

# 2020 Annual Report



*Lotus House* where hope blossoms  
sundari foundation, inc.

# ABOUT LOTUS HOUSE

**OUR VISION:** Every woman, youth and child experiencing homelessness will have the opportunity to heal, learn, grow, build the foundation for a brighter future, and blossom into who they are truly meant to be. We are committed to ending child and family homelessness in our country.

**OUR MISSION:** Lotus House is dedicated to improving the lives of women, youth and children experiencing homelessness on every level. We provide sanctuary, support, education, tools and resources that empower them to heal, learn, grow and blossom into who they are truly meant to be. In their dreams comes true, we enrich our community with the fruit of their potential realized.

**TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION:** We advocate for the human right and dignity of every child, every family, to a home, as essential to their wellbeing and prosperity as food, education and health care. We raise awareness of the special needs of women, youth and children experiencing homelessness; inspire innovative, holistic solutions that truly break the cycle of childhood abuse, domestic violence and homelessness; and advance service-driven research and enlightened social and public policies for greater understanding, social inclusion, and resources for women and children experiencing homelessness.

**LOTUS HOUSE:** Lotus House is a comprehensive homeless services facility, one of the largest shelters in the country exclusively serving women and children, and unique in the breadth and depth of its therapeutic supports and protective factors to heal and strengthen children and families experiencing homelessness. From the humblest of beginnings in 2006 to its newly redeveloped home in Lotus Village in the heart of Overtown, Miami, **Lotus House now shelters over 500 women, youth and children nightly, making it the largest women's shelter in the State of Florida and in the top five nationally.** The state of the art facilities in Lotus Village offer a new national model to end homelessness, a trauma-informed sanctuary for women and children that showcases evidence-based best practices, informs through service driven research, elevates collaboration and community engagement, and advocates for scalable, real world solutions. In Lotus Village, Lotus House provides trauma-informed, holistic, supportive services to heal bodies, minds and spirits with access to medical and mental health care, child and family therapies, individual and group counseling and support groups, life skills, educational classes, job readiness training, employment assistance, resource coordination and a host of enrichment activities. **Lotus House lovingly shelters over 1,200 women and children annually, giving these fragile families the support, education, tools and resources to reclaim their lives, heal, grow, thrive, and blossom into who they are meant to be.**

Leading with innovation and service driven research, Lotus House aims to break the cycle of childhood abuse, domestic violence and homelessness. Thank you for making all we do possible with your generous support! Together, we save and change lives, one woman, one youth, one child at a time. Together, we change our world!

**Learn more at [www.lotushouse.org](http://www.lotushouse.org) and @LotusHouse1**

**500+**

women, youth & children  
sheltered nightly

**6,000+**

women and children sheltered  
since inception

**82%**

successfully exited the  
shelter system

**182,500+**

shelter bed nights annually

**225+**

newborns who will someday  
call Lotus House their first  
home, and counting!

**350,000+**

meals served annually





## WE ARE COMMITTED

Over the past 15 years, we have sheltered thousands of high special needs women and children, most of whom are persons of color lacking meaningful access to safe affordable housing, child care, education, health care, economic opportunity, and social and economic justice. Lotus House is committed to advancing the status of women and children, providing sanctuary with deep therapeutic supports to heal and enriched resources to reclaim lives marked by violence, poverty and discrimination, so that they may blossom into who they are meant to be. We advocate for enlightened public and social policies, and best practices to bring an end to homelessness. We are committed to solutions that provide racial, gender, social and economic justice for all. Meaningful financial security and affordable, safe housing must be assured for everyone in our country, and in times of inevitable transition, it is essential for trauma-informed, enriched shelter with deep protective factors, education, tools and resources, such as those we provide at Lotus House, to be available for everyone. A safe home and supportive shelter are as fundamental to the pursuit of life, liberty, prosperity and happiness as food, education, and health care. At Lotus House, we are committed to bringing an end to homelessness and a world in which safety, dignity, respect, truly equal opportunity, compassion and love reign.





**SPECIAL NEEDS  
OF THOSE  
WE SHELTER**

## SAFE HAVEN FOR WOMEN

Since opening our doors in March 2006, Lotus House has listened to the cries of countless women experiencing homelessness. We understand that their experience is uniquely gender-specific, exacerbated by physical vulnerability, mental health issues and complex layers of trauma. Too often, women of all ages are forced to survive by being invisible. Staying awake through the night out of fear, they sleep on buses and in airports, hospitals, abandoned buildings, backyards and alleyways in a desperate attempt to find shelter each night without being detected. Physically vulnerable, homeless women and female youth are at heightened risk of sexual assault, human trafficking and violence in its many forms. Not only is the experience of homelessness by women gender specific, so too are many of the reasons they experience homelessness. The overwhelming majority of the women we serve at Lotus House are victims of physical or sexual abuse, domestic violence, trafficking, violent crime or other severe traumas. Women fleeing domestic violence and other forms of abuse are forced to give up homes, jobs, support systems and more to escape, too often only to find themselves at equal or greater risk of danger in homeless shelters and on the street. Lotus House offers a trauma-informed sanctuary, sensitive to the gender-specific, special needs of women and the traumas they have experienced, giving them time to heal and the opportunity to truly break the cycles of abuse and violence leading to homelessness.



## YOUTH (18-24)

Imagine you are 18 or 19 years old and alone, homeless, desperate to finish high school, with no family support and nowhere to turn. Our homeless high school youth know all too well. Nearly all of the unaccompanied, homeless youth at Lotus House have survived severe trauma in their short lives, including abuse, neglect and untimely loss of parents and caretakers, among others. Homeless youth are particularly vulnerable and face tragic consequences if they do not receive the services and interventions they need. Adolescent women are among the most vulnerable and medically underserved groups of homeless individuals. The Lotus House Youth Program provides safe, stable housing to youth and access to educational and vocational training resources within the framework of a trauma-informed, comprehensive and coordinated support system that promotes positive youth development. With individualized, multi-faceted support and resources, the Lotus House Youth Program provides essential tools to allow homeless unaccompanied young women to heal, thrive, and achieve their promise of a brighter future.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Lotus House is more than shelter from the storm. Trauma in families and children has a definite cost that can be life long. Research shows that trauma negatively impacts memory, concentration and learning in children, especially those at greatest risk in our communities. Unresolved trauma can cause depression, anxiety, aggression, withdrawal or self-destructive, even suicidal, behaviors in our young ones. Homelessness itself is another layer of trauma for mothers and children, and yet, there is hope. The latest research indicates that it is possible to break the cycle of childhood abuse, domestic violence and homelessness with life changing support, tools, education and resources that heal broken bodies, minds and spirits. Mothers provided with evidence-based trauma resolution therapy and strong supportive parenting skills can positively impact everything from their child's chances of high school graduation to their long term health and wellness and success in the work force as adults. Lotus House is committed to providing child and family centered services that promote trauma resolution in both children and mothers. In holistic child and family centered programming and support services, Lotus House helps these special women and their children emerge from the shadows, give voice to their dreams and aspirations, and become who they are meant to be.



# ADVANCING HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Those experiencing homelessness, especially those who are medically needy in shelter programs like Lotus House, are at **much higher risk for COVID-19 than the general populace**. The National Alliance to End Homelessness is warning that persons experiencing homelessness who become infected by COVID-19 are anticipated to be **twice as likely to be hospitalized, two to four times as likely to require critical care, and two to three times as likely to die than the general population**.

With your support, in the midst of the pandemic, Lotus House continues to save and change the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. Preparing for and responding to the threat of COVID-19 has presented challenges never before imagined in our work, both to the health and safety of those we shelter and our dedicated team. With domestic violence and homelessness on the rise, the emergency supportive shelter at Lotus House is nothing short of life saving for women, youth and children in our community. "Home" for those who have none, Lotus House has continued to operate at full capacity throughout the pandemic, increased its shelter beds, and is currently sheltering over 500 women and children nightly.

Not only have we remained fully operational, **Lotus House expanded its programming**, adding a public health team for COVID education, screening and health linkages, offering "home schooling" when public schools closed, after schooling and summer programming, and additional healing arts and activities. In the face of job losses, Lotus House redoubled its efforts to provide job readiness and vocational training, employment search and assistance, life skills and other educational supports. Counselors were added to help women, youth and children deal with the mounting mental health challenges and stressors of finding safety in an unsafe world, the loss of school and employment, and the uncertainty of the future, on top of homelessness.

**Nearly every aspect of our operations and supportive services have been modified to advance the health and safety of those we shelter and our dedicated team.** An expanded operations team has implemented deeper 24/7 sanitizing and cleaning protocols.

Lotus House has invested in new technology, like UV light sanitizing towers that are rotated nightly in common areas, infrared camera skin temperature screening at entry, PPE for staff and guests, higher grade air filters, antimicrobial coatings on high touch surfaces, and more to come. We have learned to measure success one day at a time in the safety of those we serve and are bracing for the ever increasing wave of homelessness which is following in the wake of the pandemic.

Thank you to everyone who reached out, offered their support, and has given and continues to give to our COVID Relief Fund at [www.lotushouse.org](http://www.lotushouse.org). **Your support is invaluable, life changing, and life saving. We are reminded, it takes a village!**






**“The Lotus House is coping like most families, working hard to make home safe for those we shelter each night.”**



## **Lotus House In The Neighborhood**

Our Lotus House in the Neighborhood program now operates a weekly Community Food Giveaway for our impoverished neighbors in Overtown who struggle with food insecurity. We have always cooked just a little bit more to provide extra meals for those in need who come to our door but as the economic impacts of the virus grew, more and more people from our neighborhood were coming to us for help. With the support of community partners, we began organizing weekly “walk-up” grocery and supply distributions.



A group of five diverse children, three girls and two boys, are sitting on a wooden bench outdoors. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The child on the far left is a boy with a large afro, wearing a white t-shirt and light blue shorts with a sailboat pattern. Next to him is a girl with dark hair, wearing a white polo shirt and black pants. In the center is a girl with braids, wearing a purple and blue graphic t-shirt and pink shorts. To her right is a younger girl with braids and white flower accessories, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and tan pants. On the far right is a girl with long braids, wearing a white polo shirt and tan pants. Behind them is a large black chalkboard covered in colorful chalk drawings and writing, including stick figures, scribbles, and some legible text like "VEGAN" and "GAY".

**"2.5 million  
children in  
America  
have no  
place to call  
home."**

**PUTTING  
CHILDREN  
FIRST**



By some estimates, **2.5 million children across America have no place to call home each year. Most are newborns to the age of 6**, a time when they are most vulnerable and the potential for neural development is at its highest. At this tender age, children in homeless shelters are already experiencing food insecurity, hunger, depression, anxiety, and other threats to their wellbeing and future success. **Homelessness is traumatic for everyone, but especially so for children.** Without deep protective factors and therapeutic intervention, children who experience homelessness, domestic violence and other traumas will face life long adverse consequences with mental health, cognitive development, and their ability to learn and thrive in school, health and life. **They are an invisible, silent casualty of a nationwide epidemic of homelessness.**

At Lotus House, we recognize that every aspect of a child's experience in Lotus Village, from therapeutic care and education to the physical space and its contents, are integral to children's wellbeing and offer opportunities for healing, growth, exploration, discovery, interaction and problem solving. This begins the moment they enter our doors with a welcoming intake sanctuary and tailor made children's video, "Just for Kids Eyes," explaining the many ways we will support their journey. **Every aspect of our Village has been designed with the needs of children in mind**, including cozy living spaces, nesting beds for toddlers, twin beds for teenagers and cribs on casters close to mom. There are beautifully outfitted family rooms and supportive services nodes on every residential floor.




Our Village center on the ground floor includes a special Playroom for our littlest ones, a bustling Arts and Activities Lab for all ages, Yoga, Exercise and Meditation Room, Healing Hands Salon, Employment and Education Center, and the "Farm." Our fun-filled, enriched programming offers children and families the opportunity to play together and stay together. From birthday celebrations to holidays, our children can just be kids again in Lotus Village.

**In Lotus Village, we transform the trauma of homelessness into a window of opportunity to support, strengthen, enrich and uplift children and families.** When children's needs are met by positive and consistent experiences with loving care givers and nurturing environments, children heal, grow, thrive and blossom into who they are meant to be. An understanding of these fundamental principles of childhood development and promoting healthy social and emotional development of children of all ages is at the heart of Lotus Village. We can end homelessness by putting children first.

Special thanks to  
Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd.  
for our child-friendly  
Family Rooms on  
each residential floor





A photograph of two young Black girls with braided hair, smiling and hugging each other outdoors. They are wearing green polo shirts. The background features a white fence and green foliage.

**89%**  
of our  
children  
have  
trauma  
histories

Special thanks to the Micky and Madeleine Arison  
Family Foundation, Carnival Foundation,  
The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County,  
Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, and  
Miami Dade County



# THE CHILDREN'S WELLNESS CENTER

The Micky and Madeleine Arison Family Foundation Children's Wellness Center in Lotus Village is central to providing the deep protective factors and therapeutic supports needed by children and families who are victims of domestic violence and other traumas to heal and thrive. Extensive research supported by an Innovation Award from The Children's Trust informed the development of this new national model for embedding trauma-informed, therapeutic services, early childhood care, and education in homeless shelters serving children and families. The Children's Wellness Center integrates high quality early care and education, individual needs assessments for every child, child and parent therapy, parenting education, and community supports into Lotus House's extensive wrap-around services to heal and strengthen children and families experiencing homelessness.

The Children's Wellness Center includes six classrooms for up to 48 sheltered infants and toddlers, from birth to age 3, operated by United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education. In collaboration with Florida International University, Lotus House provides a therapeutic overlay with skilled therapists offering a rich array of evidence based assessments and child and family therapies tailored to their needs to heal bonds of attachment broken by violence and trauma. We transform what would otherwise be yet another layer of trauma in the lives of our children and youth into a window of opportunity.

In the service driven research project commenced by Lotus House over three years ago, information gathered through the use of evidence-based assessments help our clinical team to establish priorities and guide interventions for our families. We work to identify potential developmental problems early on, so that children can receive vital services. Children may receive one of three evidence based therapeutic modalities based on their clinical needs. Moms can also participate in parenting groups designed to prevent and treat behavioral and emotional problems in children.

Since the inception of this research project, Lotus House has provided services to over 750 children and 500 mothers. We have made significant progress in furtherance of our aim to understand more deeply and to develop a portrayal of the needs (developmental, behavioral, trauma histories and parent-child interactions) of sheltered children with the aim of sharing the outcomes of our research. Specifically, we have learned:

## Evidence Based Assessments Show High Need:

- 35% of mothers reported severity of behavior problems in their children above the 85th percentile threshold, as reported on the Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory problem scale.
- 60% of children showed delay in at least one of five areas of development (Battelle Developmental Screener).
- 89% of children ages 3 and up have experienced at least 1 traumatic event, as reported on the CATS caregiver report, and we know based on their reported experiences before entering the shelter that many of the children younger than 3 have as well (the CATS is not applicable for children under 3).

## Positive Impact After Evidence Based Therapies:

- Improvements in children's trauma symptoms, reported by both mothers and children.
- Improvements in child behavior, 70-85% of children scored in the normal, non-clinical range.
- Reductions in parenting stress.
- Increase in positive maternal-child interactions, improved parenting relationship between mothers and adolescents, and high levels of maternal satisfaction with Lotus House counseling program.

This important research is intended to shine a spotlight on the special needs of sheltered children, too often invisible, and effective therapeutic interventions that can and should be implemented on a national level.

18-20

180+

mothers completed  
parenting programs

750+

children have  
been assessed

500+

mothers have  
been assessed

3,800+

counseling sessions  
took place





# THE LEARNING POD

As Miami-Dade County Public Schools prepared for virtual schooling at the end of August, Lotus House re-launched the Lotus Learning Pod, which began in the spring of this year as schools closed in response to the pandemic. Lotus House offers a structured, supportive learning environment, and enriched programming that caters to the special needs of our children. Approximately 90 school aged children, from kindergarten through high school, benefit from our Lotus Learning Pod which provides intensive programming, educational supports, resources and guidance as they navigate this new way of learning that presents unique hurdles for sheltered children. Even when school returns to some normalcy, we have learned over the years that our children have suffered in school because of homelessness and the traumatic events leading up to entering our shelter. They need safety, security, help learning to concentrate, doing their homework, one on one tutoring in English, math and other school subjects, as well as enriched programming and other activities that create opportunities for social engagement to help them to heal, learn, grow and thrive.

## **The Lotus Learning Pod team offers:**

- Virtual school navigation assistance and accountability
- Help with assignments and homework
- Tutoring services in all subjects
- College prep and application assistance
- Tutoring and assistance with standardized testing prep
- Additional supports for enriched programming activities taking place in the Education Center, Arts and Activities Lab, The Farm, Yoga and Meditation Room and Pavilion.
- Support with coordinating field trips and cultural events at Lotus House
- School supplies, uniforms, required PPE and other materials
- Graduation celebrations, prom and senior activities





Special thanks to the Lotspeich Family,  
Lotspeich Education Center in honor of  
Jay Lotspeich, Allegany Franciscan  
Ministries & Common Good Initiative and  
The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation



# “THE FARM”

The newest innovation at Lotus Village is a climate-controlled, hydroponic urban garden and science lab for children and families, affectionately called “The Farm.” With embedded seed-to-harvest and farm-to-table educational programming, the Farm feeds the body, mind and spirit on all levels. The Farm operates as a children’s science lab and urban garden, **bringing transparency and sustainability to the production of vegetables with the added benefit of producing high-quality, pesticide-free, fresh vegetables year-round for the supportive food service of those sheltered by Lotus Village.** Through fun, interactive, hands-on, and educational programming, the Farm offers children and families the opportunity to learn-by-doing in ongoing after-school, summer and weekend activities. Children deepen their understanding of the seed-to-harvest life cycle of plants, share in the wonder of growing and harvesting their crops, explore new tastes, and learn new ways to prepare, eat and appreciate nutritious plant-based foods. In the process, they have the opportunity to build new life skills; confidence and self-esteem; see and reap the fruits of their labor; and celebrate and be celebrated as their harvests are enjoyed by the entire Lotus Village community.

To date, our children have sowed and harvested over 1,500 lbs of herbs and vegetables to add to the nutritious meals at Lotus House. Crops grown include over 10 varieties of lettuce, swiss chard, radishes, calendula, arugula, boc choi, parsley, cilantro, basil, chives, dill and celery. Our fresh lettuce and vegetables are enjoyed daily at our fresh salad bar and used in our dressings made from scratch.

The Farm’s lessons also extend to the Culinary Center where **children learn basic food safety and kitchen skills, prepare healthy snacks, and explore a wide range of fruits and vegetables, in many cases never before tasted.** At the “Farm Stand” on the ground floor, the “Farmer of the Week” is recognized. Our farmers eagerly offer tasting samples they have grown to the whole shelter. The Farm Stand is a welcome addition at nearly every holiday and for many special events, where children and adults alike learn to craft fresh edible arrangements and other themed healthy snacks. Children and families have discovered a new relationship to plants, fruits, vegetables, nutrition, and their environment thanks to the innovative ways the Farm has contributed to life in Lotus Village.

Special thanks to The Children’s Trust, Miami Dade County Environmental Department, Health Foundation of South Florida, and David and Leila Centner Charitable Foundation.





A young boy with dark hair, wearing a blue t-shirt, khaki shorts, and white sneakers, is walking away from the camera on a light-colored wooden plank walkway. He is carrying a blue backpack with a cartoon shark design. To his right is a towering vertical garden wall made of white slats, densely packed with green leafy plants and several bright orange flowers. The garden extends far into the background, creating a lush green wall. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor or well-lit indoor environment.

**OVER 15,000 HEADS  
OF  
LETTUCE HARVESTED!**

**“THE FARM IS MY  
FAVORITE PLACE  
IN THE VILLAGE.  
I NOW KNOW  
HOW MY FOOD  
GROWS!”  
- BRANDON, 14**



# THE HEARTH OF LOTUS VILLAGE

## See what's cooking at Lotus Village!

### Children's Cooking Classes

Instead of giving children pre-made snacks, we make them together! Along with our Farmer Jackie, our kids not only learn where their food comes from, but they learn how to prepare it! From apple sauce to hummus, something delicious is always cooking after school.



The David and Leila Centner Charitable Foundation Culinary Center is the hearth of Lotus Village, a source of nourishment, nurturing, learning, shared community and empowerment on every level. In this beautiful, state of the art, professional kitchen, our **Culinary Team serves up 350,000+ meals with love each year.** The Internship Program and Children's Cooking classes teach food safety, basic cooking and life skills, and the importance of a healthful, nutritious diet. In tandem with the seed to harvest educational programming of "The Farm", our children and families not only learn how their food grows, they experience the freshness of farm to table, turning our home grown greens into delicious meals and snacks enjoyed by everyone.



### Internship Program

Many of our youth have never had an opportunity to gain meaningful work experience. In our Culinary Internship Program, we offer a four-week paid internship to women and youth. The Culinary Center offers job readiness training to become Safe Food Handler Certified and gain hands-on real world experience, building skills, confidence and self esteem. Upon the completion of our program, interns are connected to our Employment Team and partners, like CareerSource of South Florida, to get the assistance they need to secure permanent employment and put their new skills to work!



**Fresh collard greens  
grown by our Lotus Kids!**





# CHILDREN FIRST GALA SPONSORS

## Grand Sponsors \$100,000

Braman Family Foundation  
Martin Z. Margulies and Martin Z. Margulies  
Foundation

## Patron Sponsors \$25,000

Bruce and Evelyn Greer and Family  
Chandra and Michael Rudd  
H. Angela Whitman Foundation

## Host Committee \$10,000

Anne M. Levy and Richard B. Bermont  
Bilzin Sumberg  
David and Linda Frankel  
Amy and Bruce Gelb  
JPMorgan Chase & Co  
Lotspeich Family  
LSN Partners LLC, Llorente & Heckler PA  
Giselle Devera and Emily MacDonald-Korth,  
Korth Family Foundation  
Royal Caribbean International, Inc.

## Supporting Sponsors \$5,000

Kerrin and Peter Bermont  
Ronald L. Book, PA and Lauren's Kids Foundation  
Daniel Nir and Jill E Braufman Family Foundation  
DRRT  
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Honorable Audrey M. Edmonson, Chairwoman,  
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners  
Julie Grimes  
M2E Consulting Engineers

## Friends of Lotus \$2,500

Vivian Pfeiffer, Phillips  
Mark Scharnitz and Manuel Iraola  
Antonia Wright  
Ray Ellen and Allan Yarkin  
Brown & Brown of Florida, Inc.  
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC  
Fain Family Foundation  
Firestone Capital Management  
Heinemann Americas, Inc.  
Miami Association of Fire Fighters Local 587  
Millares Asset Management  
Schwartz Media Strategies





# CHILDREN FIRST GALA HONOREES



## Leadership Award

Miami-Dade County Mayor, Carlos A. Gimenez

Mayor Gimenez's tireless work surrounding the issues of domestic violence and homelessness have provided life saving resources and supports for countless women and children in our community. Through his leadership and commitment, the women and children of Lotus House and so many others in our County are afforded pathways to safer, brighter futures, free of violence and abuse.



## It Takes a Village Award

Miami-Dade County Chairwoman, Audrey M. Edmonson

Proudly representing the community of Overtown, home to Lotus Village, Chairwoman Edmonson has been a champion for women, children and marginalized people in our community for over a decade. She has dedicated her life to giving a voice to those who have been silenced, creating a village of community support and programs aimed at advancing their lives.



## Children First Award

President & CEO, The Children's Trust, James R. Haj

A lifelong advocate for children, particularly those with special needs, Haj embodies Lotus House's "children first" principle, understanding that real change starts with our littlest ones. His work has made it possible for children in our community to heal, grow and thrive, despite the obstacles they and their families may be facing.



## Volunteer of the Year Award

Jada Portela

As a mother of two, Mrs. Portela knows the impact that love and consistency can make in a child's life. For years, she has replicated that formula with Lotus House children. From running a marathon with funds dedicated to Lotus House, to hosting weekly arts and crafts activities for our children, and purchasing holiday wishlist items, she has reminded us time and time again that the impact of a volunteer is truly immeasurable.



## Volunteer of the Year Award

Jacqueline Nickelberry

A true philanthropist, Ms. Nickelberry has made a career of pioneering and advocating for causes deeply important to her and her community. Through a serendipitous series of events, she came to Lotus House after an act of kindness for a woman seeking refuge on a bench near her home. Through a global gift registry spearheaded by her, the women and babies of Lotus House have received countless donations from women all over the world.



# WHERE CHILDREN CAN...

Women, youth and children benefit from holistic programming classes scheduled daily, engaging all ages in therapeutic activities aimed at creative expression through the arts, exercise, yoga, dance and movement, fieldtrips and a wide range of activities. The bond created between mother and child during play is one that allows for healing and strengthened relationships. **Our programming rooms were created with mom and child in mind, offering them spaces and activities that will help them heal, grow and learn together.**

## CREATE

In the **Martin Z. Margulies Foundation Art & Activities Lab**, we have seen firsthand the healing power of art on so many levels, giving voice to those who have survived by being invisible, touching our creative source, and reminding us all of our profound interconnection. In the Lab, the arts are explored as alternative pathways to healing and expression. The Lab is equipped with paint and easels, needle and thread, brush and paper, wire and beads, and all matter of materials and the glue which holds us all together. Collaborating with artists and arts organizations, the arts and activities lab is a place of creative freedom and healing.



## RELAX



Being homeless is one of the most isolating experiences women, youth and children can have. So often we hear from the women and youth that the loss of dignity, identity and social inclusion is more traumatic than the accompanying loss of material possessions. Our goal in the **Vivian Morera Healing Hands Salon** is to restore both inner and outer beauty and a sense of self-worth for those who have struggled on the streets, to prep for that important interview, or to ensure that our youth and children do not feel that they stand out at school. This salon reinforces what we already know, LOVE heals and uplifts. From hair cuts and hair styles, to braiding and hair treatments, our children

love the salon! Mini manicures and back to school hair cuts are some of the activities held in the salon with the help of our state certified volunteers. A little pampering in between play time is another way our kids feel loved and cared for at Lotus Village.

19-20

230+  
salon services

650+  
field trips & cultural/  
recreational activities

1,500+  
arts & crafts activities

900+  
activities in the yoga &  
meditation room



# PLAY

One of our top priorities at Lotus Village is to make sure our children feel safe and are allowed to just be kids. During infancy and early childhood, children develop their capacity for trust, self-esteem, conscience, empathy, problem solving, focused learning and self-control. Childhood is a time of intense growth and development in all areas, including intellectual, social and emotional development, laying the foundation for their success in school and later life. In the **H. Angela Whitman and Family Children's Playroom**, we see this first hand. Filled with laughter and fun, this room is always buzzing with excitement. Children and their moms participate in structured play, such as puppet shows and games, to free style where the exuberance of youth bubbles over and spills out in smiles and peals of laughter. Either way, we know families that play together, stay together!

# MOVE

## **The Wildflower Yoga & Meditation Room and Zen Garden**

is where our children of all ages are able to heal from within and discover the joy of yoga, meditation, dance, movement, and more. Programming such as dance and exercise classes along with imagination workshops for our guests keep our sheltered children healthy both physically and mentally.



# SPECIAL EVENTS

We love to celebrate at Lotus House. Whether it is a holiday or a Friday night, with the help of volunteers, our programming team brings the house to life. **Learn how you can become involved at [lotushouse.org](http://lotushouse.org).**

- Monthly Birthday Parties
- Quarterly Baby Shower
- Martin Luther King Jr Day
- International Women's Day
- PRIDE
- Memorial Day
- High School and GED Graduation
- Juneteenth Celebration
- Back to School
- Prom
- Thanksgiving Celebration
- Holiday Brunch



# LOTUS HOUSE THRIFT CHIC BOUTIQUE

Lotus House Thrift Chic Boutique is the shelter's donation center, an innovative boutique, and retail job readiness training program. Located near Wynwood, we specialize in designer, vintage, like new and gently used clothing, furniture, collectables and much more – all at beautiful prices! But the best part follows.

## Ever wonder what happens to your donations? Take a look!



All clothing donations are sorted by kind and size so we can easily shop for our guests!

**STEP 1:** Donors drop off donations at Lotus House Thrift

**STEP 2:** The Thrift Team sorts and organizes the donated items in our Donation Center (adjacent to the Chic Boutique). Items not currently needed by Lotus House or its sheltered women and children, it is merchandized by the retail job training program participants on the store floor.

**STEP 3:** The Thrift team receives clothing voucher requests from the Lotus House for sheltered women and children. The Thrift Team promptly fills the voucher and drops it off at the shelter, or it may be used to outfit the homes of women and children as they depart to their new homes.

**STEP 4:** Shop! Visit our store and support Lotus House women and youth as they work to build safer, brighter futures for themselves and their families.



Lotus Intern filling a clothing voucher



**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM:** Lotus House Thrift Chic Boutique is a "real world," working retail classroom staffed by Lotus House interns and alumni. Our Retail Job Training program offers our interns hands-on job readiness training in the retail business, and an opportunity to learn about every aspect of operations of a retail store, including marketing and sales strategies, money-handling and cash register skills, receiving and displaying merchandise, sorting and storing inventory donations, and developing customer service skills.

**1,000+  
vouchers  
are filled  
annually!**



Art generously donated by David Anasagasti



# OUR PINK TRUCKS!

**WE PICK UP FURNITURE DONATIONS!**

Managed by alumni of Lotus House and Thrift Team members, our pink trucks will come to your house to pick up large furniture items! Call us today to schedule a pick up at **305.576.4112**.



## FROM YOUR HOME TO THEIRS!

### HAVE FURNITURE AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME?

Our team can pick it up! We use furniture and home good donations to outfit over 300 alumni households a year! We are always in need of:

- Beds (frames & mattresses), all sizes
- Toddler Beds
- Cribs
- Small Couches
- Small Tables
- Chairs
- Basic Household items

We ask that all donations come in new/gently used conditions. No missing parts, broken pieces, stains, etc. please. Thank you!

**2040 NW 7th Ave**  
**Miami, FL 33127**

**Tuesday-Saturday**  
**10am-7pm**

**305.576.4112**

**@LotusHouseThrift**

**300+**  
alumni house-  
holds outfitted  
annually!



Household items in our Donation Center, used for moveouts



Photos taken by our team of our alumni's new apartments. Fully furnished with donations from Thrift!



# 2019 DONORS

## \$2,000,000+

Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust

## \$850,000+

The Children's Trust

## \$350,000+

Miami-Dade County Office of Management and Budget

## \$300,000+

Florida Office of the Attorney General- Victims of Crime Act

## \$250,000+

Anonymous  
Florida Association of Free and Charitable Clinics  
Florida Department of Education

## \$200,000+

United States Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children, Youth, and Families

## \$100,000+

The Irma and Norman Braman Philanthropic Fund  
Martin Z. Margulies & Martin Z. Margulies Foundation  
United States Veterans Administration

## \$70,000+

The Batchelor Foundation  
City of Miami  
Bruce and Evelyn Greer, Greer Family Fund

## \$50,000+

Albert and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation  
H. Angela Whitman Foundation, Inc.  
Helen's Hope Foundation  
The Matthew S. Greer Fund  
Sotheby's

## \$30,000+

Jane and Amir Gold  
Frontier Co-op Giving Fund Frontier National Products Co-op of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation  
The Miami Foundation Community Grants Program  
Tom Thumb Food Stores, Inc.

## \$25,000+

The Bloom Foundation  
CVS Health  
Maria Marshall

## \$20,000+

Denise Moon Memorial Fund at The Miami Foundation  
Morris and Anita Broad Philanthropic Fund  
The State Attorney's Fund for a Safe and Healthier Community at The Miami Foundation  
Under Armour

## \$15,000+

Florida Blue Foundation  
Miami Dolphins Foundation  
Hermine Seiden  
The Spionkop Charitable Trust  
The TJX Foundation, Inc.

## \$10,000+

Aero Accessories  
Bank of America  
Baptist Health South Florida  
Bilzen Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod LLP  
Davita  
Downrite Engineering Corporation  
Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation  
Dr. David and Linda Frankel  
Gold Coast Beverage, LLC  
Wilfredo Gort  
Anthony Grant  
Health Foundation of South Florida  
Tiffany and Alexander Heckler  
Hillsdale Fund, Inc.  
Joseph H. and Florence A. Roblee Foundation  
Giselle Devera and Emily MacDonald-Korth, Korth Family Foundation  
Lady Suzanna P. Tweed and Carleton Tweed Charitable Foundation, Inc  
LGBTQ Project Fund at The Miami Foundation  
Lotspeich Family  
M2E Consulting Engineers  
Medtronic  
Jada and Pedro Portela  
Publix Super Markets Charities  
Ted and Nena Rich  
Viacom  
Zonta Club of Miami Lakes Foundation, Inc

## \$5,000+

Andrew L. Ansin  
Alberto Guttman & Issac Almosny Cassel & Cassel, P.A.  
Edna Wardlaw Charitable Trust  
Leon & Dov Falic  
Julie Grimes  
Heinemann Americas, Inc.  
Hello! Florida Destination Management  
JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
The Law Offices of Gonzalez & Associates  
Ira and Cynthia Leesfield  
Mango's Tropical Café  
Mariner Foundation  
Mary Carol Mark  
Nat and Pat Moore  
Fred and Iris Pollack  
The Popeyes Foundation  
Manolo Reyes  
Robert and Emily Ruwitch  
Schwartz Media Strategies  
Samantha Seiden Menedez/Interstate Screw Corp.  
The Shikany Family  
Larry and Pat Stewart  
String Bag Project  
Louis Sunshine  
Vous Church, Inc.  
Walmart  
Yardi Systems, Inc.

## \$2,500+

Cleve and Cindy Bell  
Brown and Brown, Inc.  
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC  
Cassel Salpeter & Co., LLC  
Charlotte and Phil Cassel  
Cisco Systems, Inc.  
The Cowles Charitable Trust  
DRRT  
EveryMundo  
Fain Family Foundation  
Robert Fagenholz  
Marcus and Annie Faust  
Fifth Generation Inc.  
Mark Fisher  
Freight Farms, Inc.  
Rachel Wagner Furst  
Gummankonda Reddy Foundation  
Arlene and Richard Haft  
Jay and Caroline Schecter Charitable Fund  
Jessie Trice Community Health System  
JoAnn Bass Charitable Fund  
Billy and Aimee Krauss  
John Jeffrey Lane  
Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton  
The Leon J. Simkins Charitable Foundation  
Anne M. Levy and Richard B. Bermont  
MAT Concessionaire LLC  
MEJOR Fund of the Northern Trust  
Charitable Giving Program at the Chicago Community Foundation  
Millares Asset Management, LLC  
Dr. Gordon Miller  
Taylor and Angelica Palank  
Pepsi Co.  
Protiviti  
Rene Garcia/People for Accountable Government  
Mark Scharnitz and Manuel Iraola  
Jacqueline Simkin  
Amira and Ronald Simkins  
TD Bank  
Women's Fellowship of Plymouth Congregational Church  
Antonia Wright

## SUNDARI FOUN CONSOLIDATED AUDITED FINANCIAL STA The 2020 annual budget for Lotus House is approx 1,200 women, youth an



Donations to The Sundari Foundation, Inc. dba Lotus House are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by IRC section 501(c)(3). The Tax ID # is 81-0652266. A copy of the 2020 annual budget for Lotus House is available by calling toll free 800-436-7352 within the state. Recommendation by the state.



# 2020 DONORS

## \$2,000,000+

Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust

## \$850,000+

The Children's Trust

## \$500,000+

Fisher Island Gives at Miami Foundation

## \$300,000+

Miami-Dade County Office of Management and Budget

Miami Dade County Domestic Violence Funding

## \$250,000+

Arison Art Foundation

## \$150,000+

City of Miami

Florida Office of the Attorney General-Victims of Crime Act

The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation

## \$100,000+

Allegany Franciscan Ministries & Common Good Initiative

Badia Spices, Inc.

DadeFund, Inc. at The Miami Foundation

Florida Association of Free and Charitable Clinics

State of Florida, Department of Health

United States Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children, Youth and Families

## \$50,000+

Bank of America

Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation-Innovation Award

DRRT

Florida Department of Education

The Peacock Foundation

Christine Stiefel

US FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program via United Way

United States Veterans Administration

The Batchelor Foundation

The Wildflower Foundation

## \$40,000+

Anonymous

## \$25,000+

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anthony R. Abraham Foundation

The Berlin Family Foundation

Bruce and Evelyn Greer, Greer Family Fund

CVS Health

Hillsdale Fund

J. Jil Compassion Fund

Martin Z. Margulies & Martin Z.

Margulies Foundation

Morris and Anita Broad Philanthropic Fund

Robert and Emily Ruwitch

The State Attorney's Fund for a Safer and Healthier Community at The Miami Foundation

## \$20,000+

Denise Moon Memorial Fund at The Miami Foundation

Hillsdale Fund

The Sunshine Foundation

## \$15,000+

H. Angela Whitman Foundation, Inc.

David and Leila Centner Charitable Foundation

Joseph H. and Florence A. Roblee Foundation

Mollie Zweig Foundation

Solomon Family Foundation

Verizon

## \$10,000+

Dr. John T. MacDonald Foundation

Edna Wardlaw Charitable Trust

Giselle Devera and Emily MacDonald-Korth, Korth Family Foundation

JoAnn Bass Charitable Fund

Jodi Bowles

National Life Group

Ted and Nena Rich

Teresa Merritt, Merritt Charitable Foundation, Inc.

The Shikany Family

Waste Connections

Zegar Family Fund

## \$5,000+

Brooke Roberts-Webb

David Lease

Green Lewis Charitable Fund

IberiaBank

Isabela and David Grutman

Jay and Caroline Schecter Charitable Fund

John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Juan Toro

Julie McDermott

Larry and Pat Stewart

Luis Gerardo Garcia

Mango's Tropical Café

MEJOR Fund of the Northern Trust

Charitable Giving Program at the Chicago Community Foundation

Merritt Charitable Fund

Munoz Family Fund

The Cowles Charitable Trust

The Miami HEAT Charitable Fund

Publix Super Market Charities

United Glass Metal Yapi

Walmart

Yardi Systems, Inc.

## \$2,500+

Aero Accessories

Allison Beckham

Chris Hodgkins

Cisco Systems, Inc.

Cleve and Cindy Bell

Coral Gables Community Foundation

De La Torre Family Fund

Emily Schumm

Evelyn Vail

Gold Coast Beverage, LLC

John Jeffrey Lane

Jorge Perez

Juan and Polly DeAngelo

Miami Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Michael and Chandra Rudd

Paula Lowenstein-Boano

Shelly Reiter

The Miami Tunnel

The Sunny Project

The Twenty Little Working Girls Fund at the Coral Gables Community Foundation

Tiffany Heckler

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Constance Collins

President and Executive Director

### John Sumberg

Vice President

### Kim Abreu

Treasurer

### Julie Lotspeich

Secretary

### Cindy Bell

David Berdugo

Seth Cassel

Ana Cousins

Giselle Devera

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Nat Moore

Sheila Oretsky

Tomás P. Regalado

Nena Rich

Dwayne Robinson

Tadd Schwartz

Mark Tamis

Dr. Kathryn Villano

Debra Wechsler

Antonia Wright

Faith Xenos

## FOUNDATION, INC

## STATEMENTS 2019 FISCAL YEAR EXPENSES

approximately \$9.5 million, allowing us to serve over 100,000 children each year.



Program Services Fundraising

These expenses are deductible to the full extent allowable under the law. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or



# LOTUS ENDOWMENT FUND

## Make Life, Make Love, Your Legacy

In 2007, a year after the opening of Lotus House, Lotus Endowment Fund, Inc., a 501c3 tax exempt charitable foundation, was organized to support Lotus House and other initiatives of the Sundari Foundation, Inc. to prevent and end homelessness. We share the vision of Lotus House that every woman, youth and child experiencing homelessness will have the opportunity to heal, learn, build the foundation for a brighter future, and blossom into who they are truly meant to be. We support the important mission of Lotus House to improve the lives of women, youth and children by providing sanctuary, support, education, tools and resources that empower them to improve the quality of their lives on every level, achieve greater self sufficiency, and build safe, secure lives. In their dreams come true, we enrich our community with the fruit of their potential realized. We advocate on behalf of women, youth and children experiencing homelessness to raise awareness of their special needs; inspire innovative, holistic solutions that truly break the cycle of abuse, domestic violence and homelessness; and advance research and enlightened social policies for greater understanding, social inclusion and resources for women, youth and children in need. In supporting the vision and mission of Lotus House, Lotus Endowment Fund helps to assure the financial stability and long term viability of Sundari Foundation, Inc., so that Lotus House in Lotus Village can continue and expand its life changing work on behalf of women, youth and children experiencing homelessness. Through its subsidiary, Lotus Village Development, LLC, Lotus Endowment Fund sponsored the development of Lotus Village, the new home of Lotus House, the Micky and Madeleine Arison Family Foundation Children's Wellness Center, the David and Leila Centner Culinary Center, the Lotspeich Family Education Center, Vivian Morera Healing Hands Salon and neighborhood health clinic by Jessie Trice Community Health Systems. The facilities are provided to Lotus House via long term lease in combination with structured tax credit financing. Thanks to the generosity of our Founders and legacy donors, Lotus Village is a prototype for the future, based on principles of community, collaboration and putting children first.

## BECOME A FOUNDER

### Endow Life Changing Supportive Services. Name a Floor, a Wing or Room in Lotus Village.

Becoming a Founder is as simple as making a pledge to Lotus Endowment Fund, Inc. of \$50,000 or more over a period of up to five years, or arranging a legacy gift in your estate plans of at least equal amount. Whether you choose to name a room or an entire floor, your gift of love will have an indelible impact on the lives of impoverished women, youth and children. Naming opportunities in Lotus Village vary with the nature of planned gifts. Specific programs and positions may also be endowed. With wrap around support services like counseling, education, life skills, job readiness training, medical and mental health care, healing arts and programming, and service driven research and advocacy to reclaim lives and build the foundation for brighter futures, you can support specific programs or life-saving shelter operations. We can help you tailor your gift to achieve your philanthropic goals. By making a gift to Lotus Endowment, you help to assure that Lotus Village will be a resource for women, youth and children in need for generations to come. Your pledge or legacy gift is truly life- saving for the most needy and fragile among us, helping to provide a sanctuary with wrap around support services like counseling, education, key life skills, job readiness training, medical and mental health care, healing arts and activities to reclaim lives and build the foundation for brighter futures. A gift to Lotus Endowment is a gift of love, a gift of life, helping to prevent and end homelessness. For more information on how to make a pledge or legacy gift to Lotus Endowment Fund, please contact: Constance Collins, [constance@lotusendowment.org](mailto:constance@lotusendowment.org). We are here to help you make a gift of life, a gift of love, for generations to come.



Lotus Endowment Fund, Inc., is a 501c3 supporting foundation, benefiting Lotus House and other initiatives of the Sundari Foundation, Inc. Donations to Lotus Endowment Fund, Inc. are deductible to the full extent allowable under IRC section 501c3. The Tax ID # of Lotus Endowment Fund, Inc. is 92-0233563. A copy of the official registration and financial information (Endowment #CH26128) filed with the State of Florida may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll free 800-436-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.



# OUR FOUNDERS

## ♥ \$25,000,000+

Martin Z. Margulies and Martin Z. Margulies Foundation, Sponsor of the Art and Activities Lab

## ♥ \$3,000,000+

Micky and Madeleine Arison Family Foundation, Sponsor of the Children's Wellness Center and Pavilion

## ♥ \$2,500,000+

Anonymous

Norman and Irma Braman and Braman Family Charitable Foundation

## ♥ \$1,000,000+

Anonymous, Sponsor of a Women's Residential Wing

Carnival Foundation, Inc., Sponsor of the Play Therapy Rooms, Children's Wellness Center

David and Leila Centner Charitable, Sponsor of the Culinary Center

The Looby Family Foundation, Sponsor of a Family Residential Program Wing

Elizabeth and Jay Lotspeich, Julie Lotspeich, and Dr. Kathryn and David Villano, Sponsor of the Education Center

Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd., Sponsor of Residential Community Family Rooms

## ♥ \$750,000+

Civic Construction, Inc., In-Kind Sponsor of Lotus Village

H. Angela Whitman Foundation, Inc., Sponsor of Children's Playroom

## ♥ \$500,000+

Behar Font Partners, PA, In-Kind Sponsor of Lotus Village

Bilzin Sumberg LLP, In-Kind Sponsor of the Operations Support Center

Morris and Anita Broad Philanthropic Fund, Sponsor of the Reflection Garden

Ralph and Vivian Morera, Sponsor of the Healing Hands Salon

## ♥ \$300,000

The Wildflower Foundation, Sponsor of the Yoga and Meditation Room and Zen Garden

## ♥ \$200,000+

Bank of America Charitable Foundation

Cole, Scott, and Kissane, PA, In-Kind Sponsor of Lotus Village

Miami-Dade County Public Housing and Community Development

John and Jo Sumberg, Sponsor of the Operations Support Center Conference Room

TD Charitable Foundation

## ♥ \$100,000+

Anonymous

Dr. Gordon Miller, Sponsor of a Dental Operatory/Sterilization Room

Michael and Chandra Rudd, Sponsor of Two Residential Units and In-Kind Sponsor of Lotus Village

Luis Vidal, In-Kind Sponsor of Lotus Village

Ortega Family Foundation and Wohlberg Family Foundation, Sponsor of a Counseling Room

## ♥ \$50,000+

Richard Bermont and Anne Levy, Sponsor of a Residential Unit

Midmark Corporation, In-Kind Sponsor of Lotus Village

Moduform, Inc., In-Kind Sponsor of Lotus Village

Northern Trust

Alan and Claudia Omsky, In-Kind Sponsor of Lotus Village

D. Jerry Sall, Sponsor of a Residential Unit

Ronald and Hermina Seiden

Natalie Brod Strauss, Sponsor of a Residential Unit

SB Friedman Development Advisors, In-Kind Sponsor of Lotus Village

Schwartz Media Strategies, In-Kind Sponsor of Lotus Village

The Miami Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Diane Walder, Sponsor of a Residential Unit

Faith Xenos, Sponsor of a Residential Family Unit



Lotus Endowment Fund, Inc.





# WAYS TO GIVE

## LOTUS HOUSE

Email [love@lotushouse.org](mailto:love@lotushouse.org)

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Online [lotushouse.org](http://lotushouse.org)

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Call (754)465-5783, and ask for  
Bea Gonzalez

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Check Make payable to  
"Lotus House" and mail to:  
3921 Alton Rd #468,  
Miami Beach, FL 33140

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Other All in kind donations can be  
brought to our donation center  
located at: 2040 NW 7th Ave,  
Miami, FL 33127,  
Tuesday-Saturday  
from 10am-7pm; for large  
furniture pick up, please call:  
305-576-4112

*Lotus House* where hope blossoms  
sundari foundation, inc

## LOTUS ENDOWMENT

Email [love@lotusendowment.org](mailto:love@lotusendowment.org)

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Online [lotusendowment.org](http://lotusendowment.org)

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Call (305)613-1573, and ask for  
Constance Collins

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Check Make payable to  
"Lotus Endowment Fund" and  
mail to: 3921 Alton Rd #470,  
Miami Beach, FL 33140

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Other For gifts of stock, annuities,  
insurance, property, legacy, wills  
and estate planning,  
please call (305)613-1573 or  
email [love@lotusendowment.org](mailto:love@lotusendowment.org).



Lotus Endowment Fund, Inc.