

ACCESS TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Dr. Kilan Ashad-Bishop, Founder of STEMNoire; postdoctoral researcher, University of Miami

Kilan is a biomedical scientist and advocate for inclusion who has carved her niche at the intersection of science, health, and social change. She is a proud alumna of Morgan State University and the University of Miami, where she earned her Ph.D. in Cancer Biology. Kilan is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Miami and the Inaugural Director of the First Star National STEAM Academy. Her professional experience spans academic research, policy, and the nonprofit and private sectors, but her goal remains to improve the health and well-being of communities of color.

Kilan is an outspoken advocate for equity and inclusion in health, science, and society and the responsibility of science (and scientists) to advance positive social change. She is a regular volunteer and advisor to various K-12 and collegiate STEM programs designed to mentor, uplift, and support the next generation of scientists. In this interest, Kilan co-founded STEMNoire, a research and wellness community for Black women in STEM. She has been recognized as a Black Woman in Excellence (2020) and a National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Christine Mirzayan Science & Technology Policy Fellow (2019).

Raissa Fernandez, Board Member at Large, Healthy Little Havana

Raissa has always lived in the Little Havana neighborhood where her immigrant family settled and began the family-owned business Brickell Kidz Bus. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in Social Work from FIU in 2009 and has served as a volunteer for human rights groups, political campaigns, youth community advisory groups and more. She has been a volunteer with the Live Healthy Little Havana initiative since 2013 and now serves as a Member at Large on the organization's Board of Directors.

Sherina Jones, Founder of Village (FREE)DGE

Sherina Jones leads Village Pantry/Village (FREE)DGES, which she launched in August 2020 at the height of the pandemic. Together with volunteers and local businesses, the organization stocks 24/7 community refrigerators and a community pantry that feed about 200 families and people who are houseless in Liberty City every day. Sherina is also a trained esthetician and business owner.

Scarlett Lanzas, CEO of Accountable Impact

Scarlett is an impact entrepreneur, impact investor and nonprofit management executive with a demonstrated history of working with public and private sector agencies, nonprofits and international development and humanitarian assistance organizations. She is passionate about human rights, gender equality and sustainable development.

As Chief Community Officer at Emergent Global Investments, she focuses on the development of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) metrics, research and development of technology and financial services related to impact investing. Combining her knowledge of government policy and passion for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), Scarlett is vital for the strategic design of Emergent's ESG investment criteria.

Scarlett is also the founder of Accountable Impact, a social enterprise that prioritizes the need to collect timely data and provide policy solutions to advance the SDGs by working with corporations, cities and regional governments with the goal of creating scorecards and voluntary local reviews. She co-founded Social Impact Movement, a nonprofit that acts as catalyst for change in Miami to take action on issues related to social justice, economic progress and environmental protection. Scarlett is a Hispanic Star Ambassador, a national collective effort to unify and elevate Hispanics in the US.

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Get to know the people who power the Community Grants program.

Yamila Rollan Escalona, Founder/CEO of Yaya Por Vida

Yamila is a first-generation Cuban American native to Miami who has lived in Dade for the past 34 years. She has been involved in work on substance use disorders, mental health and DEI as it relates to health gaps in Miami for the past two years through her women-led nonprofit Yaya Por Vida. She is a Radical Partners BIPOC Neighborhood Heroes Cohort 4 graduate, holds a BF from AIMIU and has now expanded art-based healing and harm-reduction focused outreach beyond Miami Dade into Martin and St. Lucie Counties.

Jonathan Spikes, Executive Director, Affirming Youth Foundation

Jonathan has served as a community-based research scientist in a number of capacities for over a decade, including Principal Investigator, Clinician, and Community Expert. He employs a variety of tools, including longitudinal designs, quantitative and qualitative methods, to harness sociocultural and community-based frameworks. His funded research focuses on community violence (including gang violence, trauma, and child victimization; and the consequences of victimization); strategies for reducing Adverse Childhood Experiences; and the development of novel strategies to reduce health inequities associated with social and structural determinants of health.

ECONOMIC STABILITY

Eboni Moss, Owner, The Master Resource LLC

Eboni is a Certified Public Accountant with a passion for economic stability and equity. She owns The Master Resource, a Miami-based writing, research, and strategy firm. Previously, she led an IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program site that also provided complimentary services like financial literacy and legal services. She also served on an IRS Taxpayer Advocacy Panel that evaluated the systemic impact of IRS services.

Rachel Prestipino, Policy Consultant; former ED, People Acting for Community Together (PACT)

Rachel is a community organizer, public policy professional, and non-profit executive director. She builds resident-led policy initiatives that put community leaders in direct contact with the public officials that represent and serve them. She previously led People Acting for Community Together (PACT), a non-profit coalition of 40 faith congregations in Miami-Dade County that holds elected officials accountable for fair policies and practices. Currently, she is working with Oakland Kids First as a consultant on youth voting policies. Rachel holds a Masters of Public Affairs from the University of California, Berkeley and an undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia.

Helen Roldan, Director of Communications, North Bay Village

Helen is a public service professional with a history of community engagement and outreach, local government, and policy research experience. She is the Director of Communications and Special Events for North Bay Village. Previously, she was a Research and Outreach Coordinator at the Florida International University (FIU) Jorge M. Perez Metropolitan Center.

Vanessa Vázquez, Redevelopment Specialist, City of Miami Beach

Vanessa is a passionate and bilingual community development professional with more than 15 years of experience in partnerships, program development and account management. A Miami native that left for 11 years before coming back home to partake in the area's renaissance and continue to develop Miami as a cultural, entrepreneurial and metropolitan hub. She holds a master's degree in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University and a bachelor's in political science and peace & justice studies from Tufts University. Now a Miami Beach resident and professional, she is always seeking opportunities to improve the city by providing excellent public service and connecting-the-dots for all who live, work and play in this vibrant, tropical, historic community.

INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES

Roxana Fleneury, Special Needs Educator, Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Roxana has over 18 years of experience as a Special Needs Educator. After graduating from Florida International University, she began her career in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Her drive to work with individuals with disabilities and provide strategies to meet their needs grew as she gained experience in different settings and school districts. Over the past several years, she has educated students in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Georgia, and Florida. As the department leader and an inclusion teacher, her knowledge in research-based strategies, mentoring, and leadership skills have benefited her students as well as her colleagues. Roxana has also volunteered with Special Olympics, Autism Speaks, and Best Buddies. After returning to Miami, she received her master's in education in August of 2021 and resumed teaching with Miami-Dade County Public Schools where she continues to foster new connections within the community.

William C. Diaz-Rousselot, attorney, Kurkin Forehand Brandes

William represents automotive dealerships, focusing on the areas of litigation and regulatory compliance. Prior to joining Kurkin Forehand Brandes, William served as in-house and as Compliance Officer for one of the larger automotive dealership groups in the South Florida market. As Compliance Officer, he developed and managed the Group's compliance programs, such as their Identity Theft Prevention Program and Safeguards Program. In addition, William advised the dealership group on OFAC compliance, compliance with Florida's various Consumer Protection statutes, and on documentary compliance, as well as on matters pertaining to worker's compensation.

Prior to becoming in-house counsel, William practiced for over a decade in the area of insurance defense, specializing in workers' compensation defense. He is a member of The Florida Bar Association, as well as a member of the United States District Court, Southern District of Florida.

William has a bachelor's in English from Florida International University and a J.D. from the St. Thomas University School of Law. He is an alumni of Christopher Columbus High School.

In addition, William serves on the Board of Trustees of the South Florida Progress Foundation. He served as President of the FIU English Alumni Group, raising funds for the University's English Department. As a graduate of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Miami, 2010-2011 Class, he has served on the Executive Committee and continues to work with the Program.

Jessica Hodder, Director of Communications and Grants, Level Up Impact Group

Jessica is a digital strategist and communications professional who has dedicated her career to working with nonprofits and governments in South Florida. She has held positions on the communications teams of organizations including the Everglades Foundation, Knight Foundation, New World Symphony, South Florida Water Management District, and currently, as the Director of Communications & Grants for Miami-based social impact consulting firm Level Up Impact Group. Jessica is a Miami native who is passionate about South Florida's natural environment and the unique sets of conservation challenges it faces, particularly as it relates to the Greater Everglades ecosystem.

INSPIRING ARTS AND CULTURE

Aileen Alon, Director, Nyah Project at aire ventures

Aileen is fueled by a passion for building creative, sustainable, inclusive, and engaged communities, working in Miami's non-profit sector for 12 years at the intersection of arts + community development, tech + innovation, and youth development + social justice. She is currently the Director, Nyah Project at aire ventures, focusing on strategic partnerships, operations, and programs. Aileen is the recipient of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's HYPE Go Getter Award, BAC Florida Bank's Community Champion Award, and has been recognized as one of Six Powerhouse Women in Miami by The Miami Beach EDITION. She also serves on various local, state, and national grant panels for arts and innovation projects. She holds a BA in Art History and minors in Studio Art and Social Sciences from Winthrop University.

German DuBois III, Founder and Executive Director, HOPE Murals

German is a professional educator, nonprofit executive and fitness trainer, with over 20 years of experience, he has dedicated his career to developing youth, families and communities. Born and raised in the Bronx, NYC public school product, Division 1 Athlete, this native New Yorker brings a wealth of knowledge in both education, nonprofit management and personal training to South Florida. With a Master's in Education from Columbia University Teachers College, German served as Regional Director for the nonprofit organization Up2Us Sports and launched the Miami office as part of their national expansion strategy.

As founder and Executive Director of HOPE Murals, German is also well known for his passion and capacity to leverage the Power of Art to affect change in the lives of those to be in the greatest need of support. He led the Puerto Rico Hope mural campaign, raising awareness about the ongoing struggles for survival in Puerto Rico via the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. His efforts mobilized Artists during Art Basel 2017, to paint a massive collection of 21 murals on two sides of a building in Midtown Miami, that stood six stories tall and raised funds to support ongoing relief efforts.

Having presented on both national and international platforms, one of his greatest strengths is his ability to connect to both youth and adults from diverse communities. German brings professional integrity to his work and lives by example, incorporating health and wellness best practices in his daily life.

Lakeisha Frith, Director of Education, Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

Lakeisha is a graduate of Florida Atlantic University with a bachelor's degree in Arts and Humanities. The Miami-born violinist began working with the Greater Miami Youth Symphony in 2005 as the String Orchestra Assistant and as an instructor in the GMYS Preparatory Program. In 2006, she started running a 3-tiered string program with upwards of 60 students at Pinecrest Elementary School. In 2015 she was promoted to Assistant Executive Director of the Greater Miami Youth Symphony, her duties included managing the preparatory, summer camps, and grant compliance. In September 2016, Ms. Frith became the Manager of Education at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts where she works in conjunction with resident companies, arts partners, and Miami-Dade County Public Schools to enhance the arts education experience of all students and teachers throughout Miami-Dade County. She is currently Director of Education for the Adrienne Arsht Center. Ms. Frith is an adjudicator for The Children's Trust Young Talent Big Dreams Competition, a panelist for Miami Dade Cultural Affairs, and a member of Women of Color in the Arts. Lakeisha Frith maintains a private lesson studio and enjoys teaching and performing.

Jesse Gilday, Grants Coordinator, Miami Music Project

Jesse is a musician, arts educator, and arts administrator who is deeply invested in the arts community of Miami. Currently faculty at Florida International University Herbert and Nicole Wertheim School of Music and Grants Coordinator at Miami Music Project, Dr. Gilday frequently performs on clarinet and bass clarinet with local orchestras and with the NODUS Contemporary Ensemble. A resident of Miami since 2016 when he began his doctorate at the University of Miami – Frost School of Music, Jesse is also director of the Niall O’Leary School of Irish Dance – Miami.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Dr. H. Mary Leonce-James, LPC, LMHC, Professional Psychologist and Community Representative, Climate and Heat Health Task Force.

Dr. H. Mary Leonce-James, LPC, LMHC, is a Professional Psychologist and Licensed Mental Health Counselor in the state of Florida and Licensed Professional Counselor in the states of Georgia and Texas. Dr. Leonce-James has over 20 years’ experience in the field of Psychology working with adolescents and adults. Her specialties are Forensic Psychology, Marriage Counseling and Head Start. For the last two years Dr. Leonce-James has been working in the world of Head Start and found it to be a very rewarding field referring children and families for the necessary services. Dr. Leonce-James has recently started a nonprofit agency called Phoebe’s Fortress Inc. working with youth girls who are exiting the foster care system; providing them with the life skills needed to be “On HER Own.” She is also a Community Champion for Catalyst Miami and an Entertainment Writer. Dr. Leonce-James has a passion for working with couples to help strengthen the family unit. Her motto is a strong community is only as strong as the family unit. She is also a community representative on the Miami-Dade County Climate and Heat Health Task Force.

Natalie Rivas, Climate Justice Research and Policy Manager, The Chisholm Legacy Project

Natalie is a Miami native equipped with a BS in Environmental Studies and a minor in Biology from Florida International University. After graduating, Natalie became a member of the US Peace Corps serving in Cameroon, where she spearheaded global science education efforts, founded an award-winning composting program and where her passion for women’s empowerment blossomed.

Her background consists of managing the development and execution of climate awareness and advocacy programs across the state as a Program Manager for The CLEO Institute. With the pendulum of the climate crisis swinging both ways in Florida – towards extreme heat on one end and sea level rise on the other–Natalie cultivates an intersectional approach to mobilizing diverse communities around key climate issues such as disaster preparedness, agriculture, food security, energy democracy, ecosystem protection, gentrification, gendered-impacts of climate change and more.

A former Relationship Management Specialist for a premier youth mentoring organization, Natalie brings inclusive relationship building tactics to mutually uplift people from all walks of life into their power towards advocating for system change, recognizing that everyone is an expert in their lived experience.

A fundamental pillar of her inspiration is The Just Transition Framework and this guides her current work as the Research and Policy Manager at The Chisholm Legacy Project. Natalie is enthusiastic about bringing socio-economic and political power back down to communities. She is guided by the principle that climate solutions must center human rights and self-determination, with frontline communities as meaningful participants in and primary beneficiaries of climate action. Natalie is also the Community Representative for the Miami Dade Climate and Heat Health Task Force.

Sandra St Hilaire, Resilience Coordinator, Communications & Outreach, Miami-Dade County
Sandra is the Resilience Coordinator for Communications and Outreach at Miami-Dade County's Office of Resilience. Previously, she worked at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center. She holds a master's degree in marine affairs and policy from the University of Miami.

THRIVING YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Devin Brown, CEO, Sports Konnect

Devin is the founder and chief executive officer of Sports Konnect. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Communication & Sports Management with a focus on Social Entrepreneurship at Barry University. As part of the Public Allies Leadership Program in 2008, he graduated from the District 8 class Non-Profit Academy, and is also an alumni of Neighborhood Heroes from Radical Partners Cohort 3 group. Devin saw a need in his community and couldn't turn away from the problems surrounding at-risk and underserved youth. From there, Sports Konnect was born. Sports Konnect now mentors at-risk youth through Sports, Science and Mental Health Awareness across multiple school districts. In the future, Devin plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Non-Profit Management.

Jasmine Calin, Associate Product Manager, Great Minds. Former Teach for America Corps Member.

Jasmine has been in education for almost 10 years. Her career began as an elementary school teacher where she taught for 6 years in two different Title-1 public schools. After teaching, Jasmine joined a curriculum company where she first worked as a Curriculum Developer and now works as a Product Manager. With a passion for equity in education, Jasmine continues to volunteer and support learning in her hometown of Miami, FL where she resides.

Alejandra Gomez, Project Manager, Level Up Impact, and Middle-School Teacher

Alejandra is a first-year 7th grade teacher. She teaches Social Studies to a diverse group of learners. She graduated in 2021 from Duke University with her B.A. in Public Policy and her K-6 Elementary Education Licensure. In partnership with the Miami Children's Initiative, she started a dance program in Liberty City in 2015. She has taught English classes in Denmark, worked at an education nonprofit in India, and worked with various Durham, NC nonprofits focused on advancing educational equity. Aside from teaching, Alejandra also works as a Project Manager for the Level Up Impact Group, LLC based in Miami, FL.

Helene Good, former President and CEO, The Advocacy Network on Disabilities

Helene spent nearly 40 years planning, developing, and implementing programs to benefit children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. She has extensive experience building and facilitating successful coalitions and bringing together disparate constituencies to work collaboratively towards a common goal. The Advocacy Network on Disabilities, the organization from which she recently retired as President and CEO, is by definition comprised of individuals and organizations working together. They include providers, state agencies, school systems, self-advocates, families, legislators, policy and decision makers, funders and others. Having participated in the evolution of attitudes and approaches to providing supports and services to children and adults with disabilities, she brings both institutional knowledge and innovative ideas to her work. *(continued on next page).*

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Ms. Good holds a Master's Degree in Social Work with a concentration in planning, policy, and administration from Florida State University. She has served on numerous Boards and held membership in many organizations including the United Way of Miami-Dade Executive's Council; Miami Dade County Public Schools Superintendent's Advisory Committee for Exceptional Student Education; the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council's Governmental Affairs Committee, FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program Local Board; Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe; Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, and Florida's Commission on Long Term Care. Perhaps more than anything else, Ms. Good is known as a passionate and tireless advocate. In recognition of this fact, among the awards she has received are the Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson Lifetime Achievement Award and the David Lawrence, Jr. Champion for Children Award.

Stephanie Maestri, former Research and Evaluation Analyst, The Children's Trust

Stephanie is a motivated public health professional with over eight years of cross-sector experience in education, youth development, and systems change. As the Director for Data Strategy and Evaluation for Level Up Impact Group, Stephanie uses data-driven strategies to support numerous nonprofits and businesses in maximizing their impact and driving social change through strategy development, operations management, grant development, program design and implementation, and evaluation.

Stephanie spent six years as an evaluator and data strategist for major government entities in both Miami and Los Angeles. After a successful career helping both nonprofits and government funders, Stephanie is passionate about the development and advancement of quality programming for children and youth in underserved communities. Stephanie has demonstrated success developing and managing data-rich research projects and tools to help organizations measure their impact. She is an exceptional communicator, trainer, and presenter with the ability to champion ideas throughout the community.

Shandra Mallary, Executive Director, Intentional Provisions Outreach Corp.

Shandra has earned several degrees; A Professional Certificate in Human Resources, Business Specialist Certificate, A Master's of Science in Business Leadership; A Bachelor's of Applied Science in Supervision and Management; An Associates of Arts in Business Management and An Associate of Science in Elementary Education. She has been educating youth as a Miami Dade County Public School Teacher for the last 10 years and is a member of the Honor Society of Nova Southeastern University known as Phi Kappa Phi.

Additionally, she served for four years as Educational Excellence School Advisory Council (EESAC) chair. She led the school's establishment and implementation of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and promoted community involvement. She served as the United Teachers of Dade Building Steward for 6 years.

Additionally, she served as the African American History liaison for Miami Dade Public Schools. In her various roles within the community, she served as a member of the City of Homestead's Mayor Adhoc Charter Review Committee. Furthermore, as a Community Leader, she founded Intentional Provisions Outreach, a Non-Profit Outreach Program that serves the underrepresented populations. She also obtained a Department of Children and Families Director License and believes passionately in the power of Leadership within our Communities. As a Reviewer for the Miami Foundation, it is her promise to serve with fidelity in the best representation of Community Leaders as she knows all too well their daily functions.

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Susan Racher, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Wallace H. Coulter Foundation

Susan is Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation, which she joined when the foundation was formed. As CFO, Susan oversees the endowment's investment portfolio, and oversees tax, accounting, and compliance. In addition, Susan leads the Coulter Foundation's civic engagement work in Florida. Susan initiated the creation of "Florida Counts Census 2020," a collaboration of philanthropies and non-profits to promote census education and outreach in Florida's 67 counties. Prior to joining the Foundation, Susan was a Senior Vice President and Senior Managing Director of Bank of America, managing the bank's Florida office and its \$5 billion corporate finance portfolio.

Susan's volunteer work focuses on mental health- preventive education for youth and their families; improving treatment and recovery outcomes for people living with mental illnesses; and providing support and education for their families. Her mental health advocacy began following her son's serious mental illness episode in 2011, as she saw first-hand the stigma, treatment gaps, and fragmentation in our system of care. Susan is currently volunteer Board President of NAMI Miami-Dade (National Alliance on Mental Illness); Secretary of the Board and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee of Thriving Mind Board of Directors; Chair of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Treasury Advisory Committee; and a member of International Women's Forum.

Susan was named as "Small Foundation Investment Manager of the Year in 2013" by Institutional Investor Magazine; as "Public Citizen of the Year 2017" by the National Association of Social Workers Miami-Dade Chapter; a "Woman of Impact" by the Women's Fund in 2019 and honored as one of 20 "Inspiring Women of Health" from Dade, Broward, and Monroe Counties, by Health Foundation of South Florida in 2021. She has a B.A. from Smith College in English and Economics, and an M.B.A from the University of Chicago in Finance and Accounting. Susan is a mom and grandmother.

Jane Wooldridge, Senior Director for Journalism Sustainability and Partnerships, The Miami Herald

Jane is an award-winning travel, arts and business journalist and long-time Miami Herald editor currently serving as Senior Director for Journalism Sustainability and Partnerships. In this role, she works with community and philanthropy to expand local public service journalism through the Miami Herald Impact Journalism Fund at the Miami Foundation. For the past decade, she led the Herald's coverage of real estate, economy, tourism and arts in print and digitally, and helped create magazines and an NFT series. She is a past president of the Society of American Travel Writers and serves on the board of the SATW Foundation, presenter of the prestigious Lowell Thomas Awards.