

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-029 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE EDGE FOUNDATION**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT**

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

The EDGE Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit charitable foundation, aims to empower women and youth while providing humanitarian services for victimized and disadvantaged children. Through engagement with business and community organizations, The EDGE Foundation serves disadvantaged families and children with events such as their annual Holiday Toy giveaway, which served over 500 families in the City of North Miami and over 2,000 in the City of Homestead this past winter. The Holiday Toy giveaway has become a signature event and features an opportunity for children to “shop” for their toys selecting amongst thousands of new and popular toys. Families are treated to entertainment, music, food and pictures with Santa. Thanks to community sponsors, area businesses and hundreds of volunteers, this event is a celebration of the spirit of charity, generosity and love for one another. Aside from South Florida, The EDGE has served children in Guatemala, India, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Kenya, Nicaragua, Haiti and Puerto Rico. To date well over 20,000 children have been impacted by The EDGE.

Founded in 2007 by Mercy Hernandez, who sought to teach her daughters to ‘give without expecting anything in return’, a main focus of the EDGE Foundation has been mentorship opportunities for young people. As such, The EDGE’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) was founded in 2013 with the goal of mentoring youth between the ages of 13-17 in humanitarian skills and social responsibility, while incorporating a leadership curriculum. The Board of Directors mentor these students on leadership and assist them with organizing their own humanitarian projects at the local community level.

The YAC, who serve as inspiration and voice to today’s youth, assist The EDGE by contributing to the strategic planning, organization, and execution of three ongoing projects: The Purple Bag Project - a backpack that provides comfort, compassion and opens the lines of communication with children who are victims and their first responders, The Purple Room Project - a project where a space used to comfort victimized children is transformed into a serene and calming environment and, lastly, The Purple Box Project - A collection project where purple boxes are used to collect items such as toys for our annual toy drive and/or any items to comply with whatever drive is taking place. The YAC serves as a resource and a voice for the younger generation of humanitarian supporters. Recently, The EDGE’s Queen Bees initiative was launched and looks to empower women, knowing that stronger, happier women will better serve our children and communities. The EDGE Foundation is to be recognized for their efforts and advocacy on behalf of women, children and families here and abroad.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-029 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The EDGE Foundation for their efforts and advocacy on behalf of women, children and families.

**.RESOLUTION NO. 17-029  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE EDGE  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION FOR THEIR EFFORTS AND ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF WOMEN,  
CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES**

**WHEREAS**, The EDGE Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit charitable foundation, aims to empower women and youth while providing humanitarian services for victimized and disadvantaged children. Through engagement with business and community organizations, The EDGE Foundation serves disadvantaged families and children with events such as their annual Holiday Toy giveaway, which served over 500 families in the City of North Miami and over 2,000 in the City of Homestead this past winter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Holiday Toy giveaway has become a signature event and features an opportunity for children to “shop” for their toys selecting amongst thousands of new and popular toys. Families are treated to entertainment, music, food and pictures with Santa. Thanks to community sponsors, area businesses and hundreds of volunteers, this event is a celebration of the spirit of charity, generosity and love for one another. Aside from South Florida, The EDGE has served children in Guatemala, India, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Kenya, Nicaragua, Haiti and Puerto Rico. To date well over 20,000 children have been impacted by The EDGE; and

**WHEREAS**, founded in 2007 by Mercy Hernandez, who sought to teach her daughters to ‘give without expecting anything in return’, a main focus of the EDGE Foundation has been mentorship opportunities for young people. As such, The EDGE’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) was founded in 2013 with the goal of mentoring youth between the ages of 13-17 in humanitarian skills and social responsibility, while incorporating a leadership curriculum. The Board of Directors mentor these students on leadership and assist them with organizing their own humanitarian projects at the local community level; and

**WHEREAS**, the YAC, who serve as inspiration and voice to today’s youth, assist The EDGE by contributing to the strategic planning, organization, and execution of three ongoing projects: The Purple Bag Project - a backpack that provides comfort, compassion and opens the lines of communication with children who are victims and their first responders, The Purple Room Project - a project where a space used to comfort victimized children is transformed into a serene and calming environment and, lastly, The Purple Box Project - A collection project where purple boxes are used to collect items such as toys for our annual toy drive and/or any items to comply with whatever drive is taking place; and

**WHEREAS**, the YAC serves as a resource and a voice for the younger generation of humanitarian supporters. Recently, The EDGE’s Queen Bees initiative was launched and looks to empower women, knowing that stronger, happier women will better serve our children and communities. The EDGE Foundation is to be recognized for their efforts and advocacy on behalf of women, children and families here and abroad;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-029 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The EDGE Foundation for their efforts and advocacy on behalf of women, children and families.

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

**Presented this fifteenth day of March, A.D. 2017**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary