



## Miami-Dade County 4-H Member Impact for 2008 – 2009

Florida 4-H's mission statement is "to create supportive environments for diverse youth and volunteer adults to reach their fullest potential.

To achieve this outcome, over 9,000 4-H youth in Miami-Dade County, acquire skills and attitudes essential for the world of work and success as future community citizens and leaders.

Research indicates that the more internal assets, life skills, and competencies youth build, the more likely they are to grow up healthy, confident, and responsible, and less likely they are to engage in risky behavior (youth delinquency cost of \$579.2 million annually, according to Fl. Dept. of Juvenile Justice).

The following include some of the success stories of 4-H member's achievements for 2008 - 2009:

### **Finance Education** (increases critical thinking and decision making to aid in preventing credit card debt and bankruptcy)

- Program emphasis was staying within a budget and saving 10% for emergency use. A 4-H Broward study showed a 90% rate of keeping a saving account open one year later the completion of this 6 hour program..
- 429 youth were taught a 6 hour "On My Own" curriculum (68 from an alternative, "at risk" girls school and 75 inner-city youth).
- 98% (25 of 26) pre-post tested youth demonstrated the correct method of check writing to prevent fraud.
- 100% (25 of 25) stated they had a better understanding of the bills adults are responsible for and also felt lessons learned would be valuable in the future.

### **Nutrition Education** (a Virginia Tech study showed a \$281.57/ per person reduction in health cost for those educated in nutrition and food safety).

- 3,254 educated (minimum of 6 hours) in the importance of eating breakfast, choosing high nutrient, low fat and low sugar foods.
- 85% (42 of 50) tested increased in appropriate selection of healthiest breakfast.
- 2,856 were educated on the importance of hand washing to prevent spread of disease.
- One teen gives credit to 4-H nutrition study for a loss of 50 pounds over two years. He also taught 350 students healthy food choices.

### **Independence and Responsibility**

(increases success and productivity in school, career and family)

- Over 1,000 youth learn responsibility in raising and caring for farm animals, horses, pets and plants.
- Amelia Earhart 4-H Farm animals are used for school education and pet therapy (for physically and emotionally challenged) for over 18,000 that visit annually.
- 4 overnight camps, including one for children of parents deployed in the military

## **Environmental Protection** (conservation for future generations)

- 1521 youth studied insects and their relation to the environment.
- 2924 were taught the Water Wise curriculum on personal water conservation. If put into practice this could save the average household 25% on monthly usage fees.
- 1,800 school children were educated in Marine Science. 18 participating in the state marine Ecology competition learning to identify over 300 species. The junior team placed first and the senior team, second out of 204 state participants.
- 148 youth participated in a full day fishing program practicing safe measures for catch and release and understanding the Florida state size and specie regulations.
- 69 participated in 2 beach clean-ups and one dune plant.

## **Public Speaking and Creative Expression**

(professional presentation in communication and appearance to increase confidence and self esteem, a tremendous asset in securing and maintaining employment).

- 4 were selected to participate in a state portfolio and interview process resulting in the selection of 2 youth for national trips to Washington DC as a government study.
- 1,500 school children participated in the 4-H/Tropicana public speaking competition.
- 209 gave talks, 67 talent and 65 modeled the clothing they sewed, in competitive events on the local, district and state levels.

## **Citizenship and Leadership**

(Texas Dept. of Labor study showed earning were 16.5% greater, 9 years after high school, for those teens who held leadership positions)

- 200 youth served as club officers, practicing democratic and parliamentary procedures.
- 18 teens serve on the County Council, 8 on the District Council and 12 serve on planning committees for state events.
- 17 teens attended a week long 4-H State Mock Legislature in the capital serving in the rolls of representatives, senators and lobbyist to develop, research, debate and vote on 73 bills. These same teens conducted a local program for 25 youth.
- 83 teens taught science related subjects, nutrition and finance education for the County Fair field trip program and 4-H in- school education programs reaching 759 students.

## **Career Preparation** (leading to a higher socio-economic level)

- 6,500 youth studied various subjects, including aerospace, marine science, technology, media arts, fashion design, finance and health and the careers related to those studies.
- 12 Haitian members over 3 years have given 4-H total credit for their enrollment in college through 4-H workforce and college prep education at the North Miami Library.
- 2,500 fashion and home accessories were designed and made by 4-H members, at a 75% savings over store purchased items. These projects were also exhibited at the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition allowing youth to make over \$6,000 in prize money.

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