



Dr. Joseph P. Burke
Superintendent of Schools

**"Student Success...
Whatever it takes"**

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To: Chief Donnie Lee
City of Key West, Police Department

Re: Grant Request
Keys Center Academy

Date: April 16, 2010

Chief Lee:

On behalf of the Keys Center Academy and the students that we serve in the Lower Keys, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you personally for your support of our program and our students with the grant award last year in the amount of \$2,500. These funds helped us to continue to meet the needs of some of our community's neediest students and their families.

You may recall that the Keys Center Academy (KCA) is *not a "traditional" alternative school*, but a positive alternative for students, who have been unsuccessful in traditional middle and high school settings. KCA integrates the best practices of "traditional" alternative schools; individualized instructional programming taught by experienced nurturing staff and garners it with a comprehensive counseling component to affect long term change in our students: intellectually, emotionally and socially.

The Keys Center Academy's mission is to be proactive and intervene to prevent high school dropout, juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, substance abuse and welfare dependency in a safe and nurturing environment. The program focuses on early intervention and prevention services for young people, 14-18 years of age, who have been identified as at-risk of dropping out of school or becoming involved with the juvenile justice system based on risk indicators that include: truancy, substance abuse, physical and emotional abuse, at risk for or currently pregnant, low self-esteem, ungovernable at home or school, living in poverty and students who lack educational support at home.

The City's grant allocation, combined with the support of many others, enabled us to expand prevention services and for the first time in Monroe County History provide gender-specific services for middle and high school at-risk boys.

The Lower Keys are served by 2 programs: the boys program located in Key West on the campus of



The Keys Center Academy
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FKCC-Public Safety Building
Key West, FL 33040
305-293-1400 ext. 51373, Fax 305-292-5156
<http://www.KeysSchools.com/KeysCenter>

HOB Middle School and the girls program located on the campus of FKCC. Recent data collected from these 2 centers show that:

- Academic and comprehensive counseling services have been provided to approximately 50 students and their families during the 2009/2010 school year
- 96% of KCA students have significantly improved their academic functioning
- 100% of our students have significantly improved their protective factors
- 92% of KCA students have improved their attendance
- 100% of our parents have monthly contact with KCA staff
- 5 seniors are on track to graduate high school

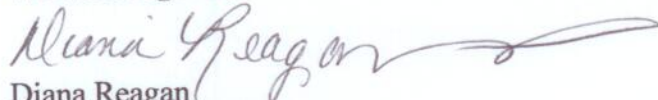
There have been no new teen pregnancies reported among the Lower Keys students and counselors have provided over 40 hours of family/parent counseling services. Currently we have 5 students in Key West who have qualified for and are participating in the Take Stock in Children, mentoring and scholarship program. As students have regained their confidence and sense of belonging, they are now giving back to the community through volunteer and community service activities.

As we continue to expand services to meet the needs of the increasing number of at-risk youth (boys and girls) in the Lower Keys, additional funding is needed. This year we are requesting an increase in funding in the amount of \$10,000 from the City of Key West's Police Department. This grant will be designated to pay a portion of the salaries for the 2 Master's level counselors serving the Lower Keys which will ensure that all KCA at-risk students receive the necessary counseling support services to get back on track and graduate high school.

For your reference, I have included an abstract of our program and an overview which details the various KCA programming components. Should you have questions or need additional information in reference to this request, please let me know.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of the students we serve in the Lower Keys. Together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of our students, now and in the future.

Warmest regards,



Diana Reagan
Development Coordinator