



## Women of Tomorrow In Broward County

### Our Mission:

The Women of Tomorrow Mentor & Scholarship Program's mission is to inspire, motivate and empower at-risk girls to live up to their full potential through a unique mentoring program with highly accomplished professional women and scholarship opportunities. We help at-risk high school girls stay in school, graduate, gain practical skills for life success, access higher education and pursue a rewarding career.

Women of Tomorrow was founded in 1997 by Jennifer Valoppi, television journalist and author, and Don Browne, former Telemundo Network President, to address the needs of teenage girls most at-risk of dropping out of high school. We began in six public high schools in South Florida, and have grown to reach 4,227 mentees with 550 mentors in 183 public high schools in South Florida, Metro Detroit and Philadelphia annually. Ninety-two percent (92%) of our 12th graders graduate organization-wide, and we have awarded \$6.4 million in scholarships since 2000.

Women of Tomorrow has operated in Broward County since the beginning - Piper High School was among the six inaugural schools in 1997. We have grown and now reach 800 at-risk girls in all 38 public high schools in Broward County annually. The primary services we provide are: a curated mentoring program delivered by highly accomplished professional women in a small group, school-based setting; career-focused field trips; specialized college campus visits; and scholarship opportunities.

### Why We Do What We Do:

Women of Tomorrow's curated mentoring program, career-focused field trips, specialized college campus visits and scholarship opportunities help keep at-risk girls *in* high school, *out* of trouble and better prepared for their future. Our program content and methodology focus specifically on keeping at-risk girls in the classroom and focused on academic advancement, creating positive relationships with peers and adults, planning for their own self-sufficient future, developing leadership skills, increasing community engagement, making healthy lifestyle choices, and planning for their higher education and career steps. Threaded through our focus on cultivating these positive paths, we address

pitfalls to avoid including: teen pregnancy, crime, truancy, bullying, negative relationships, substance use, poor academic progress and lack of community engagement.

We have a 92% graduation rate for the at-risk Broward high school seniors enrolled in our program and more than 89% have plans to enroll in a technical college, university or the military. Almost all (98%) of mentees report that our program has a significant positive impact on their lives.

## **What Our Young Women Say:**

Abby Wint, RN is a 2008 WOT graduate from Stranahan High, in her own words:

“My mother and father were both drug addicts and alcoholics. Growing up, I was surrounded by drug abuse, violence and poverty. It never really dawned on me how much my grandmother meant to me and my family until the day we learned she had been murdered in our own home, choked to death for money by my mom’s boyfriend. I was very hurt, angry and depressed. My siblings and I were soon split-up by the members of our long-time church. At this point in my life, I was deeply depressed and emotionally scarred. I constantly isolated myself from my peers. One of my teachers recommended me to the Women of Tomorrow Program my freshman year. From my freshman year to my senior year I blossomed from a child who had low self-esteem and in a drop out prevention program to a young lady who was doing well in honor roll classes. Thanks to Women of Tomorrow I became the first in my family to graduate from high school and thanks to a scholarship they gave me, I became the first in my family to attend college. Today I am a registered nurse and Mentor with Women of Tomorrow. I am also a mom, a wife, and mentor alongside my former Mentor Judge Linda Pratt at my old high school. I plan to become a nurse practitioner and motivational speaker. I would like to help others just as so many people have helped me. Women of Tomorrow has made a huge positive influence in my life and I will be forever grateful for all that it has done for me. “

NBC 6 News Anchor and WOT National Board Member Trina Robinson also produced this piece on another Broward graduate Maya Pressley at last year’s Broward fall kickoff: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=untGshte1Ek&t=17s>

## **The Need in Broward:**

While we do not collect sensitive health risk data from our mentees specifically, the CDC’s High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey provides gender-specific national, state and Broward County data on high school health risk behavior. 2017 results show that a *statistically significant* greater number of Broward

County high school females reported certain risk factors than female students overall nationally in the following areas:

Broward County Female High School students in 2017 were statistically significantly more likely to have reported: 1- Having an alcoholic drink before the age of 13 (18.3% Broward, 12.8% U.S.); 2- Being offered, sold or given illegal drugs on school property (28.5% Broward, 18.7 U.S.); 3- Did not use a condom plus birth control before sex (96.3% Broward, 91.1% U.S.); 4- Did not eat vegetables in prior week (12.6% Broward, 5.5% U.S.); 5- Did not drink milk in prior week (46.5% Broward, 33.7% U.S.); 6- Did not play a team sport (63.6% Broward, 50.7% U.S.); 7- Did not attend P.E. in prior week (94.7% Broward, 74.7% U.S.) and 8- Did not get 8 hours of sleep (89.5% Broward, 75.4% U.S.).

While Broward County high school graduation rates continue to rise (81.0% in 2017) along with the state (82.3% in 2017), those rates are slightly lower for Black or African-American females at 80.3%.

Our girls have been identified by school personnel as being at-risk and indeed are: 87% are of color, 89% qualified for free/reduced lunch, 67% were raised in a single parent household, 33% struggle with a physical, mental, learning or emotional disability, 40% have a parent who is, or has been, involved in the criminal justice system, nearly 45% are the first generation in their family to graduate from high school, 60% will be first-generation college students and 30% have a deceased parent — *remember they are still in high school.*

In spite of the many challenges and statistics stacked against them, 92% of our Broward County 12th graders graduated; to date scholarship awards of more than \$1.6M to date has been awarded in Broward. Our program understands our mentees may have made mistakes in the past, however we encourage them to focus attention towards a positive future. We discuss many risks and their impacts (drug and alcohol use, teen dating violence, nutrition, physical activity, academics, etc) by providing knowledge, skills and opportunities. We encourage a healthy, balanced lifestyle approach encompassing healthy choices, positive relationships, academic progress, community engagement and future planning.

### ***A New Broward Initiative: Writing Their Own Plan for Their Future:***

Women of Tomorrow believes that every young woman is worthy of a bright future. But they need to have a plan. Women of Tomorrow is developing curriculum content, resources, and facilitated class guides for in-classroom formalized career/life planning. These will include a review of skill sets/certification requirements for the chosen career path and clarification of financial requirements to achieve independence.

The objective is to build awareness and deconstruct the dimensions of career and fit with our young women. Many of our young women pursue two-year associates degrees, industry certification, or join law enforcement or the military. Important in this life planning curriculum is the de-stigmatization of chosen careers that do not require a 4-year degree. The underlying message will be to reflect these career opportunities as ones worth striving for, that are well paid, and credentials for which can be used for future pursuit of a 4-year degree if they so choose.

Each young woman will be guided in completing a life plan to include: What are my career goals? What are the educational credentials required? How will I achieve financial independence? Focused on their self-empowerment this life-planning session will be delivered to our 800 participating mentees enrolled in Broward County's 38 public high schools beginning in the latter half of the 2018-2019 school year.

## **Our Partners:**

Women of Tomorrow works in formal agreement with the Public School District of Broward County. We are also excited to be partnered on a large upcoming Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation RFP.

Other Broward community partners include:

- Baker Concrete
- BankUnited
- Bayer Healthcare
- BBX Capital
- Birch State Park
- Broward College
- Broward Courthouse
- Florida Power & Light
- Frederick A. De Luca Foundation
- Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce Women's Council
- Holland and Knight
- Holman Honda
- Memorial Healthcare
- Museum of Discovery and Science
- NBC 6
- NOVA
- Florida Panthers
- Hoffman's Chocolates
- State Farm
- Ultimate Software
- United Way of Broward

## Broward Schools Where We Operate:

School	School Address	City	Zip
Atlantic Technical	4700 Coconut Creek Parkway	Coconut Creek	33063
Blanche Ely	1201 NW Sixth Ave,	Pompano Beach	33060
Boyd Anderson	3050 NW 41st Street,	Lauderdale Lakes	33309
Charles Drew Family Resource Center	2600 NW Ninth Court	Pompano Beach	33060
Coconut Creek	1400 NW 44th Ave,	Coconut Creek	33066
Cooper City	9401 Stirling Rd	Cooper City	33328
Coral Glades	2700 Sportsplex Dr	Coral Springs	33065
Coral Springs	7201 W Sample Rd.	Coral Springs	33065
Cypress Bay			
Dave Thomas Education Center	4690 Coconut Creek Parkway	Coconut Creek	33063
Deerfield Beach	910 SW 15th St,	Deerfield Beach	33441
Dillard	2501 NW 11th St,	Ft. Lauderdale	33311
Everglades	17100 SW 48th Ct	Miramar	33027
Flanagan, Charles W.	12800 Taft St	Pembroke Pines	33028
Fort Lauderdale	1600 Flying L Drive	Ft. Lauderdale	33305
Hallandale	720 NW 9th Ave	Hallandale	33009
Henry D. Perry Education Center	3400 Wildcat Way	Miramar	33023
Hollywood Hills	5400 Stirling Rd	Hollywood	33021
Lauderhill 6-12	1901 NW 49 Ave	Lauderhill	33313
Marjory Stoneman Douglas	5901 Pine Island Rd	Parkland	33076
McArthur High	6501 Hollywood Boulevard	Hollywood	33024
Miramar	3601 SW 89th Ave	Miramar	33025
Monarch	5050 Wiles Rd,	Coconut Creek	33073
Northeast	700 NE 56th St	Oakland Park	33334
Nova	3600 College Ave, Davie, FL 33314	Davie	33314
Piper	8000 NW 44th St	Sunrise	33351
Plantation	6901 NW 16th St.	Plantation	33313

<b>School</b>	<b>School Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Zip</b>
Pompano Beach	600 NE 13th Ave,	Pompano Beach	33060
Seagull Alternative High	425 SW 28th St	Ft. Lauderdale	33315
South Broward	1901 N Federal Hwy.	Hollywood	33020
South Plantation	1300 SW 54th Ave	Plantation	33317
Stranahan	1800 SW 5th Pl.	Ft. Lauderdale	33312
Taravella, J.P.	10600 Riverside Dr.	Coral Springs	33071
West Broward	500 NW 209th Ave	Pembroke Pines	33029
Western	1200 SW 136th Ave	Davie	33325
Whiddon-Rogers Ed. Cntr	700 SW 26th St.	Ft. Lauderdale	33315
Wm. T. McFatter Technical	6500 Nova Dr	Davie	33317
Sheridan Technical	3775 SW 16th St	Ft. Lauderdale	33312