The Little Haiti Optimist Club held a **STEM Genius® summer camp** for 45 students ages 5-15 in grades kindergarten-8th at Soar Park. The students participated in hands-on educational activities that taught them how to use the computer to create prosthetic limbs and program robots. Also, they took part in activities in engineering design that prepared them for building, as part of a team, a 6 foot ferris wheel, as well as simulated a rocket launch and flew drones. They also learned about careers in STEM.

April 2014, The Little Haiti Optimist Club (LHOC) in partnership with the Miami Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the City of Miami NET office hosted the inaugural **Little Haiti Health & Fitness Fair**. Medical and health professionals provided educational information as well as offered complimentary health screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, glucose, BMI, cholesterol, mammography, chiropractic, HIV/AIDS, STDs and more. In addition, there was fun activities for the kids in attendance including: a free soccer/fitness clinic, healthy food demonstrations and snacks, bike safety tips, bounce houses, face painting and live entertainment as well as giveaways including free bike helmets for the kids.

In August 2013, the Little Haiti Optimist Club & its partners remodeled the Soar Park building in order to provide residents and their children with computer training, educational enrichment classes, and recreational program opportunities. The new **Little Haiti Optimist Club Tech Center** features a reception/information desk; work stations with computers, printers and copiers; a bulletin board for posting job announcements; and other resource information. The facility serves as a one-stop technology center for residents seeking new careers and personal enrichment. It offers a wide range of classes and services that include: Internet Access; Basic Computer Training; Job Search/Resume Writing; and Tutoring/Homework Help. In addition, the new **Little Haiti Optimist Club Youth Center** functions as a youth club with after-school and summer camp programs for school-age children. The building contains a kids' activity room with computer stations and work tables, and offers on-site homework help, tutoring, and a wide variety of after-school enrichment classes. The curriculum includes: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics); Computer Technology; Multi-Media/Publishing; Arts and Crafts; Ceramics/Pottery; Music Appreciation; Business Entrepreneurship; Film; and Robotics. There will also be many outdoor programs, games, and sports activities for kids to enjoy, including a community garden program, yoga, self-defense, soccer, basketball and more.



Each school year, LHOC together with its partners distribute **book bags and schools supplies to students** at the Little Haiti Soccer Park. The children and their families also enjoy food, games and live musical performances. LHOC has distributed **over 4,500 book bags & school supplies**.

Each Thanksgiving week, LHOC & its partners distribute **turkeys** to needy families, the elderly and churches. LHOC & its partners have distributed over **3,800+ turkeys** in the community.

For Christmas, Little Haiti Optimist Club organizes and hosts an annual **Holiday Celebration** giving away toys. Kids in attendance enjoy bounce houses, a petting zoo, clowns, face painting, caricatures, musical performances and snacks. The highlight of the day is the distribution of hundreds of toys donated by LHOC members and supporters. Some of the toys collected are also distributed to orphans and children living in Haiti. LHOC & its partners have distributed over **5,000+ toys** in the community and in Haiti.

In 2010, Little Haiti Optimist Club made history when they started the first **youth football program** in Little Haiti. Former NFL & University of Miami player Carlos Joseph gave back to his community by coaching the team and helping to shape the youths' lives. LHOC has six teams and six cheer squads. In 2013 & 2014, the Little Haiti Patriots Jr. Bandits & Jr. Midgets made it to the Sean Taylor Football Classic and the Jr. Bandits were victorious. In addition to football & cheerleading, LHOC has a **track & field, wrestling** and other **athletic programs**. One of our track & field kids, placed in 2011 in the Junior Olympics. Last summer, LHOC youth were invited to participate in the **Digicel Soccer Clinic** coached by Chelsea FC players and coaches. Two of our kids that excelled in academics and sports, escorted the players out on the field at the **Chelsea FC vs. AC Milan** soccer match to applauses of 60,000 soccer fans. In 2014, **20** of our students participate in Soccer for Success. In addition, **25** middle school youth completed a **Bike Safety** training program with Urban Green Works were after the training, each student was surprised with a bicycle, a helmet, a lock, and a bicycle kit.

LHOC continues to deliver **academic programs**. In the past three years, the organization has awarded **six** academic scholarships (**Michael "Doo" Wright Scholarship**) for students to attend college. Also, LHOC provided **30 computers** to the community where students can be tutored and use the computers to complete school assignments. The organization has a reading program initiative entitled: "**LHOC Reads**".

In 2012, 15 LHOC future engineers & scientists graduated from the **Bright & Smart Robotics Program**. Students were provided the opportunity to learn, discover and be amazed by programming computers and building robots as well as building teamwork, their critical & creative thinking and problem solving skills.

During the past two years, more than **50 speakers** have participated in LHOC **Career Day/Stay in School** at Miami Edison Senior High School.

The **KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY (KAPPA)** are **mentoring** LHOC teenage boys. Elite Achievers of Little Haiti is a mentoring initiative in partnership with the Little Haiti Optimist Club and the National Kappa Fraternity of Miami. This mentoring program is designed to help pair teenage boys with successful and career minded men whose goals are simply to encourage and support.

For the past two years, LHOC produced **Little Haiti Keeping it Clean & Green**, an event dedicated to cleaning and beautifying the Little Haiti neighborhood. Over **100 volunteers** participate including LHOC members, Elected/Public officials, junior and high school students and volunteers from the community as well as from around the country. More than five hundred energy efficient light bulbs were distributed to



homeowners; three homes were beautified with paint, flowers, grass, new mailboxes and even with new house numbers.

In January 2011, Little Haiti Optimist Club presented the **Haiti Earthquake Remembrance Candlelight Ceremony & Mural Unveiling**. The purpose of the event was to commemorate the victims and survivors of the earthquake that devastated the island nation of Haiti one year prior. Established Haitian and American artists, as well as students from Little Haiti Optimist Club and Youth Expressions painted the mural, depicting Haiti's past, present and future, located at 7901 NE 2nd Avenue and brought the vision to life. We achieved our goal by not only honoring the victims and survivors of the devastating earthquake through a candlelight ceremony, but by raising awareness and funds for families devastated by the tragedy.

In 2011, the students participated in the **Fashion 101** Program. **Fifty** of our students learned about fashion/modeling industry and produced their own fashion show to culminate the summer of learning.

In the summer of 2010, the Little Haiti Optimist Club students wrote, produced, hosted and edited their 30 minute entertainment magazine style **TV show entitled "From Reel2Real"** with the guidance of the Sports, Film & Entertainment Committee (SFEC) instructors. Family, friends and special guests were invited to cheer the youth as they walked the red carpet, premiered their TV show and graduated from the Reel Opportunities Film & TV Summer Program. The premiere garnered media attention and in January, the students attended the National Association of Television Program Executives Conference (NATPE) where they pitched the concept of their TV show. Several program executives have expressed an interest in airing the students' TV show. To view the show, please click on the following links at littlehaitioptimist.org or <http://vimeo.com/15746271>.

November 2010, LHOC took 25 Miami Edison Senior High School students to the **Miami Book Fair** and began a reading campaign.



LITTLE HAITI OPTIMIST CLUB ARTICLES & VIDEOS:

HIGH TECH AT SOAR PARK

<http://www.miamidade.gov/communications/library/2013-09-06-neighbors.pdf>

Miami-Dade County Parks announces the opening of the new Little Haiti Optimist Club Community Tech and Youth Center at Soar Park

<http://thewestsidegazette.com/miami-dade-county-parks-announces-the-opening-of-the-new-little-haiti-optimist-club-community-tech-and-youth-center-at-soar-park/>

Grand Opening: Little Haiti Optimist Club Community Tech & Youth Center

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/09/05/3608351/grand-opening-little-haiti-optimist.html>

TECH CENTER SET TO 'SOAR' IN LITTLE HAITI

http://www.sfltimes.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14159&Itemid=331

The Haiti Earthquake Remembrance is featured in the Miami Herald.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/01/10/2009879/artists-gather-to-paint-mural.html>

Optimist Club is Launching Clean-up, Beautification Drive

http://www.sfltimes.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5580&Itemid=144

The LHOC Film and the Super Pee Wee Football Programs are featured in the Miami Herald.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/10/11/1868728/new-optimist-club-in-little-haiti.html>

NFL Player bringing hope to Little Haiti

<http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/sports/21002176600388/>

Little Haiti Optimist Club students wrote, produced, hosted and edited their TV show entitled From Reel2Real.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Little-Haiti-Optimist-Club> or at www.littlehaitioptimist.org or

<http://vimeo.com/15746271>

Giant Mural in Little Haiti Pays Tribute To Earthquake Victims

http://www.sfltimes.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6201&Itemid=199

Little Haiti Optimist Club forms to serve the youth of Little Haiti

<http://www.sflcn.com/story.php?id=8580>

Little Haiti Optimist Club goes beyond sports

<http://littlehaitioptimist.org/articles/Miami%20Herald%20Article.pdf>



LITTLE HAITI OPTIMIST CLUB ARTICLES & VIDEOS (CONT'D.)

Little Haiti Optimist Club donates 500 turkeys

<http://miamitimesonline.com/lhoc-donates-500-turkeys/>

Miami's 'Little Haiti' marks quake anniversary

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20110113/ts_alt_afp/haitiquake1yearus_20110113000549

Haiti Earthquake Remembrance Candlelight Ceremony & Mural Unveiling in Miami

<http://sflcn.com/story.php?id=9763>

WSVN Ch. 7 News

<http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/21003252809396/>

WPLG Ch. 10 News

<http://www.justnews.com/news/26471635/detail.html>

CELEBRITIES Support Little Haiti Optimist Club and so should YOU!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UH_wlbv9FZo



HISTORY: The Little Haiti Optimist Club (LHOC) is a non-profit organization established in 2010 by a group of business, community and civic leaders to provide programs to the youth of Little Haiti. The organization is affiliated with Optimist International, an association of more than 3,000 Optimist Clubs around the world dedicated to “Bringing Out the Best in Kids.”

MISSION: The mission of the Little Haiti Optimist is to make a difference in the lives of youth by providing education, mentorship, athletics, arts and cultural programming.

VISION: The Little Haiti Optimist Club’s goal is to be the premier organization providing programs to prepare the youth of Little Haiti for academic and life excellence.

WHO WE SERVE: The Little Haiti Optimist Club serves the youth of Little Haiti. Since 2010, LHOC served more than 10,000 children and their families.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The board of directors of the Little Haiti Optimist Club is made up of business owners, community and civic leaders that are committed to helping the youth of Little Haiti. Board members have a wide range of experience in fundraising, organizational development, marketing and youth programming.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the Little Haiti Optimist Club is open to all who want to support the youth of Little Haiti.

FUNDING: The Little Haiti Optimist Club’s funding comes from individuals, corporations, foundations, agencies and fundraising activities.



PROPOSED PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES 2015

- January 2015-June 2015 – After School Camp continues
- January 2015 – June 2015 – Roadmap to Success Program continues
- January 2015 – Tutoring continues
- January 12, 2015 – Haiti Earthquake Remembrance
- February 2014 – Basketball
- February-May 2015 – Track & Field
- February 20-22, 2015 – Fun & Fit as a Family @Jungle Island
- February 21, 2015 – Bilzin Cares Day of Service @ Soar Park
- February-August 2015-“REEL” Opportunities Film/TV Program
- March 2015 – Community Garden Program begins
- March 2015 – Fashion Week
- March-June 2015 – Tennis
- March 2015 – Soccer
- March 2015 – Little Haiti Teen Business Challenge
- March 2015 – Community Tech Center workshops
- April 2015 – LHOC 5th Year Anniversary
- April 2015 – Health & Fitness Fair
- April-September 2015 – Wrestling
- May 1-May 31, 2015 – Haitian Heritage Month
- May 11-May 22, 2015 – Bike Safety Program
- June 8 –July 31, 2015 – Youth Summer Camp Program begins
- June 2015 – Michael “Doo” Wright Scholarship
- June 2015 – KAPPA Mentorship Program begins
- August 2015 – Little Haiti Youth Choir/Band
- August 3-November 2, 2015 – Football
- August 1-November 1, 2015 – Cheerleading & Dance
- August 7, 2015 – Book Bag & School Supplies Giveaway
- October 2015 – Little Haiti Keeping It Clean & Green
- November 1-December 11, 2015 – Toy Drive begins
- November 2015 – LHOC Career / Stay in School Day @ Miami Edison Sr. High School
- November 20, 2015 – LHOC & Partners Turkey Giveaway
- November 22, 2015 – LHOC Reads
- December 2015 – Brush Strokes “ART” Program during Art Basel
- December 19, 2015 – Toy Giveaway/Holiday Celebration