



# FACT SHEET

## URGENT, INC.

- Founded: 1994
- Status: 501 (c) 3 community based organization, community development organization
- President: Henry Crespo, Sr.
- Mission: To Empower and Revitalize Urban Communities
- Provider of social service, education, training and affordable housing
- Serves government, community, schools and non-profits
- Leading provider for youth development programs in Miami Dade County
- Recognized as Shining Star Award Winner for Prevention Programs by the Dept. of Juvenile Justice in 2004

## HEADQUARTERS AND PROGRAM/SERVICE LOCATIONS

**Headquarters in Miami, Florida-** 1600 NW 3rd Ave. Bldg. D Miami, FL 33136

- Targeted Communities: City of Miami District 5, Miami-Dade County District 3 & 9
- Targeted Neighborhoods: Overtown, Liberty City, Little Haiti, Goulds
- Program Locations: Booker T. Washington Senior High, Miami Central Senior High, Westview Middle, Miami Edison Middle School, Miami Edison Senior High School, Goulds Elementary, Phillis Wheatley Elementary, Paul Laurence Dunbar Elementary, Lenora B. Smith Elementary

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Dennis Horton, Chairperson
- Jeanette Stanely, Secty/Treasure
- Marcos Lapciuc

### MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Henry Crespo, Sr., President
- Saliha Nelson, Vice President
- Shedia Nelson, Programs Manager

### GRANTORS

- The Children's Trust
- Alliance for Aging
- Dept. of Elder Affairs
- Alliance for Human Services
- Miami Dade County
- Women's Fund of Miami Dade County
- City of Miami, District 5

### INITIATIVES

- Rites of Passage Youth Empowerment Academy
- Intergenerational Project
- Pregnancy Prevention Project
- Youth Empowerment Summer Camp
- Youth Empowerment After School Program
- Affordable Single Family Home Development

### CORE SERVICES

- Skill Development Workshops
- Parenting Skills Workshops
- Caregiver Support Groups
- Sitter Service
- Youth Job Readiness and Career Internships
- Performance and Visual Arts
- Case management

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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URGENT, Inc. stands for Urban Renewal Greater Enhancement National Team. The organization was founded in 1994 to empower and revitalize urban communities. URGENT, Inc. aims to provide the opportunities for urban residents to develop the knowledge, skills, and opportunities needed to create and shape urban renewal within their communities.

Since 1999, URGENT Inc. has empowered youth and families through its Rites of Passage Youth Empowerment Academy. The Academy is an intensive, focused and sustained effort which empowers youth with the knowledge, skills and abilities to transition successfully from childhood to adulthood. At the same time, the Academy offers support and training to caregivers so that the youth in their care may become productive, positive and contributing members of society.

## rites of passage youth empowerment academy

The mission of the Rites of Passage Youth Empowerment Academy is to empower youth with a developed sense of purpose and meaning in which to live their lives. In doing so, we assist young people in attaining the knowledge and accepting the responsibilities, privileges and duties of an adult member of society and promote positive, effective life choices.

## services

URGENT, Inc. provides youth with a series of skill development workshops including training modules on the following topics: personal development, personal health and hygiene, creating positive relationships, business and economic literacy, civic engagement, conflict resolution, the power of creativity, career development, academic achievement, environmental appreciation, real life 101-independent living skills and technology literacy. Workshops are offered after school 2-4 times a week for 2 hours. Workshops are enhanced through case management, skill building retreats, outings and community service projects. For caregivers, including grandparents raising grandchildren, we offer an 8-week parenting skills course, support groups, family bonding workshops and family outings.

## clients

The target population for participation in the ROP Academy has been predominately Black and Haitian youth and families who reside in the communities of Overtown, Liberty/Model City, Little Haiti and Goulds.

## staff

All staff and adult volunteers are background screened by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Mandatory trainings for all direct service staff include Child/Elder Abuse and Domestic Violence identification and reporting and First Aid and CPR certification.

## accomplishments

In the past three years, participants in have shown:

- 78% improved rate of school attendance
- 63% improvement in grade point averages
- 84% reduction in school suspensions and referrals

## economic development

Urgent, Inc. is now working with Miami-Dade County's Infill Housing Initiative by building affordable single family homes. This initiative is an innovative housing effort administered by Miami-Dade Housing Agency to revitalize neighborhoods by expanding homeownership opportunities in urban areas.



# EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of URGENT, Inc. is to revitalize and empower urban communities.

## VISION STATEMENT

To help create, renew and sustain vibrant urban communities through the use of the arts, culture, and youth, family, social and economic development.

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### **Youth Empowerment After School Program, 2006-Present**

Urgent, Inc.'s Youth Empowerment After School Program provides a free high quality fun, safe and enriching after school program for elementary school youth utilizing best practice strategies which support national out-of-school time program standards during the school year.

### **In-Fill Affordable Housing Initiative, 2004-Present**

Urgent, Inc. is now working with Miami-Dade County's Infill Housing Initiative. This initiative is an innovative housing effort administered by Miami-Dade Housing Agency to revitalize neighborhoods by expanding homeownership opportunities in urban areas. The main effort of the program is devoted to recycling abandoned lots and turning community eyesores into healthy neighborhoods therefore, generating a positive property tax base. The Initiative serves as a catalyst for servicing the County's overwhelming demand to create affordable housing and homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families.

### **Youth Empowerment Summer Camp, 2002-Present**

URGENT, Inc.'s Youth Empowerment Summer Camp (Y.E.S. Camp) provides a fun, safe, nurturing and comfortable environment for girls ages 6-13 with high quality programming utilizing research based strategies that support National School Age Care Alliance (NSACA) program standards. The overall goal of Y.E.S. Camp is to increase campers' leadership abilities, decision-making and initiative skills and self-efficacy through the institution of daily skill building and development workshops, pro-social recreational activities, community service projects, family building sessions, case management services and the end of camp recognition ceremony.

### **Pregnancy Prevention Project, 2001-Present**

The ROP pregnancy prevention program targets girls in the 5th-12th grade. Its focus is to increase social competence, conflict resolution, negotiation and decision-making skills, and self-efficacy as a means of reducing teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections and substance abuse.

### **Intergenerational Project, 2001-Present**

Grandparents raising grandchildren, relative caregivers, and parents need supplemental support systems to fill the gap of needed social and educational resources to promote healthy families. Youth ages 5- 17 and their caregivers are target participants for this service. Support services available include educational workshops, parent skills training, youth self esteems sessions, support groups, transportation, sitter service and family outings.

### **Delinquency Prevention and Intervention Program, 1999-2004**

Through the institution of weekly educational workshops, pro-social recreational activities, peer support groups, community service projects and development focused retreats; girls ages 10-17 are equipped with the tools necessary to effect positive change in their lives. The strategies employed aim to reduce and eliminate negative behaviors and life choices by building upon existing internal and external assets. *Accolades: Shining Star Award, Florida Dept. of Juvenile Justice, 2003*

**PRODUCTIONS*****Rites of Passage Cross Over and Community Celebration***

Hadley Park Black Box Theatre, 2006-2007  
Booker T. Washington Senior High School, 2003-2005  
The Historic Lyric Theatre, 2002  
Gibson Park, 2001

**CONFERENCES**

Family Building Summit, 2005  
Relative Caregiver Support Conference, 2001

**CERTIFICATIONS**

Youth Entrepreneurship, Rites of Passage Elder and Curriculum Training, Arise Life Skills Instruction, Life Skills Training Program-Elementary and Middle School Youth, Peace Education-I CARE, Postponing Sexual Involvement, Managing Pressures Before Marriage, WAIT Training, SPARK-Sports, Play, Recreation for Kids, Black Parenting Curriculum, CPR/First Aid, Domestic Violence and Child and Elder Abuse Reporting

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Florida After School Alliance  
National Afterschool Association  
Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce

**CURRENT\* AND PAST COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Arthur and Polly Mays Middle School  
Black Archives History and Research Foundation  
Booker T. Washington Senior High\*  
Child Health and Nutrition Access Project (CHANA)  
City of Miami-Office of the Mayor Youth Council\*  
Computer Tutoring by T-Mack  
Creative Concepts  
Daily Bread Food Bank\*  
Dunbar Elementary  
Edison Courts, Miami Dade Housing  
Edison Park Elementary  
Family of Humanity, Inc.\*  
Goulds Elementary\*  
Harambee, Inc.  
Jewish Community Services-Seniors Aides Program  
Jose de Diego Middle School  
KidVentures, Inc.\*  
Lenora B. Smith Elementary\*  
Little Haiti Housing Association  
Miami Dade County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section\*  
Miami Central Senior High School\*  
Miami Dade County Public Schools\*  
Miami Dade County Public Schools-Intergenerational Programs  
Miami Edison Middle School\*  
Miami Edison Senior High School\*  
Miami-MacArthur North  
Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami (MOCA)\*

National Foundation of Teaching Entrepreneurship-South Florida, NFTE  
New Horizons, Youth on the Move Overtown Community Partnership\*  
Olinda Elementary  
One Economy  
Phyllis Wheatley Elementary\*  
Rites of Passage Youth Empowerment Foundation\*  
Sierra Club-Inner City Outings, Miami\*  
Venus Rising\*  
Westview Middle School

**PAST AND CURRENT\* FUNDERS**

Allegany Franciscan Foundation  
Alliance for Aging\*  
Alliance for Human Services\*  
The Children's Trust\*  
City of Miami, OCED  
City of Miami, Commissioner District 5\*  
City of Miami Law Enforcement Trust Fund  
Clear Channel\*  
Dade Community Foundation  
Department of Elder Affairs\*  
Department of Juvenile Justice  
In Reach Injury Free Coalition  
Miami Dade County, Department of Human Services\*  
Miami Dade County, OCED  
Miami Dept. of Cultural Affairs  
Miami Dade Empowerment Trust, Inc.  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
The Sundari Foundation, Inc.  
Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County\*