

May 2021



## Nonprofit Member Spotlight: Community Greening

*There are many benefits of urban trees, but not all neighborhoods in Palm Beach County have enough trees.*

*Community Greening is changing that by planting trees in communities with low tree canopies, including many lower-income areas.*

*Since 2016, the Delray Beach-based nonprofit has planted 6,000 trees -- with 4,000 volunteers -- in parks, schools, and many other urban areas from West Palm Beach to Deerfield Beach.*

*We asked Mark Cassini, Co-Director and Co-Founder of Community Greening, to explain the organization's work in the community.*

[Read the Full Interview](#)



## Meet the New Rising Leaders

Every month, Nonprofits First highlights two members of the 2021 Rising Leaders class. Rising Leaders is the only local training of its kind, transforming emerging talent into the nonprofit sector's next leaders. The comprehensive six-month experience focuses on skills needed by those who are relatively new to leading teams or managing groups of individuals.



### Introducing Rising Leader: Oriana De Leon

Ms. De Leon has been

working in the nonprofit community in Palm Beach County for nine years. She began her career at Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Palm Beach County and the Arc of Palm Beach County before starting in her current role as Injury Prevention Coordinator in the Safe Kids program at Community Partners of South Florida. Safe Kids Palm Beach County is a community-based program that offers safety education and materials to families

### Introducing Rising Leader: Leann Rodriguez

Ms. Rodriguez is the Assistant Director of Residential Services at United Community Options of South Florida. UCO (affiliated with United Cerebral Palsy) serves more than 1,600

infants, children and adults at over 60 locations in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach & Mid-Coast Counties. Ms. Rodriguez began volunteering in nursing homes at a very young age and is passionate about helping others. She has



to decrease accidental injuries in children from 0 to 19 years of age. Ms. De Leon is passionate about working with families, keeping kids safe, and growing as a nonprofit professional. She is a graduate of Florida Atlantic University and is fluent in English and Spanish.

worked with UCO for nine years and feels a deep sense of purpose and joy in guiding individuals to experience life more independently. Ms. Rodriguez has been called an incredibly hard worker who faces each day with optimism and compassion.

Rising Leaders applications for the Class of 2022 will open in October 2021. For more information, visit <https://www.nonprofitsfirst.org/page/RisingLeaders>



## May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness. May marks a month-long national movement to raise awareness about mental health.

Check out two local resources dedicated to fighting the stigma, providing support, educating the public and advocating for policies that support people with mental illness and their families:

### [National Alliance on Mental Illness Palm Beach County \(NAMI PBC\)](#) - NAMI PBC is a

nonprofit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to providing education, support and advocacy, with the goal to empower individuals living with mental illness and their families, and to eliminate the associated stigma. Support groups, information on community resources, advocacy, educational programs (such as Peer-to-Peer and Family-to-Family) and one-on-one peer mentoring are just some of the many services provided by NAMI PBC to Palm Beach County residents.

[Mental Health America of Palm Beach County](#) - Founded in 1909, Mental Health America (MHA) has more than 200 affiliates across the United States and is dedicated to addressing the needs of those living with mental illness and promoting the overall mental health of all Americans. Their goal is to create a supportive culture where people with mental health conditions live openly and are valued. They connect people to care and support, build awareness, and fight to make mental health a public priority.

## Meet the Nonprofits First Board of Directors Treasurer: Henry Martin

Henry is a Senior Manager in the audit and assurance practice of Daszkal Bolton and has been with the Firm for eleven years. He oversees audits for privately-held corporations and not-for-profit organizations. Additionally, he oversees Uniform Guidance (OMB Circular A-133), Florida Single Audit Act and employee benefit plan audits for a number of clients. Prior to joining the firm, he served as an in-house accounting manager for a large advertising firm, as well as an accountant for a yacht manufacturing and service company.



Henry earned a Master of Science in Accounting from Nova Southeastern University and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Florida Atlantic University. He is active in numerous professional and civic organizations, including the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants and American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Henry is a licensed United States Coast Guard Captain and is fluent in Spanish.

Read about the Nonprofits First Board of Directors [here](#).



## Meet Nonprofits First CPA, Wesnide Edouard

As the Financial Solutions Manager at Nonprofits First, Wesnide Edouard supports nonprofit clients with bookkeeping and financial services. She is also a member of the Nonprofits First Rising Leaders Class of 2021 and a member of the United Way of Palm Beach County's Emerging Leaders Society. Wesnide shares her talents and time volunteering in Palm Beach County. You can read about Wesnide's impact on our community in this [special section of the Homeless Coalition's newsletter](#). Thank you, Wesnide, for all you do!



Nonprofits First is pleased to congratulate the following organizations on achieving Accreditation for the first time:

- Bi-Wi “Because I’m Worth It” International for Core Infrastructure
- Bound for College for Sound Nonprofit Management
- Digital Vibez for Excellence in Nonprofit Management
- Florence Fuller Child Development Centers for Excellence in Nonprofit Management
- Path to College for Excellence in Nonprofit Management
- T. Leroy Jefferson Medical Society for Core Infrastructure

The Accreditation process begins with a rigorous self-assessment of more than 300 questions covering key areas of nonprofit administration, management, and governance. Nonprofits First conducts an onsite or virtual review with the help of our Executive Volunteer Corps to verify the organization’s compliance with [Accreditation Standards](#).

Congratulations to all for this notable accomplishment! We are thrilled to welcome you to this [distinguished group of nonprofit organizations](#) dedicated to accountability and transparency.

**Nonprofits First Director of Accreditation, Adriene Tynes**  
with a reminder for small and emerging nonprofits organizations



**Earn Certificates, CEUs, CFRE Credits and More!**

Learn new job skills at your own pace, wherever you want, whenever you want.

Nonprofits First offers the full suite of courses and certificates from MindEdge Learning. Learners can earn CEUs, CFREs, HRCIs, and SHRMs.

These are online, self-paced alternatives to Nonprofits First workshops that provide a more flexible option for nonprofit leaders looking for professional development opportunities for themselves or their team.

Nonprofit and Affiliate Members of Nonprofits First receive a 20% discount on courses.

Learn more [here](#).

## Nonprofits May Submit an RFP for LPBC Engage Forward 2021-2022

Engage Forward connects your nonprofit organization with this year's Leadership Palm Beach County Engage Program class members to actively collaborate on finding solutions to issues facing your organization or the community you serve. Your organization (and those you serve) will be the beneficiary of this infusion of manpower, creativity, connections, and effort. These projects will be highlighted in communications and events to our alumni throughout the year. The impact of these class projects has historically been significant and of lasting benefit to the participating organizations. For more information go to: <https://www.leadershipbc.org/Engage-Forward>



# *Thank You*

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Lisa Russo

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**NOW HIRING**

New Career Opportunities On The 501 (c) Jobs Board:

Administrative Program Coordinator  
*Best Foot Forward Foundation*

Accountant  
*The Center for Family Services of Palm beach County*

Healthy Beginnings Developmental Consultant- Creole  
*HomeSafe*

Contract External Assessor (Contractor - Flexible Opportunity)  
*Prime Time Palm Beach County*

[View Job Listings](#)

Search our Membership Directory [here](#) to find colleagues and friends who enjoy the benefits of Membership with us!

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### **New and Renewing Nonprofit Members**

Bi-Wi "Because I'm Worth It!" International  
Digital Vibez  
FLIPANY  
Lady Be Free Resource Center for Women  
Leadership Palm Beach County  
Riviera Beach CDC  
South Florida Hunger Coalition  
St. George's Center  
The Arc of The Glades

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### **New and Renewing Affiliate Consultants**

JSS Marketing & Public Relations, Jennifer Sardone-Shiner  
Level Up impact Group, Anna Dilernia  
MEND, Nicole Anderson  
Small Business HR Solutions, Christine Cunningham  
The Kelly Merbler Company, Kelly Merbler  
The Leadership Haven Resource Center, Tessie Watts  
Timoney Impact Solutions, Noreen Timoney

### **Become A Member Today**

**Join Nonprofits First as a nonprofit or affiliate member**

**Organizations increase capacity to deliver on their mission and affiliates build relationships with the nonprofit sector.**

Learn more about nonprofit membership [here](#).  
Learn more about affiliate membership [here](#), or call 561-910-6678

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Please save the date:  
**Fifth Annual Hats Off Nonprofit Awards**  
**Tuesday, October 5, 2021**  
Nomination forms will be open in mid-August.  
Contact Charlotte Gill at [cgill@nonprofitsfirst.org](mailto:cgill@nonprofitsfirst.org) for inquiries.  
[Click here to sponsor!](#)

Nonprofits First is a 501c(3) organization with the vision that all nonprofits can achieve their highest level of desired impact. Your support helps ensure that Nonprofits First continues to serve the nonprofit community. If you believe in this important capacity building work, please make a gift today. Thank you for your support!

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