



# Barbara J. Jordan

Miami-Dade County Commissioner

## Commissioner Jordan brings Thanksgiving to hundreds of District One residents



*Commissioner Jordan (center) distributed Thanksgiving turkeys to residents in need at the Landmark Training Center in Miami Gardens on November 24, 2009.*

Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan reached out to residents in her district this Thanksgiving, offering turkeys to hundreds of residents on November 24, 2009. About 400 pre-selected residents received free turkeys at the Landmark Training Center in Miami Gardens, distributed by Commissioner Jordan and her staff. In addition, volunteers from Farm Share were on hand to distribute nutritious produce to residents.

Later that day, Commissioner Jordan personally delivered turkeys to seniors in her district, going door-to-door to homes chosen by several local organizations: the Center for Family and Child Enrichment, God's Original Daughters, and Antioch Missionary Baptist Church.

"The great part of Thanksgiving is getting the whole family around the table to reminisce about fond memories and being grateful to have one another," said Commissioner Jordan. "I'm happy to be able to contribute to those families who may have not been able to afford a nice meal this year."

## Hispanic Heritage Month kicks off in District One with Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival

Miami-Dade residents partied up a storm in celebration of their Hispanic roots at Commissioner Jordan's 3rd Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival on October 3, 2009. More than 300 people came out to Acadia Park for the free event, which featured various activities and presentations highlighting the positive influences of District One's growing Hispanic community in Miami-Dade County.

Attendees danced to festive live music, and even had the opportunity to dance with the commissioner to win Sedano's gift certificates. Other activities embracing Hispanic culture were folkloric presentations; dance performances by The Roxy Theater Group, Community Book and Dance Academy, and Pedro Vilanova & Acento Antillano; and an art display. Children had a blast at the Kid Zone with games, a clown, and treats like snow cones and popcorn. Raffles for great prizes were also held. In addition, families were able to take advantage of services provided by the

Jackson Health Mobile Unit, and child fingerprinting for safety IDs. More information was available regarding immigration, legal aide, income tax, home buyer, and rehabilitation programs.

Throughout the event, Rosina Grosso of *Sabado Gigante* acted as Mistress of Ceremonies, ensuring that all guests had a wonderful time.

"I'm so thankful to the sponsors and participants of this festival who helped make it a success once again," said Commissioner Jordan. "The Hispanic Heritage Festival is fast becoming a local tradition here in District One, and I now look forward to the cultural enrichment and kicking up my heels every year!"

Major sponsors of this event included Waste Services of Florida, Inc., HorsePower Electric, MCM Engineering & General Contractors, Oderbrecht, Urban Development Group, and Aspira of Florida, Inc.



*Commissioner Jordan with a participating dance troupe at her 3rd Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival.*



## Commissioner's Message

Happy Holidays! The year is finally winding down, and as you take the time to reflect on the events of 2009, I wish you much peace and happiness with your loved ones during the holiday season.

As I look back on 2009, I see it as one of the most challenging times in my career as District One's representative. My colleagues and I were faced with the monumental task of balancing our County budget during a difficult economic downturn and budget gaps.

During many long deliberations at County Hall, I was always mindful to consider your input on what was most important to you. Your calls, e-mails, visits to my office, and attendance to my town hall meetings were unanimous in your desire to keep in place social service programs, such as those which aid the elderly and children. I am happy to say that the Board was able to fully fund the majority of these programs, which were in danger of the chopping block when the County's first budget proposal was released. Unfortunately, some County services and hours had to be reduced, but Miami-Dade County will continue to deliver excellence every day, despite a reduction in resources.

Our budget is not perfect, and 2010 may be even more challenging. However, I will continue to fight for the promises I made when I was re-elected: assisting families impacted by the housing crisis, overseeing district infrastructure improvements, supporting programs that prevent youth and gang violence, working with school representatives to address the needs of students, expanding Miami-Dade's Fire Academy program, boosting economic and job opportunities in the district, redeveloping Opa-locka Airport, and supporting futuristic and accessible public transportation.

This is my pledge to you for the start of the new year, and a new beginning.

**Barbara J. Jordan**  
Miami-Dade County Commission  
District One

## Stay safe this holiday season

'Tis the season for family and friends with the upcoming holidays. Though the holidays are typically a fun and relaxing time, residents should still be wary of certain safety hazards that pop up this time of year. Here are some tips from Miami-Dade's Fire Rescue and Police Departments that will help you have a happy and safe holiday season!

- When sprucing up your home, carefully inspect each electrical decoration – new or old – before plugging it in. Cracked sockets, frayed, bare, or loose wires can cause serious electric shock or start a fire.
- When the holidays are over, take down your lights. Light strings are not meant to be up more than 90 days.
- At home, do not display all your gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway.
- If you plan to be out of town for the holidays, have a friend or family member check on your home and leave emergency contact information with them.
- Avoid carrying a lot of packages; it can make you look defenseless. Place all packages and gifts in the locked trunk of your vehicle.
- Remember that the number one cause of house fires throughout the year is cooking that is left unattended. During the holidays, we add the dangerous combination of more cooking, more distractions, and more stress. Keep a close eye on your cooking, and use a timer to ensure you don't get distracted.
- Regularly check your tree for fresh, green needles. Trees that have dried out over several weeks are easier to ignite. Remember to keep your tree watered at all times.

For even more tips, visit [www.miamidade.gov](http://www.miamidade.gov).



*Commissioner Jordan visited the students of Beacon Hill Preparatory School in Miami Gardens on October 1, 2009 to teach them about how the law works in Miami-Dade County. Joining her in the discussion was Lucia Davis-Raford, a local attorney. The students, both third and fourth graders, had the special lesson as part of the recently launched Advanced Studies for the Sciences, Business and the Arts (ASBA) program.*

*Commissioner Jordan addresses residents' questions about the County's proposed budget at a community meeting on August 11, 2009 at North Dade Regional Library. Almost 300 residents attended. The commissioner also encouraged constituents to contact her via her budget hotline, which received numerous calls during the budget process.*





# 3rd Annual Barbara Jordan Bowl brings camaraderie, sportsmanship to local youth

On September 19, 2009, Commissioner Jordan hosted the 3rd Annual Barbara Jordan Bowl at Lake Stevens Elementary located in District One. The annual event pits Optimist football teams, ages 5 to 15, together in matches. The Lake Stevens Cardinals and the Golden Glades Panthers faced off in a highly-anticipated seven-game series.

A large crowd rooted for the teams, including several University of Miami Hurricane football players. Defensive back Ryan Hill, kicker William Alex Uribe, and Assistant Coach Tim Harris joined Commissioner Jordan in canvassing the football field to meet and greet the fans.

Various service providers were also present at the game to assist the community with helpful information and tips, including The Jessie Trice Community Health Mobile, State Attorney's Office, Health Opportunities Technical Center, Link-Up Lifeline, and Helping Hands Seniors Resource Center.

Jordan hosted the

At halftime, both the Cardinals and Panthers presented Commissioner Jordan with a plaque to recognize her community leadership and hosting of the 3rd Annual Barbara Jordan Bowl. She was also recognized by the Orange Bowl Committee, Blitz Youth Football Media Group, and Generation Next Media for her role in organizing the event. The Golden Panthers emerged victorious, winning best out of seven games, but the commissioner donated \$500 to the Panthers and Cardinals for their participation in the event.



(Photo Credit: Armando Rodriguez/Miami-Dade County)

*Commissioner Jordan (center back) with the Golden Glades Panthers, winners of her 3rd Annual Barbara Jordan Bowl.*

"Community leaders and residents need to continue to support youth activities, like sports and other interests, so that our children can have positive and productive influences in their lives," said Commissioner Jordan. "I'm looking forward to next year's bowl and having the community rally together to cheer on these wonderful young men who exemplify hard work and sportsmanship."

## Commissioner Jordan hosts United Negro College Fund, Florida Memorial University fundraising kick-off



*Commissioner Jordan with Florida Memorial University students: (l-r) Davina Knowles, Ms. Pre-Alumni; Ebony Johnson, Ms. Florida Memorial University; Commissioner Jordan; Isaiah Herbert, President of Pre-Alumni Council; and Dionna Prince, Ms. UNCF. (Photo credit: Armando Rodriguez/Miami-Dade County)*

Touring the "Black Freedom in Florida" exhibit at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida in Downtown Miami, Commissioner Jordan understood just

how far African-Americans have come in their civil rights struggle. On September 10, 2009, Commissioner Jordan urged the Miami-Dade community to continue the push for higher education among minority students. The commissioner, as well as Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez, hosted a fundraising kick-off for the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) to support students at Florida Memorial University.

As Commissioner Jordan spoke to supporters at the event, she referred to President Barack Obama's September address to the nation's students, where he remarked that what a student makes of his or her education "will decide nothing less than the future of this country."

"President Obama's astute words exemplify the principles of our United Negro College Fund, which makes education a priority every day for the thousands of students it sends to college annually," said

Commissioner Jordan. "[UNCF is] the reason that many of our minority students, many of whom are the first to attend college in their families, are able to finish school with the skills needed to compete in the job market and make our communities better places to live."

Florida Memorial University, which resides in Commissioner Jordan's district, is the only historically black university in southern Florida. The school is one of 39 UNCF-member institutions, and college tuitions for many students are kept lower via donations made to UNCF. About 84 percent of the students at UNCF-member colleges come from low to moderate-income families. Commissioner Jordan is an alumna of Morris Brown College in Atlanta, another historically black college.

For more information about UNCF, please call 954-527-3315 or visit [www.uncf.org](http://www.uncf.org) online.

# County's first skate park opens in District One

Residents in District One have a whole new way to have fun. On July 16, 2009, Commissioner Jordan, along with Miami-Dade Parks' Director Jack Kardys, and children from the community, participated in a skateboard park ribbon-cutting ceremony at Country Village Park, located at 6550 NW 188 Terrace, in Miami. This was the first skate park completed by Miami-Dade County. Commissioner Jordan was instrumental in securing approximately \$185,000 in funding to cover the cost of the park's lighting, now in its design stage.



"Recreational sites like this skate park are vital in keeping our community's children active and off the streets," said Commissioner Jordan. "I look forward to when the entire project is finished and plan to promote family-friendly activities at Country Village Park."

The lighting portion is expected to complete by December 2009.

For more information on Miami-Dade Parks, please visit [www.miamidade.gov/parks](http://www.miamidade.gov/parks).

## Legislative Matters Important to You

Commissioner Barbara Jordan is committed to serving the residents of District One by sponsoring legislation that is in their best interest. Here are some of the items sponsored by Commissioner Jordan that are being considered or have been adopted by the Board of County Commissioners:

**ADOPTED:** Resolution directing the County Mayor to conduct a study analyzing the feasibility of creating a SWAT medic position, and directing the Mayor to present to the Board a report regarding the findings of the study and a plan for implementation of a pilot program, including certification standards. (R-1291-09)

**ADOPTED:** Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to co-designate SR 860/NW 183rd Street from NW 27th Avenue to NW 57th Avenue as "Bishop Isaiah S. Williams Jr. Boulevard." (R-1121-09)

**ADOPTED:** Resolution requesting the County Mayor or Mayor's designee to investigate and, if appropriate, prepare an analysis of the feasibility and cost of upgrading the street lighting systems serving the Scott Lake Manor Street Lighting Improvement District. (R-968-09)

**ADOPTED:** Ordinance creating the Miami-Dade Housing Civil Rights Oversight Board, setting forth purpose, composition of the Board, specifying powers, duties, and responsibilities, providing severability, and inclusion in the Code.

## How you can help

There are always opportunities for private citizens to serve on committees that make important decisions that affect residents, neighborhoods, projects and programs all across Miami-Dade County. Commissioner Jordan is looking for District One residents to sit on the following committees:

- Biscayne Bay Shoreline Development Review Committee
- Construction Trades Qualifying Board of County Commissioners
- Enterprise Advisory Council
- Industrial Development Authority
- International Trade Consortium
- Manatee Protection Plan Review Committee
- Parks and Recreation Citizens Oversight Committee
- Safe Neighborhood Parks Citizens Oversight Committee
- Urban Economic Revitalization Task Force

For more information, or to be considered to sit on any of these committees, please call the District One downtown office at 305-375-5694.

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