



Mission Statement

Through a collective impact model, Overtown Children and Youth Coalition (OCYC) serves as the backbone to support Overtown's anchoring organizations to empower all the community's children and youth to reach their full potential.

Values

- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Community
- Continuous Communication
- Empowerment
- Leadership
- Integrity

About

In 2012, the Overtown Children and Youth Coalition (OCYC) was formed by the anchoring community based nonprofit organizations in the Overtown Community:

Urgent, Inc., Overtown Youth Center, Touching Miami With Love, Lotus House, and Dress for Success with the support of the Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency and City of Miami District 5 City Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones.



Within months, additional stakeholders joined and worked together under the umbrella of Overtown Children and Youth Coalition. The groundbreaking step towards addressing the needs of Overtown's children and families with a collective impact and systems level approach instead of a service-based structure with needs addressed in siloes was well-received by the community.

OCYC continues to serve as the backbone organization to support anchoring community-based organizations to empower Overtown as a community where all children and youth reach their full potential.

The Overtown Children and Youth Coalition (OCYC) empowers Overtown’s future—one child, one family, and one community at a time. Since 2012, OCYC has served as a backbone organization uniting more than 60 partners to ensure children and youth in Historic Overtown have the resources and support they need to thrive. Through monthly collaboration across education, workforce development, health, safety, and accountability initiatives, OCYC drives systems-level change through collective action.

A critical focus of OCYC’s work is closing the digital divide. Through its Laptop Scholarship Program, OCYC has distributed 375 laptops to date, including 100 during National S.T.E.M./S.T.E.A.M. Day 2023, with a goal of equipping 5,000 households within five years. OCYC also invests in leadership development through the annual I’m the Boss of My Life Youth Conference, a free, transformative experience serving more than 375 young adults ages 16–24. Now entering its seventh year, the conference features powerful speakers, hands-on workshops, and motivational sessions designed to help participants lead with confidence, purpose, and vision. This signature event continues to spark empowerment, connection, and pride, affirming the brilliance and potential of Overtown’s emerging leaders.

Your support makes all of this work possible. Every donation fuels access to technology, strengthens youth leadership initiatives, and builds a more connected and resilient community. When we invest in our children, we invest in the future of Overtown. Together, we can do even more because every contribution, big or small, helps a young person believe in their potential and pursue their dreams.



Achoring Organizations



“By joining forces with the Coalition, we have unlocked a powerful network of dedicated partners and stakeholders, uniting our efforts towards a common goal of empowering children and youth in Overtown.”

DR. SALIHA NELSON
URGENT INC

“OCYC is a premier organization that not only gives voice to the needs of youth, families, and community spaces but they provide solutions and resources to alleviate generational issues.”

TRINA HARRIS
TOUCHING MIAMI WITH LOVE

“Remaining Knowledgeable, Maintaining a quality reputation, and being able to Endure any challenge is a Boss. I'm so thankful for the boss of my life conference because I'm now able to apply everything I learned into the boss I will be one day!”

GENESIS LOVE
STUDENT

