



Media Advisory

ChildNet to Receive \$500,000 Contribution from AT&T to Help Students Be Grounded for Life

Nonprofit is 1 of 18 Recipients to Share in \$10 Million from AT&T to Help Connect Students to Success

WHAT: [ChildNet](#), a community-based care lead agency that protects abused, abandoned and neglected children, will receive a \$500,000 contribution from AT&T this Thursday to help underserved students. The nonprofit is 1 of only 18 recipients nationwide sharing in \$10 million through AT&T's Aspire Connect to Success Competition. The competition is part of [AT&T Aspire](#), the company's signature philanthropic initiative to help students succeed in school and beyond.

Organizations selected for the Aspire Connect to Success funding use evidence based approaches to serve students and are able to demonstrate quantitative results. ChildNet has a proven track record of helping students graduate ready for career or college.

ChildNet will allocate the \$500,000 to [Best Foot Forward](#) in Palm Beach County and [Children's Harbor](#) in Broward County to fund the "Grounded for Life" program. "Grounded for Life" supports youth in foster care as they work to graduate high school.

WHEN: 1:30 p.m., Thursday, September 15

WHERE: Forest Hill High School (Principal's Conference Room)
6901 Parker Avenue
West Palm Beach, 33405

WHO: Dr. Robert Avossa, Palm Beach County School Superintendent
Frank Barbieri, Jr., Vice Chairman, Palm Beach County School Board
Larry Rein, Executive Director, ChildNet
Emilio Benitez, President and CEO, ChildNet
Debbie Ellman, Co-Founder, Best Foot Forward
Donnie Biase, Co-Founder, Best Foot Forward
Ian Cotner, Director of AT&T External and Legislative Affairs

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About ChildNet

ChildNet was selected by the Florida Department of Children & Families to serve as the Community-Based Care (CBC) lead agency in both Broward and Palm Beach counties. As such, it is the single private nonprofit entity responsible for administration of the local child welfare system in each county. It fulfills this responsibility by managing comprehensive networks of child welfare service providers and, in Broward, by also serving as the single centralized child welfare case management provider. The agency's mission is to protect abused, abandoned and neglected children in the communities it serves. Fulfillment of this mission requires constant input and support from community stakeholders and service providers. For more information about ChildNet, call 561-352-2500 or visit www.ChildNet.us and www.facebook.com/ChildNet.

About Philanthropy & Social Innovation at AT&T

AT&T is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its community initiatives, AT&T has a long history of investing in projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; or address community needs. AT&T Aspire is AT&T's signature philanthropic initiative that drives innovation in education by bringing diverse resources to bear on the issue including funding, technology, employee volunteerism, and mentoring. Through Aspire, we've passed the \$250 million mark on our plan to invest \$350 million in education from 2008-2017.

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