

For Immediate Release
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Overtown Children and Youth Coalition To Celebrate National S.T.E.M./S.T.E.A.M. Day With
Laptop Scholarship Award Ceremony For Students In Need

2023 OCYC Laptop Scholarship Program Bridges the Digital Divide By Providing Valuable Tool For Learning, Equips Students With Essential Digital Skills, Promotes Equal Access To Education, And Empowers Students For Success In A Technology-Driven World

Miami, FL-October 20, 2023-Overtown Children and Youth Coalition (OCYC) proudly announces the third year of the OCYC Laptop Scholarship Program as they commemorate National S.T.E.M./S.T.E.A.M. Day. On Wednesday, November 8, 2023, OCYC will host the laptop scholarship program award ceremony to give 100 Overtown students new laptops provided by funding from Alleghany Franciscan Ministries. The ceremony will occur at The Overtown Optimist Club from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. National S.T.E.M./S.T.E.A.M. Day, recognizes the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (S.T.E.M.) education in our society. OCYC is dedicated to supporting the educational aspirations of students in our community, and this event is a testament to that commitment. They believe by providing students with the necessary technology, OCYC can help them unlock their full potential in S.T.E.M. fields and beyond.

According to the ACT Center for Equity in Learning, the Digital Divide in education is the gap between those with sufficient knowledge of and access to technology and those without.

OCYC will award laptops to 100 students enrolled in Overtown schools and youth organizations based on their application submissions illustrating their need for a laptop. The laptops are intended to empower students with the tools they need for their education and to foster their interest in S.T.E.M. fields. The program aims to bridge the Digital Divide and provide equal opportunities for all Overtown students to excel in their studies.

“Our Laptop Scholarship Program is important for several reasons as it goes beyond just providing students with a laptop. Students who have laptops have access to education, digital literacy, and skill development as global connectivity is an investment in the future of these

students and society. National S.T.E.M./S.T.E.A.M. Day is the opportune occasion to provide this contribution to the Overtown youth and inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators," states Anthony L. Robinson, Executive Director, Overtown Children and Youth Coalition.

About Overtown Children and Youth Coalition

In 2012, the Overtown Children and Youth Coalition (OCYC) was formed by anchoring community-based nonprofit organizations in the Overtown Community and joined by stakeholders to work together under the umbrella of OCYC. The groundbreaking step towards addressing the needs of Overtown's children and families with a collective impact and systems-level approach instead of a service-based structure with needs addressed in siloes was well-received by the community. OCYC continues to serve as the backbone organization to support anchoring community-based organizations to empower Overtown as a community where all children and youth reach their full potential.

About Alleghany Franciscan Ministries

Alleghany Franciscan Ministries, a non-profit Catholic organization, is guided by this mission and rooted in the tradition and vision of the Franciscan Sisters of Alleghany. A member of Trinity Health, we provide grants and work with community partners in three regions of Florida formerly served by the Sisters' hospitals: Miami-Dade County, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, and the Tampa Bay area of Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties.

Details of the event:

- Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023
- Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Location: The Overtown Optimist Club's Gym
- Address: Gibson Park Gym, 350 NW 13th Street, Miami, FL 33136