

Sun-Sentinel Diversity Venture Fund meets needs of hundreds at grassroots level

The Sun-Sentinel Diversity Venture Fund has changed lives since it was founded in 1999. The Fund has provided hundreds of children with after school care, enhanced quality of life in inner cities, developed tolerance programs countywide, and delivered capacity building training for more 1,600 non-profit representatives.

Three years ago, the *Sun-Sentinel* pledged \$1 million over five years to the United Way of Broward County to establish the Sun-Sentinel Diversity Venture Fund, a targeted fund of the United Way. Since the fund's inception, more than 109 non-profit organizations have received more than \$667,000 in program grants.

"Our mission with this fund is to reach into our community and provide support and resources to the grass roots non-profit organizations that are serving diverse populations with unmet social services needs," said Ben Williams, chairman of the Sun-Sentinel Diversity Venture Fund advisory board. "The process includes a training element that enables smaller organizations to develop the tools to build the necessary resources to serve more clients."

Founder Bob Gremillion, publisher and president of the *Sun-Sentinel*, envisioned the fund as a unique opportunity to reach diverse people with diverse backgrounds, cultures, education and lifestyles. The fund awards grants to non-profit organizations to start new programs or expand existing programs serving diverse communities.

The Fund has provided program grants to organizations such as:

The Abyssinian Community Development Corporation's Youth Enhancement Program, which deals with quality of life issues in the Pompano Beach community. The program serves

100 students from K-12, providing supervised activities for at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.

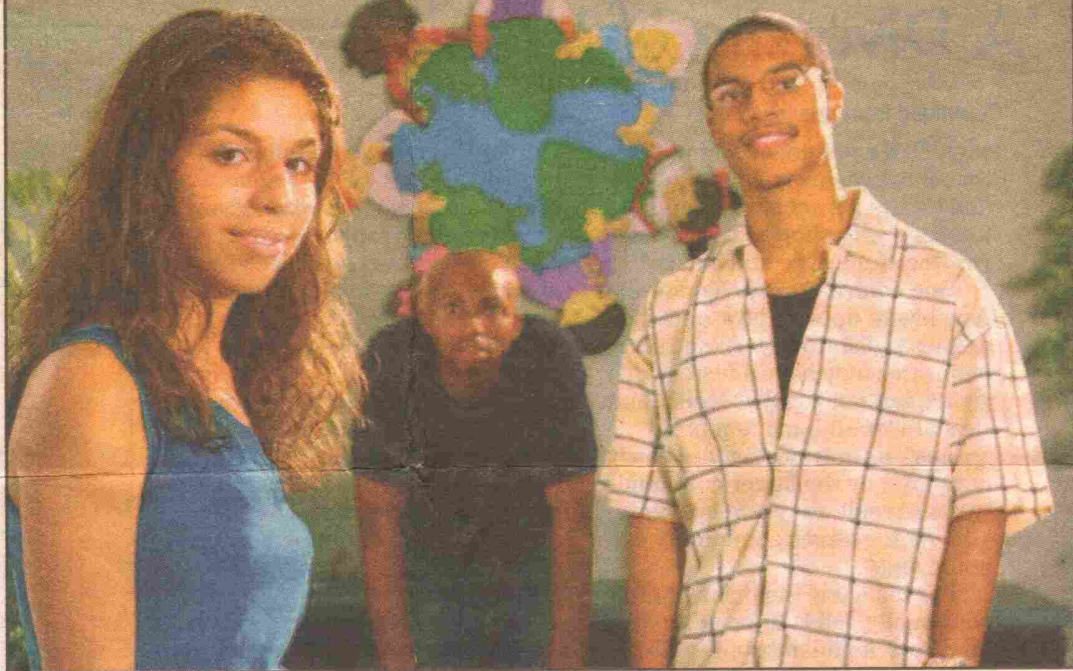
The Institute for Community Empowerment's Diversity Bridge Program serves 50 families in Hollywood and the historic Sistrunk corridor, providing cultural education programs that help bridge the gap between Caribbean and African-American communities.

Helping Abused Neglected Dependent Youth (HANDY) Back to School Shopping Spree provides school supplies and clothing to 125 abused and neglected children every year.

Minority Development and Empowerment's Manman ak Bebe en Sante program, is an education and public awareness program on pre-natal care for Haitian women.

The Sun-Sentinel Diversity Venture Fund began with a vision to help non-profit organizations apply for program funding to meet the needs of diverse communities as well as participate in training programs focusing on organizational growth and development. Part of the process includes access to training programs for all agencies, for free or at a nominal cost, through the Community Foundation of Broward's Nonprofit Resource Center. Over the last two-years, more than 1,600 non-profit representatives have received capacity-building training services. These organizations have built stronger boards, written powerful grants that then leverage dollars for more funding sources and developed collaborative partnerships with other organizations to share resources. As a result, community-based, grassroots organizations are expanding capacity and successfully delivering services to more clients who are in need.

"The board development training program I attended



"NCCJ Ending Hate program gives me the ability to help people embrace their differences," says Lucilla Silva, National Conference for Community and Justice.

had a tremendous impact on everything I do for my organization. It took me through the basics, like how to recruit a strong board of directors to the critical process of strategic planning," says Cynthia Collins, executive director of Sickle Cell Disease Association of Broward County. "One of my main goals since the training is to build my board of directors with an eye to ensuring the diversity in the overall make up. A strong board will help me to do what I need to do for my clients. You can't get this type of high quality training at such a reasonable cost anywhere else."

Sun-Sentinel Diversity Venture Fund is overseen by a volunteer board of directors made up of community and business leaders from Broward and Palm Beach counties. These individuals lead the development of overall strategies and give final approval of grant awards once a volunteer grant review panel makes its recommendations. Board members are: Hazel Ambrister, community volunteer; Josie Bacallao, *Sun-Sentinel*; Scott Badesch, United Way of Palm Beach County; Doug Blass, attorney; Andrea Bradley, *Sun-Sentinel*; Sheri Brown, Community Foundation of Broward; Gale Butler, AutoNation; Lynne Cameron, Neighbors 4 Neighbors; Ana Cedeno, Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Cynthia Collins, Sickle Cell Disease Association of Broward; Kee Juen Eng, City of Hollywood; Megan Palmer Glass, JM



"With the support of the Sun-Sentinel Diversity Venture Fund's scholarship, I've reached my goal of a career in fire rescue," says Eloy Cardenas, city of Hallandale Beach, Fire Rescue Department.

Family Enterprises; Rosby Glover, Mount Bethel Human Services Corporation; John Hargrove, Heinrich Gordon Hargrove Weihe & James; Franklin Johnson, office of Congressman Alcee Hastings; Avido Khahaifa, Forum Publishing Group; Jo Moskowitz, Citrix Systems, Inc.; Maureen O'Neill, AT&T Broadband; Stacey Orange, American Express; De Palazzo, NCCJ; Mary Riedel, *Sun-Sentinel*; John Ruffin Jr., Ruffin Group; Linda Stepenovich, Bank of America; Diana Wasserman Rubin, Broward County Commissioner District 8; Lola Wilcox, United Way of Broward County; and Antonia

Williams-Gary, Palm Beach Nonprofit Resource Institute.

Corporate funders of the Sun-Sentinel Diversity Venture Fund for 2002-2003 include American Express, AT&T Broadband and Citrix Systems, Inc. Training support is provided through Community Foundation of Broward and its Nonprofit Resource Center.

For more information on the Sun-Sentinel Diversity Venture Fund; or to make a contribution call Anne O'Connell at the *Sun-Sentinel*, 954-356-4217; or Lola Wilcox at United Way of Broward County at 954-462-4850, ext. 143, or visit www.unitedway-broward.org.