



ANNUAL REPORT




**Lake Worth West Resident
Planning Group, Inc.**

Fiscal Year October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter From Our Leadership	page 3
Highlights During The Past Year	page 4
College Preparation Academy	page 6
A College Prep Student's Success Story	page 9
BRIDGES at Lake Worth West	page 10
ParentChild+	page 12
Organizational Future Plans	page 14
Staff Members 2020 - 2021	page 16
Board Members 2020 - 2021	page 17

LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group, Inc. (LWWRPG) completed 26 years of continual service to our community! We created a positive impact with programs and services for more than 2,500 residents last year who relied on us for education, guidance, and community engagement. LWWRPG had a challenging year, continuing to address COVID-19 surges while maintaining good health and safety for our residents and staff. The staff were heroes as they continued a multitude of virtual services and some outdoor activities. We never lost our focus on providing positive parenting education and reaching preschool children with kindergarten readiness skills, as well as support for struggling high school students to stay in school, graduate, and seek post-secondary education.

LWWRPG was remarkably busy this year. Navigation services continued to assist low-income residents with completing Medicaid and/or SNAP applications, applying for unemployment compensation, Covid-related rental assistance, and referrals to healthcare and essential social services. Distribution of donated food and supplies to our families became paramount and continued throughout the year, thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers. We utilized Zoom to hold weekly sessions and staff posted all activities on Facebook in English and Spanish.

None of this would be possible without our primary funders and partners. Bridges at Lake Worth West and Parent Child Plus are our two main programs funded by the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County (CSC), to whom we now report directly. We continued our partnership with Palm Beach County, Office of Community Revitalization, for the Center's facilities. Unfortunately, we faced unforeseen hazardous building issues, requiring staff to work from home most of the year. United Way of Palm Beach County and Publix Charities renewed support for the College Prep Program and United Way also awarded us a Federal CARES ACT grant. We continued working with Comcast to help residents secure internet connections. New partners, Be Well Do Well Palm Beach County and Presbyterian Mission, Committee on Self-Development of People (SDOP), granted support for Women Helping Women. LWWRPG received a new grant for financial literacy for women from Invest in Others Grants for Change, submitted by Board member, Wilfredo Ortiz. Thank you to Schumacher Auto for their support.

As you will read in the following pages, our devoted staff worked intensely to serve the needs of Lake Worth West residents, young and old, in these challenging times. LWWRPG met the exacting standards of excellence for program provision and nonprofit management. We are proud of our achievements and look forward to implementing new initiatives in the coming year.

HIGHLIGHTS DURING THE PAST YEAR



- Served 2,500 individual children, youth, adults and families through our programs and services.
- Completed purchase and branding of the 24-passenger mini-bus supported by Lost Tree Village Charitable Foundation
- Implemented the eleventh year of Bridges at Lake Worth West services, resources and referrals to young mothers, babies and families, remotely from March 2020 to September 30, 2021.
- Continued ParentChild+ home-based literacy education to parents and 78 young children, funded by the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County; provided \$10,000 in specific assistance to ParentChild+ families.
- Held the 2021 Summer Reading Loss Program remotely, teaching strategies to 26 parents to help their kindergarten children read over the summer months.
- Continued the College Prep Program for 48 high school students. 100% of 13 seniors graduated.
- Implemented the Women Helping Women wellness project; held virtual Yoga and Let's Get Cooking.



HIGHLIGHTS DURING THE PAST YEAR (CONT.)



- Began the INVEST financial literacy project for women
- Virtual English Café occurred on Tuesdays
- Safe Kids PBC hosted a Fire Safety & Home Fire Drills workshop in Spanish.
- Provided 150 children with backpacks and school supplies through a drive-through event on July 30, 2021
- Distributed 650 food and supply packages to struggling residents



- Connected 14 families to Comcast Internet to date.
- Received five grants totaling \$105,000.
- Held an online Auction to raise funds for our literacy programs.
- Earned renewed certification from Non-profits First for excellence in management.



- We wished our outgoing CEO/President, Rhonda Rogers, our best as she pursues new endeavors, and welcomed back Saidy Garzon as Executive Director/Bridges Director, and Jennie Carter as Assistant Director/Bridges Site Administrator, to lead us forward.



United Way
of Palm Beach County



Thank you for supporting this program: United Way of Palm Beach County and Publix Super Markets Charities

LWWRPG's 2020-2021 College Prep Program had another outstanding year, despite the pandemic. forty-eight (48) 9th to 12th grade students completed the program, although 54 enrolled (Goal: 50). Demographic data indicate, 96% of students were Hispanic and 4% were non-Hispanic Black; 100% resided in families with incomes at or below 100% of the federal poverty level. By gender, 85% indicated female and 15% male. By age, 67% were ages 14-17 and 33% were 18+.

Fifty-four percent resided in zip code 33461 with the remainder scattered around the county, an indication that this specialized program is needed county-wide.

The College Prep Program continued to provide in-depth student trainings, workshops, assistance, and valuable insight and exposure to college and careers for our students and families. Program Coordinator/Lead Teacher, Ms. Joyel Glaze Loiz, M.S., certified teacher, Maria Armayor, BA, and Program Assistant, Trevor Rogers expertly led the program. Significant changes and challenges included the virtual delivery method, maintaining on-going communication, and momentum and motivation of students. However, through it all, the program has not skipped a beat.

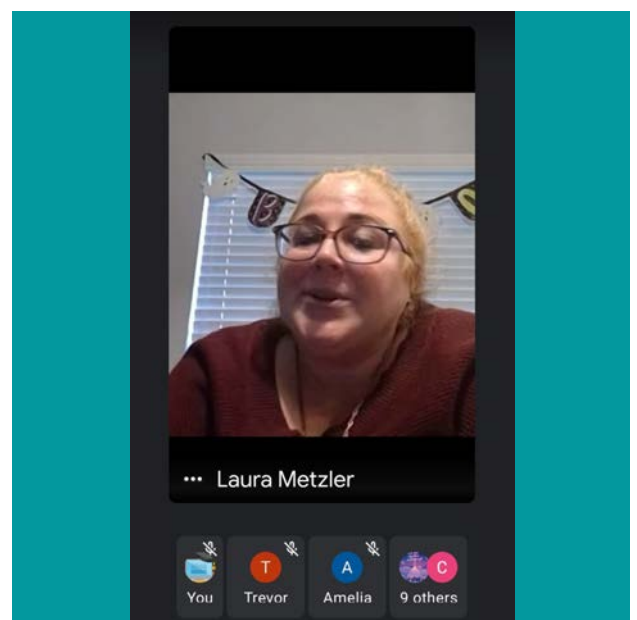


College Preparation Academy

School Year 2020-2021 Report

From October 2020 to May 2021, the program offered two separate one-hour virtual sessions on Thursdays only, a change from two sessions per week pre-pandemic. The first hour was a "Senior Only Session," followed by a whole group session for all high school grade levels. Partnering organizations and expert made informational presentations on topics of interest to the students. The certified teachers offered academic tutoring and homework assistance in reading, math and other subjects. Students accessed test preparation for Florida assessments, AP, ACT/SAT and college readiness assessments using the Khan Academy online program. College-bound seniors and parents found assistance available through partnerships with Florida College Access Network Financial Aid with Scholarship Assist, and TRIO EOC of Palm Beach State College. Staff provided career readiness exploration in partnership with Palm Beach State Trade/Vocational and Career Program, Job Corp, TRO-EOC, and PBC Schools resources for internships, apprenticeships, and volunteer opportunities. During April and May, we assisted students in identifying summer community service or internships and registering for the dual enrollment summer session. We celebrated senior graduation with a send-off dinner and gifts for seniors and their families.

During June, July and August 2021, staff held "Rising Senior College Readiness" sessions, engaging rising seniors in college/scholarship essay writing, college application account set up and completion, workshops on scholarship and financial aid process, ACT/SAT test prep, completion of various applications such as free/reduced lunch, and job applications, and research on college and/or trade schools. The Program Coordinator also helped graduated seniors transition to college. In August, staff held a virtual College Prep registration via Google Apps for the FY 2021-2022 school year. Returning students helped to recruit new participants.





Other program Activities included:

- Zoom and Google Meet sessions and some outdoor activities
- One virtual college tour with Palm Beach State College's admission series
- Three parent workshops on college financial aid (FASA), plus parent phone consultations
- Presentations from Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA) on social emotional learning, teen dating and healthy relationships, and participation in an AVDA social media motivational video contest
- Career-readiness presentations on entrepreneurship by Junior Achievement

OUTCOMES

LWWPRG's College Prep program met or exceeded its goals. 100% of participants increased their college and career preparation skills (Goal 90%). 100% of 13 seniors graduated (Goal 90%); 77% (10) seniors enrolled in college/university, 15% (2) are in a trade or other certification program and 8% (1) chose and found employment. Of 35 students in grades 9-11, 40% selected at least one course that is advanced or required for college/career entrance for the FY 21/22 school year. Despite multiple challenges this year, the College Prep Program was a remarkable success!

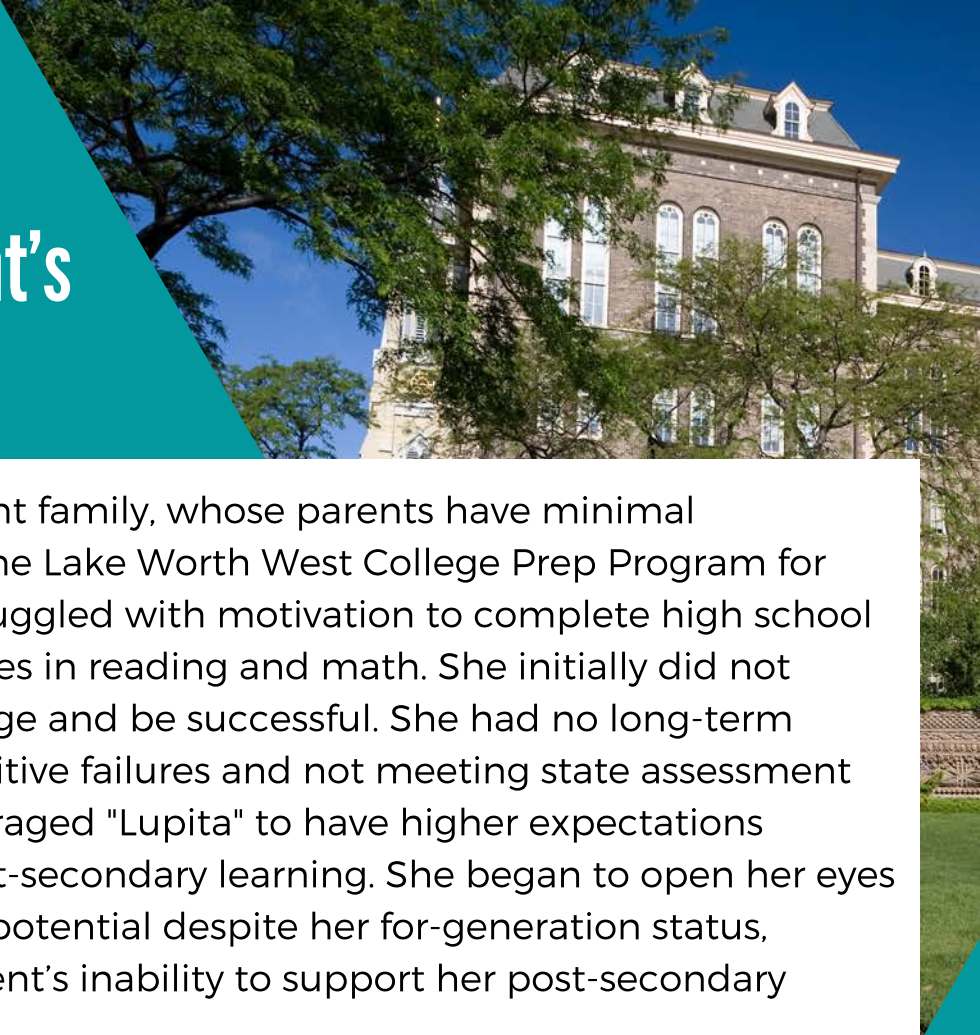


A College Prep Student's Success Story

"Lupita" is the child of a migrant family, whose parents have minimal education. She was a part of the Lake Worth West College Prep Program for more than three years and struggled with motivation to complete high school due to her academic challenges in reading and math. She initially did not believe she could attend college and be successful. She had no long-term academic dream due to repetitive failures and not meeting state assessment requirements. The staff encouraged "Lupita" to have higher expectations regarding graduation and post-secondary learning. She began to open her eyes to her possibilities and future potential despite her for-generation status, academic difficulties, and parent's inability to support her post-secondary learning desires.

Over time, the coordinator witnessed this student's belief system change regarding her abilities and the possibilities of college dreams and ambitions. She began to attend most of the college planning workshops, started to ask questions, and completed tasks assigned to her by program staff. Upon entering her senior year, she began attending tutoring sessions, our virtual tours of college campuses, and tapped into the partnership resources of TRIO EOC at Palm Beach State College.

Upon completing her Palm Beach State College Application in the May 2021, "Lupita" became determine to end her senior year strongly and enroll in college to pursue her Associates in Arts Degree. She envisioned earning a Bachelor of Arts degree at FAU or FIU. Then the reality of the cost for post-secondary learning began to set in, but her new-found personal strength allowed her to move forward. She completed the FAFSA application with the assistance of College Prep staff and tapped into Cares Act federal funding for students. She will earn her AA Degree debt free. Today, she checks in with College Prep staff to share her gratitude and provide an update on her academic success thus far in college. We eagerly await an invitation to her college graduation!



BRIDGES at Lake Worth West



Bridges at Lake Worth West is one of the ten Bridges sites in Palm Beach County that have been serving young families for eleven years. Bridges staff encourages meaningful Parent-Child interactions and helps strengthen families by providing enrichment activities that focus on communication, literacy, and sharing quality time. Activities are for children from 0-8 years of age.

Bridges also coordinates community capacity building workshops and activities for families that will increase self-sufficiency, health and wellness, resilience, and parenting skills or knowledge.



Staff screens children with the ASQ-3, a standardized tool parents complete that assesses early child development. Children who score “at risk” and of “concern” on the ASQ-3 are referred to Home Safe. This referral is made promptly for at least 80% of screenings identified as “concern”. Experts agree that early detection of developmental problems is essential to timely and effective interventions, which left unaddressed, may worsen over time.

BRIDGES at Lake Worth West

Triple P

Triple P is a parenting program that aims to prevent behavioral, emotional and developmental problems in children by enhancing the knowledge, skills and confidence of parents. There has been a steady increase in the number of families that have completed Triple P. Surveys are conducted among the parents completing 50 Triple P sessions. 100% of parents completing the program reported satisfaction after the last Triple P session.



Bridges at Lake Worth West completed 200 navigations, 73 intakes for families with children 0-8, and 25 intakes for pregnant women living in targeted zip code during the last fiscal year. Bridges seeks to create neighborhood environments that cultivate healthy, safe, and strong children. The theory of change states that if enough families are reached and become engaged with the Bridges program, this will occur.

ParentChild+



Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group, Inc. offers the ParentChild+ program through our partner, the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County. It is a home program in our assigned service area of West Palm Beach. Staff visits families at home (in-person or virtually) to promote verbal interaction, parent-child bonding, and school readiness skills for children between ages two to four years old. The program focuses on making sure children enter school ready to succeed because their parents have the knowledge and resources to build school readiness where it starts... at home.

The 2020-2021 Fiscal Year was highly successful, despite the COVID 19 pandemic. The ParentChild+ program maintained a case load of 78 active clients all year. There were 52 cases closed with 47 parents successfully completing the program and 5 dropped out due to family scheduling conflicts and other reasons. Also, during this period, 52 new families were enrolled in the program. The team of Early Learning Specialists was able to complete a total of 3,937 virtual sessions with the families. During this time, families received 913 books and 858 toys donated by the program. Timeliness of recording activities was 99.9% and timeliness of recording assessments was 96.5%. The ParentChild+ staff was able to attend virtual outreach activities at Bridges at Lake Worth West, West Palm Beach Library, Early Learning Coalition, and others.

ParentChild+



While the pandemic persisted, the ParentChild+ staff continued virtually doing outreach and encouraging person-to-person sharing between the families enrolled in the program. We also placed customized LWW ParentChild+ yard signs with program information outside of current clients' houses or apartments. The ParentChild+ Early Learning Specialists were able to attend virtual sessions. Early learning Specialist delivered toys and books plus other materials to families for a month to ensure the proper functioning of ParentChild+ Program sessions.

We implemented different strategies to get resources in the community to support enrolled families with items such as food, diapers, medicines, cleaning supplies, as well as information about COVID 19 testing, vaccinations and emotional support for kids and caregivers.

We provided the families with \$15,000 in El Bodegon Supermarket and Walmart gift cards for food. We distributed other items to families to help alleviate a bit of their needs. Various virtual training workshops and Zoom meetings for staff continued.



ORGANIZATIONAL FUTURE PLANS



Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group, Inc. is happy to announce great changes in its leadership with Saidy Garzon as the new Executive Director and Wilfredo Ortiz as the new President of the Board. Under their leadership, the organization will continue to serve the community through the Bridges at Lake Worth West, ParentChild+ and College Prep Programs. We will also continue serving adults, pregnant women, school-aged children, youth, and teens, as funding allows, while adapting to any COVID-19 changes.

Our exciting plans include:

- Move our Headquarters office to a new location
- Bring financial education and awareness to the community, by implement a Financial Literacy program sponsored by Invest in Others Charitable Foundation
- Find new sources of funding to restart the after-school programs for elementary and middle school students
- Continue the College Prep Program partnering with United Way and other funders
- Expand the ParentChild+ Program to be able to serve more children in Palm Beach County
- Continue the Women's Club, Women Helping Women wellness program and women's financial literacy services
- Provide Leadership Training and opportunities to parents so they can become Community Leaders
- Continue Comcast internet connection for qualifying families

ORGANIZATIONAL FUTURE PLANS (CONT.)

- Continue to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas by distributing food and toys to our families
- Reinstate the community engagement events with partners as the pandemic subsides.
- Host fundraising events either in-person or virtually, to increase funds for our literacy programs
- Provide transportation to members by using our brand new 26 passenger bus
- Secure new funders and continue ongoing funding partnerships
- Continue to follow non-profit management practices and adhere to prescribed standards of excellence to achieve Non-Profit First's Agency Certification of Excellence!



**Lake Worth West Resident
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STAFF MEMBERS

Saidy Garzon	Executive Director/Bridges Director
Jennie Carter	Assistant Director/Bridges Site Administrator
Milind Chokshi	Contracted CFO Accountant
Randee Lefkow	Contracted Grant Consultant
Veronica Callejas	Child Development Specialist
Hilda Wudkiewicz	Parent Educator
Aimee De Palma	Navigator
Mirian Santana	Outreach Coordinator
Trevor Rogers	Outreach Worker/College Prep Assistant
Adela Herrera	Child Watch
Joyel Glaze Loiz	College Prep Program Coordinator
Maria Armayor	College Prep Teacher
Blanca Cartagena	ParentChild+ Site Coordinator
Catalina Posada	ParentChild+ Assistant Coordinator
Luciola Figueroa	Early Learning Specialist
Arexy Bravo Stewart	Early Learning Specialist
Jennifer Cruz	Early Learning Specialist
Patricia Valldeperas	Early Learning Specialist
Andrea Croes	Early Learning Specialist

BOARD MEMBERS



Wilfredo Ortiz
President



Holly Steward
Vice President



Katheryn Wall
Secretary



Richard Llerena
Treasurer



Heath Chute
Immediate Past President



Bob Margolis
Board Member



**Lake Worth West Resident
Planning Group, Inc.**

*We are grateful to our funders,
supporters, partners, staff, and board
members for supporting our mission
and for helping us bringing
empowering services to our community.
We look forward to a healthy and bright
year of success!*

Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group, Inc.
4730 Maine Street, Lake Worth, FL 33461
www.lakeworthwest.org