

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Chair  
Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member  
Ms. Mari Tere Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-093  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING TELETONUSA FOUNDATION**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

With the mission of creating a more inclusive, accepting world for children with disabilities and their families, the TeletonUSA Foundation is a non-profit organization based in San Antonio, Texas. Their main function is to raise critical funds and awareness to build and support the Children's Rehabilitation Institute of TeletonUSA. They believe that all children with disabilities should have access to compassionate, state-of-the-art rehabilitation services.

The Children's Rehabilitation Institute serves children throughout the United States with neurological, muscular, and skeletal disabilities and their families through an integrated and state-of-the-art rehabilitation program that empowers patients to reach their full potential with inclusion to society. Disabilities range from cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, spinal cord injuries, genetic disorders, and amputations. Patients pay according to their ability or financial means. Payment is based on a sliding scale according to federal poverty lines.

Mr. Fernando Landero, the President of Teleton Foundation in Mexico, was the visionary behind the Children's Rehabilitation Institute system of care, which has now been in operation for 19 years. Since its inception, the non-profit has opened and operated 22 pediatric rehabilitation centers and has mastered the formula to treat children with neuromuscular and musculoskeletal disabilities.

In order to create a more inclusive world for children with disabilities in the United States, TeletonUSA was founded in October 2012. Following two years of successful fundraising efforts the Children's Rehabilitation Institute of TeletonUSA opened its doors in October 2014. Now that one institute has been opened, the Foundation's goal is to open institutes in other states including Florida so that children with disabilities across the nation can have the support they need to live happier, fuller lives.

Partnering with Univision, the foundation has secured \$60 million in the past four years, investing over \$40 million to build and operate the nation's first Children's Rehabilitation Institute TeletonUSA. The signature fundraising event is the annual 30-hour live television all-star charity event featuring celebrities and entertainment acts as well as testimonies from patients who are currently in treatment at the institute. Last year, the event raised over \$15 million. This year's event will be held October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. SUSIE V. CASTILLO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-093 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing TeletonUSA Foundation.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-093  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING TELETONUSA FOUNDATION**

**WHEREAS**, TeletonUSA Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, the main function is to raise funds and awareness to build and support the Children's Rehabilitation Institute of TeletonUSA; and

**WHEREAS**, the signature fundraising event of TeletonUSA Foundation is the annual 30-hour live television all-star charity event in partnership with Univision featuring appearances by celebrities, various entertainment acts, and the testimonies from patients who are currently in treatment at the institute. This year's Teleton is to be held October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Children's Rehabilitation Institute serves children across the nation with neurological, muscular, and skeletal disabilities and their families through a state-of-the-art rehabilitation program notwithstanding of their financial means; and

**WHEREAS**, the Children's Rehabilitation Institute is the first of its kind in the United States of America, TeletonUSA Foundation's goal is to open and operate institutes in several states including Florida ; and

**WHEREAS**, TeletonUSA Foundation is to be commended for its tremendous efforts towards the support of children with disabilities and their families, and for its commitment to a world more inclusive and accepting of children with disabilities;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-093 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing TeletonUSA Foundation.

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

**Presented this sixth day of September, A.D. 2017**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary