The following report is in response to Resolution No. R-145-18, sponsored by Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) on February 6, 2018, which created the Seniors Who Serve Volunteer Award Program and directed the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to further develop the program, including the program application, guidelines, and verifiable criteria to be established to show the exceptional nature of each nominee’s service. It further directs the County Mayor or Mayor’s designee to empanel an annual selection committee and establish a marketing campaign, which shall include the creation of a Seniors Who Serve page on the County’s website and feature the recognition of each award recipient with a personal profile on the County’s website.

As part of my operation to catch up on the backlog of items, we are bringing you reports that were pending from the previous administration.

The Community Action and Human Services Department (CAHSD) will administer the Seniors Who Serve program. CAHSD has more than the 30 years of experience with volunteer programs for persons fifty-five years and older, including the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), and Senior Companion Program (SCP). These programs activate more than 700 seniors to serve in their community annually. Every year in April, with the exception of the past two years due to COVID, seniors who serve in these programs are honored by the County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners in recognition of National Community Service Month. The awardees of the Seniors Who Serve program will be honored during the annual celebration beginning in 2022.

The recognition and honoring of those who volunteer to help Miami-Dade County’s most vulnerable residents sets a standard for community service, encourages commitment to the benefit of the community and inspires others to make community service a part of their lives.

The Seniors Who Serve Volunteer Award Program honors elderly residents for exceptional volunteer service in the County. Volunteers may be nominated by County residents, elected officials, a public or non-profit organization, or through self-nomination.

Award Categories

- Education/Mentoring Service: Exemplary efforts and dedication to enhancing education through volunteer tutoring or mentoring.
- Health Care Service: Improving the quality of care within health care facilities.
• Intergenerational Service: Strengthen bonds between age groups.
• Arts, Music & Entertainment Service: Commit to providing cultural, drama, visual arts, entertainment, and/or musical activities for the improvement of the community.
• Public Service: Bestow time and energy in the community through public service.

Eligibility Criteria
Nominees must be residents of Miami-Dade County, 60 years of age or older, have completed their volunteer service in Miami-Dade County within the past calendar year in one of the five award categories, and must not have been previously awarded a “Seniors Who Serve” Award.

Nomination/Application Process
The nomination application provides basic information about the program and requires the completion of general information about the nominee and nominator, including a brief description of category and service activity for which they are being nominated, and documented proof of the nominee’s volunteer service. The nomination application will be accessible on the County’s website for electronic submission or for printed submission via mail to the CAHSD Headquarters located at 701 NW 1st Court, 10th Floor, Miami, Florida 33136.

Selection Committee
The Community Action Agency (CAA) Board will establish a five-member selection committee on an annual basis to select finalists from those nominated. The Selection Committee will review the applications and verifiable criteria to select award recipients. The CAA Board is a 45-member tripartite board that serves as an advisory board to the Board. The Selection Committee will review each nomination, rate the nominees, and make their final recommendations to the County Mayor. The top candidate along with two alternates (second and third highest score) with the highest tallied score in each category will be recommended to the County Mayor for final selection. The County Mayor will make the final selection of award recipients in each category. Special consideration will be given to those nominees serving at-risk youth, older adults, veterans, homeless individuals/families, and/or other vulnerable populations in Miami-Dade County.

Timeline
The nomination period will open on December 1st of each year and remain open until January 31st. A timeframe and deadline for submission of applications, the review and recommendation process, and final selection and recognition of honorees will be posted on the Seniors Who Serve webpage on the County’s website: https://www.miamidade.gov/global/socialservices/seniors-who-serve-awards.page.

Award Ceremony and Recognition
Honorees will be recognized at the annual National Community Service Month celebration in April of each year. Additionally, a personal profile will be included on the Seniors Who Serve webpage. Runner-ups for each category will receive an honorable mention within the Seniors Who Serve webpage on the County’s website.
Promoting “Seniors Who Serve”
The Seniors Who Serve Volunteer Award Program will be promoted through the Miami-Dade County website, a press release, a ticker on the County’s TV Station and social media, and will include information on the nomination process and program criteria. Information will also be shared with various community organizations and advocacy groups. Lastly, members of the Board will be provided with communication materials to promote with constituents in their respective districts. The proposed marketing campaign would incur an estimated annual cost of $5,000.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Sonia Grice, Director, Community Action and Human Services Department, at 786-469-4616.

c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
    Gerald Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
    Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
    Office of the Mayor, Senior Staff
    Sonia Grice, Director, Community Action and Human Services Department
    Inson Kim, Director, Communications and Customer Experience Department
    Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
    Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
    Melissa Adames, Director, Clerk of the Board
Seniors Who Serve
Volunteer Awards Program

Honoring elderly residents for exceptional volunteer service in Miami-Dade County

At every Age, In Every Stage of Life, CAHSD Is Here For You
Seniors Who Serve Volunteer Award Program

Program Overview
The Seniors Who Serve Volunteer Award Program honors elderly residents for exceptional volunteer service in Miami-Dade County. To be considered for the award, nominees must have demonstrated volunteerism within any of the following categories: Education/Mentoring, Health Care, Inter-Generational, Arts, Music & Entertainment, and Public Service.

Eligibility
• A resident of Miami-Dade County.
• 60 years of age or older.
• Completed volunteer service in Miami-Dade County.
• Completed volunteer service within the past calendar year.
• Must not have been previously awarded a “Seniors Who Serve” Award.

Nominations
Volunteers may be nominated by County residents, elected officials, a public or non-profit organization, or through self-nomination.

Award Categories
To be considered for the award, nominees must assist persons through one or more of the following acts of service:

Education/Mentoring Service
Exemplary efforts and dedication to enhancing education through volunteer tutoring or mentoring.

Health Care Service
Improving the quality of care within health care facilities.

Intergenerational Service
Strengthen bonds between age groups.

Arts, Music & Entertainment Service
Commit to providing cultural, drama, visual arts, entertainment, and/or musical activities for the improvement of the community.

Public Service
Bestow time and energy in the community through public service.

Evaluation of Candidates
The Community Action Agency (CAA) Board will stand-up a five member selection committee on an annual basis to select award recipients from those nominated.

The Committee will use a scoring tool to score and rate all nominated applicants.

Selection of Candidate
The top candidate along with two alternates (second and third highest score) with the highest tallied score in each category will be recommended to the County Mayor for final selection. The County Mayor will make the final selection of award recipients in each category.

Awarding Procedure
The nominator must complete and submit the “Seniors Who Serve” application.

The nominator must submit proof that service was completed within Miami-Dade County and within the past calendar year.

The “Seniors Who Serve” Committee shall review each nomination, rate each nominee and make its recommendation.

The Mayor will make final selection of award recipients in each category.

Applications will be accepted between December 1st and January 31st

Miami-Dade County
Community Action and Human Services Department
701 NW 1st Court, 10th fl., Miami, FL 33136
786-469-4600
www.miamidade.gov/SocialServices
NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee ___________________________________________________________________

Age of Nominee _________________ Years of Service _________________________________

Nominated Category (check one box):

☐ Education/Mentoring Service  ☐ Health Care Service  ☐ Intergenerational Service
☐ Arts, Music & Entertainment Service  ☐ Public Service

Nominees’ Address __________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip Code   _________________________________________________________________

Phone: ______________________________  Email:  ____________________________________

Nominator’s Name __________________________________________________________________

Nominator’s Title/Organization   _______________________________________________________

Relation to Nominee  _________________________________________________________________

Address   ___________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip Code   _________________________________________________________________

Phone   ______________________________   Email  ____________________________________

Short Answers: Please respond to the questions below to explain to the selection committee why your nominee is most deserving of this award.

Describe the nominee’s commitment in the category in which they are nominated.

What is the effect of the nominee’s service activity or activities in the category selected?

(continued)
What are some specific contributions to the enhancement of quality of life of Miami-Dade residents demonstrated by your candidate through their community service?

What are the benefits of the nominee’s community service to At-Risk Youth, Older Adults, Veterans, Homeless Individuals/Families, and/or other vulnerable populations in Miami-Dade County?

Is there anything else about the nominee that you would like the selection committee to know?

Please identify two (2) references that can speak to the nominee’s volunteer service:

Name _______________________________ Phone _______________________________

Name _______________________________ Phone _______________________________

☐ I have included supporting documentation proving the nominee’s volunteer work was conducted within Miami-Dade County, and within the past calendar year. (Check Box)

☐ I certify that the nominee knows of and approves this nomination. (Check Box)

Signature _______________________________ Date _______________________________