



Jack and Jill Center's mission is to strengthen children and families through innovative education, supportive programming, and community engagement.

Ring in the new school year, empowering young entrepreneurs, celebrating volunteers, and Jack & Jill Center welcomes our newest Corporate Partner!

August eNewsletter

August 31, 2023

Back to School and Thrilled for the Adventures Ahead!

As summer comes to a close, Jack & Jill Center's Early Education Center and Madelaine Halmos Academy are buzzing with the return of students for the 2023-24 school year. Following a well-deserved break, both learners and educators are back and eager to embark on another year of growth, exploration, and learning. The first day of school witnessed smiles as students entered new grades, classrooms, and met their teachers. We're excited for the new experiences this school year is sure to bring!



As we start this new academic journey, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each person who contributed to our Back to School fundraiser, which raised over \$19,000! These funds will significantly enhance educational resources, support extracurricular activities, and ensure top-tier education accessibility for every student. Jack & Jill Center is poised for another

exceptional year of achievement and advancement. Explore more photos from our first week back at school [here!](#)



Growing Helpers: Cultivating Change and Making a Mark

In the heart of our school community, a dynamic group of fourth and fifth-grade girls known as "Growing Helpers" is redefining what it means to make a difference. These enthusiastic young ladies were sparked into action by a captivating presentation from CEO Heather Siskind during Career Day. Her message about the entrepreneurial spirit of women ignited a passion within them to create positive change in their community, and led to the birth of Growing Helpers.

With a shared vision of rescuing animals and nurturing the planet, the girls wasted no time and devised a plan to raise funds and awareness for their cause. They organized cookie sales, and embarked on a field trip with Heal the Planet. The trip deepened their understanding of climate issues and

inspired them to take action in their own backyard.

The group established a butterfly garden within school grounds. Through visits to Flamingo Road Nursery, they gained insights into creating habitats for these delicate creatures. The result: A flourishing butterfly haven that not only adds beauty to the school but also serves as a living testament to their dedication!

This journey would not have been possible without the support of organizations like Heal the Planet, UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program, and Flamingo Road Nursery, as well as the dedication of volunteers.

The Growing Helpers initiative is more than a club; it's a testament to youth-driven change. Acknowledging the foundation laid by their predecessors, the girls are steering the group towards progress and inclusivity, with plans to engage boys in their impactful work.

A Summer of Volunteer Impact

This summer, we were fortunate to have an abundance of dedicated volunteers come through Jack & Jill Center. Crowe LLP joined us, bringing enthusiasm as they assisted in classrooms and participated in our Summer Splash Days. The NSU's Summer Immersion Program made a valuable contribution by aiding in Elementary activities. The Caribbean Bar Association made a meaningful connection with our Kindergarten and First grade classes, sharing Caribbean culture through engaging book readings, just to name a few!



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who spent their time, provided assistance, and contributed supplies or organized donation drives during their visits. Your support is deeply appreciated. Winning Fort Lauderdale Magazine's Best Place to Volunteer is an honor we hold with great appreciation, acknowledging that volunteers like you make this achievement possible.

If you would like more information about volunteer opportunities, contact Community Relations Coordinator Amber Binford, abinford@jackandjillcenter.org.



Celebrating New Corporate Partner: Patty & Bill Hawk

We are so happy to welcome Patty and Bill Hawk as our newest Corporate Partner. Patty and Bill Hawk have been long time supporters of Jack and Jill Center. Bill actually served on our Board from 2014-2020 and rejoined in 2022. Patty has been on the Friends of Jack & Jill Center Board since 2006 and also visits weekly to volunteer with our Reading Pal program. We are so grateful for all that they do and overjoyed to have them as a Corporate Partner!

Upcoming Events



Jack and Jill Center's 22nd Annual Power Lunch

Thursday, September 28, 2023, 11:30 AM to 1PM
First Baptist Downtown Event Center
301 E Broward Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Join the Friends of Jack & Jill Center at the 22nd Annual Power Lunch on Thursday, September 28, 2023 as we pay tribute to several outstanding honorees in the community. Attended by over 250 business professionals in Broward County, these honors are bestowed to those who have gone above and beyond through their service to Jack & Jill Center. With your help, the Friends of Jack & Jill Center have raised over \$5.25 million for high-need children

and families in our community since its inception in 1999. This would not be possible without supporters like you!

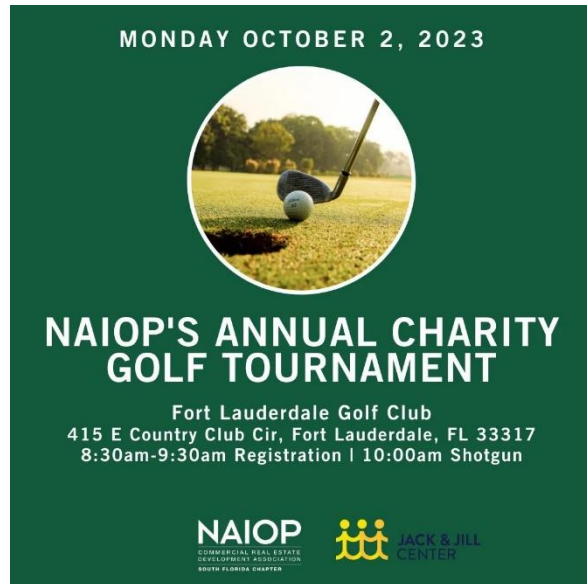
Sponsor Opportunities for this event are available now! Click [here](#) to view the entire Sponsorship Opportunities Package, or complete the form below.

Please contact Jennifer Swercheck at (724) 272-7891 or jswercheck@jackandjillcenter.org for more information.

NAIOP Golf Tournament Benefiting Jack & Jill Center

Monday, October 2, 8:30am-9:30am Registration | 10am Shotgun
Fort Lauderdale Golf Club
415 E Country Club Cir
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33317

Join NAIOP South Florida's Annual Charity Golf Tournament supporting Jack & Jill Center. NAIOP is the premier Association for Commercial Real Estate Development, serving professionals in Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties. The event features a silent auction, with all proceeds benefiting Jack & Jill Center. For event details, click [here](#). To donate items for the



auction, contact Emma Hadley at ehadley@jackandjillcenter.org



Trunk or Treat presented by Jack & Jill Center and Salvation Army-FREE

Tuesday, October 24, 5pm-7pm
Salvation Army
100 SW 9th Ave
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Please join us for our annual Trunk or Treat! This event is FREE for the entire family and this year's theme is *Superheroes & Storybooks!* Come dressed as your favorite superhero or storybook character and enjoy this family-friendly event.

Volunteers Needed! If you are interested in decorating your car and being a

participating "trunk", please click [here](#). If you are interested in learning about sponsorship opportunities, click [here](#)!



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