

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 18-073 OF THE  
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE  
PROJECTS BY MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS**

**COMMITTEE:               PERSONNEL,   STUDENT,   SCHOOL   &   COMMUNITY  
SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
BLUEPRINT:               INFORMED,   ENGAGED,   AND   EMPOWERED  
STAKEHOLDERS**

Volunteerism and community projects can provide young people an opportunity to engage meaningfully in acts of service and charity. At Miami Palmetto Senior High School, students are dedicated to assisting communities in need through an array of projects and initiatives. This item seeks to highlight the drive, passion and initiative of five seniors and their service-based projects and volunteer work.

Kelly Culhane has been selected as one of the Girl Scouts of the USA's ten 2018 National Gold Award Girl Scouts for her Gold Award Project *Hearing Loss in Teens: An Alarming Trend*. This honor is given annually to ten Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors from across the country whose Gold Award projects demonstrate extraordinary leadership, had a measurable and sustainable impact, and addressed a local challenge related to a national and/or global issue. Kelly is the first Girl Scout from South Florida to be selected for this national honor. She has also served as an Ear Peace: Save Your Hearing Foundation Ambassador since 2014 and has worked to raise awareness about Noise Induced Hearing Loss, which she notes affects one in five teens in the U.S. Through her work and training with the foundation, Kelly brought the Protect-a-Band Program to Miami Palmetto Senior High which provided the music students with free high quality filtered ear plugs; served to facilitate professional development to Miami-Dade County Public School teachers and students; and produced a brochure, poster, and six informational and Public Safety Announcement videos for the foundation. With 555 volunteer hours logged, Kelly has had the distinction of winning the Palmetto PTSA Community Service Awards for the past three years. This past year, she served as the vice president of inductions for the National Honor Society and was a member of the Science National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta.

Natalia Fernandez's interest and achievements in the areas of science and math led to her selection as one of only 40 girls nationwide to participate in a six-week STEM program doing DNA research at New York University. Having already taken Advanced Placement Biology and Chemistry, Natalia appreciated the opportunity to conduct research alongside a nanotechnology expert.

**Replacement  
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The experience solidified her desire to study biochemistry and on a pre-med track, with the hopes of eventually pursuing pediatric neurology. Natalia's interest in neurology developed after being hospitalized for six days having suffered a cerebral seizure, which caused her temporary sight and hearing loss. She received care and treatment from a female neurologist and notes, "At a young age, seeing a woman as a powerful doctor was very transitional. I hope to be able to help children with neurological trauma and limit them from experiencing what I did." Since 2016, Natalia has volunteered her time in the pediatric unit of Baptist Hospital as a nurse's assistant where she works with children in surgical recovery and throughout the building. She also volunteers her time as a teacher's assistant at Bet Shira where she helps children learn Hebrew and serves as an ambassador for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Natalia has devoted over 580 hours of community service to these important causes and initiatives.

Apart from her volunteer work, she also has an interest in theater and has participated in school productions, and district and state competitions every year, winning awards at the Critic's Choice and Superior levels. She serves as the secretary of the Thespians and is a member of the Student Council, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, English Honor Society, and the Science National Honor Society.

Adyant Khanna is a first generation American who has dedicated time and efforts to improving living conditions in the country from where his family hails and which he considers his second home, India. The summer after his freshman year, Adyant, alongside his younger brother, Arin, began to develop a project to bring clean and accessible water to three remote Indian villages after learning that its residents had to walk miles every day to hand pump water. They labored to clean out the shared well, build a pipeline around the village, purchase solar panels and a tank, and planned for a water pump that would distribute water throughout the community. He shares, "We wanted to reach out to the people of India who get no attention. We wanted to communicate what they are facing. We put our money together. We brought in engineers. We worked out a model that would bring water to all these people." Adyant developed relationships with the surrounding communities and with supporters of his cause, raising \$17,000 to fund this project. He plans to continue helping the village through a focus on bringing more jobs to the community and women's empowerment initiatives. Logging 999 hours of volunteer service, he also found the time to complete his Boy Scout Eagle project, working to improve conditions at the Miami Bridge in Homestead through improving its exterior landscaping and the restoration of a volleyball court. Adyant is president of the Psychology Club, vice president of tutoring for Mu Alpha Theta, a tutor in Tutoring for Tomorrow, a member of the National Honor Society and Science National Honor Society, and serves on the Student Council Senate and Pinecrest Youth Advisory Council. He is also a member of the state champion varsity tennis team.

Joseph Kravetz and Ryan Rosner created the Rescue Garden with the mission of planting gardens at local shelters. The first of their gardens has been established at the Miami Rescue Mission in Overtown. They planted 72 square feet of garden space featuring bell peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, eggplant, radishes and herbs which are used in the Mission's kitchen for the preparation of meals. Joseph and Ryan have enlisted the help of the residents in tending the garden. They have also recruited volunteers and fellow members from the National Honor Society (NHS) to assist in building the raised beds for these organic gardens. To fund this initiative, they organized fundraising ventures, selling wrist bands at school and the shelter and securing a thousand dollar donation from a local grocery store.

Joseph has a second on-going community service project, an annual 'Turkey Bowl' football charity tournament, initiated during his freshman year, benefitting the Jewish Kosher Food Bank of Miami. This charity event has taken place in Coconut Grove's Kennedy Park and, most recently, at Pinecrest Gardens. He also organized a sneaker drive, Share your Sole, through the NHS, securing 100 pairs of sneakers and further assisting residents of the Miami Rescue Mission. Joseph is the president of the NHS, parliamentarian of the Student Council Senate, vice president of political action for the Social Science Honor Society, and a member of the varsity History Bowl team, Jewish Student Union, and Spanish Honor Society. He has 515 hours of completed volunteer hours. He also competes on the mathematics team for Mu Alpha Theta, specializing in Calculus. This past summer, he attended the Yale Young Global Scholars program focusing on sustainable development and social entrepreneurship.

Ryan who has been volunteering at the Miami Rescue Mission since middle school, conceptualized the idea for its garden in fifth grade. It wasn't until high school that he decided to move forward and spent a year planning for its opening. He is planning to incorporate a beautification project for the shelter to enhance the quality of living for its residents. He also dedicated his bat mitzvah project to benefit women and children's shelters, collecting blankets, clothing, hygienic items and diapers. Through the years, Ryan has logged 492 volunteer hours. He is the president of the Social Science Honor Society, a member of Mu Alpha Theta, the Jewish Student Union, Student Council Senate, History Bowl team and the badminton team. He also serves as the co-chair to the new security council that was created to ensure students feel safe while at school.

Engaging in volunteer efforts and service has provided these students with the opportunity to become active members of their community and will have a lasting, positive impact on the communities they served. These students are to be commended for their service, initiative, drive and passion.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-073 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing outstanding community service projects by Miami Palmetto Senior High students.

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-073**  
**OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,**  
**RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS**  
**BY MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS**

**WHEREAS**, Kelly Culhane has been selected as one of the Girl Scouts of the USA's ten 2018 National Gold Award Girl Scouts for her Gold Award Project *Hearing Loss in Teens: An Alarming Trend*. This honor is given annually to ten Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors from across the country whose Gold Award projects demonstrate extraordinary leadership, had a measurable and sustainable impact, and addressed a local challenge related to a national and/or global issue. Kelly is the first Girl Scout from South Florida to be selected for this national honor. She has also served as an Ear Peace: Save Your Hearing Foundation Ambassador since 2014. With 555 volunteer hours logged, Kelly has had the distinction of winning the Palmetto PTSA Community Service Awards for the past three years; and

**WHEREAS**, Natalia Fernandez's interest and achievements in the areas of science and math led to her selection as one of only 40 girls nationwide to participate in a six-week STEM program doing DNA research at New York University. Having already taken Advanced Placement Biology and Chemistry, Natalia appreciated the opportunity to conduct research alongside a nanotechnology expert. Since 2016, Natalia has volunteered her time in the pediatric unit of Baptist Hospital as a nurse's assistant where she works with children in surgical recovery and throughout the building. She also volunteers her time as a teacher's assistant at Bet Shira where she helps children learn Hebrew and serves as an ambassador for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Natalia has devoted over 580 hours of community service to these important causes and initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, Adyant Khanna is a first generation American who has dedicated time and efforts to improving living conditions in the country from where his family hails and which he considers his second home, India. The summer after his freshman year, Adyant, alongside his younger brother, Arin, began to develop a project to bring clean and accessible water to three remote Indian villages after learning that its residents had to walk miles every day to hand pump water. They labored to clean out the shared well, build a pipeline around the village, purchase solar panels and a tank, and planned for a water pump that would distribute water throughout the community. Adyant developed relationships with the surrounding communities and with supporters of his cause, raising \$17,000 to fund this project. Logging 999 hours of volunteer service, he also found the time to complete his Boy Scout Eagle project, working to improve conditions at the Miami Bridge in Homestead through improving its exterior landscaping and the restoration of a volleyball court; and

**WHEREAS**, Joseph Kravetz and Ryan Rosner created the Rescue Garden with the mission of planting gardens at local shelters. The first of their gardens has been established at the Miami Rescue Mission in Overtown. They planted 72 square feet of garden space featuring bell peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, eggplant, radishes and herbs which are used in the Mission's kitchen for the preparation of meals. Joseph and Ryan have enlisted the help of the residents in tending the garden. They have also recruited volunteers and fellow members from the National Honor Society (NHS) to assist in building the raised beds for these organic gardens. To fund this initiative, they organized fundraising ventures, selling wrist bands at school and the shelter and securing a thousand dollar donation from a local grocery store; and

**WHEREAS**, Joseph has a second on-going community service project, an annual 'Turkey Bowl' football charity tournament, initiated during his freshman year, benefitting the Jewish Kasher Food Bank. This event has taken place in Coconut Grove's Kennedy Park and, most recently, at Pinecrest Gardens. He also organized a sneaker drive, Share your Sole, through the NHS, securing 100 pairs of sneakers and further assisting residents of the Miami Rescue Mission. He has 515 hours of completed volunteer hours; and

**WHEREAS**, Ryan who has been volunteering at the Miami Rescue Mission since middle school, conceptualized the idea for its garden in fifth grade. It wasn't until high school that he decided to move forward and spent a year planning for its opening. He is planning to incorporate a beautification project for the shelter to enhance the quality of living for its residents. He also dedicated his bat mitzvah project to benefit women and children's shelters, collecting blankets, clothing, hygienic items and diapers. Through the years, Ryan has logged 492 volunteer hours.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-073 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Kelly Culhane, Natalia Fernandez, Adyant Khanna, Joseph Kravetz, and Ryan Rosner for their service, initiative, drive and passion.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

**Presented this twentieth day of November, A.D. 2018**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary