

We are pleased to present the
Annual Report of the Carl Angus DeSantis Foundation
for the fiscal year
2023-2024

The 2023-2024 fiscal year was a monumental one for the CADF.

In addition to growing our “family” of grantees, much time and effort was put into building a strong footing for the Foundation.

The Board chose to work with three investment advisors. The goal is to preserve and grow the capital of the CADF so we can remain sustainable for perpetuity.

We also chose to work with the Philanthropic Services Team at Bank of America, a partnership that has enabled our staff to learn from experts as we build a strategic plan that will enable us to become a transformational private foundation. The team has worked with us on a process to determine goals, how we will measure impact and results and how we can become an exceptional Foundation.

As we grow and evolve, we remain loyal to the memory of our founder, Carl A. DeSantis. Mr. D’s philosophy, style, generosity and warmth guide our activities every step of the way. We are determined to respect, grow and extend his legacy. We see ourselves as stewards of his memory and good works.

Respectfully submitted,

William Milmoe
Chairman

Jeff Perlman
Executive Director

Maritza Benitez
Managing Director



Here's a capsule look at our 2023-2024 grants totaling \$1,780,000. To date, CADF has gifted over \$5 million to local charities in the areas of civic innovation, health and nutrition, leadership and entrepreneurship and faith-based giving. Here's a capsule look at our grantees:

Junior Achievement of South Florida

We granted \$75,000 to JA to support the "JA Fellows" program. The goal of the JA Fellows program is to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit of high school students in Broward and Palm Beach Counties. The program aims to help students develop essential career skills, understand the complexities of successful enterprise incubation, and gain practical business experience.



Fellows start, capitalize, and manage their own small businesses gaining "real world" experience while building communication and financial management skills.

Approximately, 70 percent of participants come from families living below the poverty line. The goal is to give Fellows the skills needed to improve their economic situations. Fellows are taught personal finance skills, soft skills, and the value of being ready to join the workforce and or become entrepreneurs very much in the spirit of Mr. DeSantis.

George Snow Scholarship Fund—CADF granted \$200,000 to start a program called "DeSantis Scholars."



DeSantis Scholars will study HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical Work, Culinary, Firefighter training and other vocational career tracks. The goal is to help people find jobs in areas where there are opportunities and needs. Mr. DeSantis was a big believer in vocational training. This scholarship program provides a path to success for students who aren't interested in college.





Center for Family Services—CADF granted \$20,000 to support the S.A.F.E. Kids program which treats victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, bullying and domestic violence. This program is the only one of its kind in Palm Beach County recognized by the Florida Department of Health.

Take Stock in Children- Our \$340,000 grant enables Take Stock to mentor and tutor children from the sixth grade through the second year of college. Florida Prepaid Scholarships are purchased to make college accessible to students who must opt-in and stay engaged. Our grant will pay for 275 two-year Florida Prepaid College Scholarships. The value of each scholarship is \$8,000.



1909—1909 is a nonprofit dedicated to nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs in Palm Beach County. CADF has granted \$50,000 to support the incubator’s “Scale Up” initiative which helps enterprises navigate the critical stage of growing their businesses through the difficult phase between start-up and success. CADF funding will enable the program to serve 300 entrepreneurs.





Community Greening—We are pleased to begin a relationship with this unique nonprofit which plants trees in the community to address a deficient tree canopy. The trees help to mitigate heat, provide food (fruit trees) for the community and teach young people about the importance of the canopy. Our \$50,000 grant will help the nonprofit’s nursery operations which supplies trees and offers a classroom for community education.

Boca Helping Hands—Our \$75,000 grant supports Boca Helping Hands’ Job Training Program designed to help ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) members of the community get the training and job skills they need to climb the economic ladder. The program has identified 11 high need areas for training ranging from commercial driver’s and medical billing to plumbing and HVAC repair. Clients are trained, mentored, and offered hands-on help to complete the program and find jobs in higher paying fields.



4Kids – CADF has developed a close relationship with 4Kids. In 2024, we gave \$250,000 to support three programs:

TIL2:25 (Transitional Independent Living). This program helps teens who “age out” of foster care prepare for and navigate the transition from foster care to independence. Studies show that many kids transitioning out of foster care end up in trouble with drugs, alcohol, legal issues and homelessness. This program is designed to stop those issues by providing transitional living arrangements for 20-25 young adults in four homes. The program includes mentoring, counseling, and life skills training until clients can live independently.

The second program is called **EPIC Therapy** which is a highly effective counseling service with demonstrated results. The grant supports EPIC Therapy in Palm Beach and Broward.

The third program is designed to help 4Kids engage the church community to find, train and assist foster parents who are in short supply. There is a huge need for Foster Parents in our geographic area of interest.

Max Planck Florida Institute- We continue to support a fellowship for a computational neuroscientist who supports multiple labs at the Institute. The scientist, Dr. Ilika Ghosh, is a highly respected young researcher who approaches neuroscience from a broad perspective having worked in the fields of plant biology, cell biology, toxicology and nanotechnology.





Her Second Chance Initiative—CADF granted \$90,000 to give 5 women a second chance at a healthy, successful life by learning job and life skills in a safe environment for those in recovery.

EJS Project—In 2024, CADF made a \$50,000 per year 3-year commitment to this promising nonprofit which is growing the next generation of young leaders in southern Palm Beach County. We have been working closely with EJS and have been impressed with their vision, “hands on” style and action oriented approach to nurturing leadership.



Bound for College—In 2024, we renewed a \$75,000 grant to enable this innovative nonprofit to continue and expand its tutoring and mentoring program at several local high schools. The renewal grant will enable expansion of the program at a new site: Olympic Heights High School in western Boca.



Achievement Center for Children & Families—In 2024, we renewed a \$200,000 grant to support best in class early childhood education. The Early Learning Program allows parents to seek and maintain employment without having to worry about their children receiving quality care, nutrition, and educational enrichment.



FLIPANY—Flipany is an innovative Broward based nonprofit that provides healthy meals to communities that are food insecure and lack services. FLIPANY serves over 100 sites in Broward and Palm Beach. We granted \$150,000 for a 14-month program to expand a program entitled HYPE which offers health and nutritional services in underserved communities.



Catalyst Awards—The Foundation named two new Catalyst Award winners in 2024. The award honors the legacy of our founder who was a catalyst for making good things happen.



The 2024 winners are Ted Hoskinson, founder of Roots and Wings and Julia Kadel, co-founder of the Miracle League of Palm Beach County. Mr. Hoskinson’s non-profit recognizes teachers and tutors children helping them succeed academically. Since its founding in 2016, Roots and Wings has grown from one school to a countywide initiative reaching over 1,300 students. Mr. Hoskinson is a catalyst because he has inspired students and teachers to succeed. He also supports other like-minded organizations such as Bound for College and has become a leader in literacy initiatives in Palm Beach County.

Mrs. Kadel and her husband Jeff founded the Miracle League 20 years ago giving every child with special needs the ability to play baseball. The League serves hundreds of families and has attracted a devoted cadre of volunteers. Her mission is heartfelt and meaningful. Julia has created a strong community that has touched families throughout the region. She made it happen, she’s a catalyst.



Winners were given a \$40,000 grant to support their nonprofit and will be honored at a luncheon in the fall.

We continue to promote the award through press releases and blog posts.

A few additional highlights:

New website

The Foundation completed a total redesign of the website. The new website added a grant database, fresh photos, video, a news section and a detailed timeline of Mr. DeSantis’ career and life.



Publicity:

www.carldesantis.org

The Foundation continues to seek quality opportunities to further our founder’s legacy and to **tastefully and carefully** promote the foundation’s mission.

Our publicity is focused on spotlighting the organizations that we support and the causes we are passionate about.



In fiscal year 2024, we appeared on “To The Point” hosted by WPTV-TV (NBC) News anchor Michael Williams. We have booked similar appearances on public affairs programs on ABC and CBS in support of workforce development scholarships we have created with the George Snow Scholarship Fund. Those segments will air in fiscal 2024-2025.

Our foundation has also been highlighted in newsletters, social media posts and the annual reports of several of our grantees reaching thousands of influencers in Broward and Palm Beach counties. We are on the map.

Special Thanks

The Foundation staff would like to thank our board for their support and kindness. In addition, we would like to thank the Philanthropic Services Team at Bank of America for their invaluable assistance, coaching, advice and steadfast professionalism. Managing Director Erin Hogan has led the team with heart and a real feel for our mission. Strategist Alexandra Scuro was enormously helpful in helping us craft our strategic plan. Andrew Davis provided great insight throughout the year on “huddle” calls and Kim Igoe-Casper went above and beyond leading our efforts to procure the technology we will need to be effective grant makers. Emily Slosberg has been behind the scenes assisting with the team magic. We are deeply grateful to all.

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Kay Renz, our pro bono PR specialist and pro bono expert Kirsten Stevens, who provided great insights on local non-profits. Her objective insights helped us tremendously.

