



DO THE RIGHT THING OF MIAMI, INC.

C/O CITY OF MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT

400 N.W. 2ND AVENUE / ROOM 201-J / MIAMI, FL 33128

PHONE:305-603-6957/WEBSITE:WWW.DOTHERIGHTTHINGINC.ORG / @DTRTMIAMI

Board of Directors

Teresa Enriquez
President

Juanita Walker
Vice President

Marie Jo Toussaint
Secretary

Marie Gouin
Treasurer

Honorary Board Member

Manuel Morales
Miami Police Department

Advisory Director

Trina Robinson
NBC 6

Founding Directors

Carol McCracken
Marzell Smith

Advisory Board

Daniel Alfonso
Dori Alvarez
Jaquelyn Calzadilla Diaz
Terry Cifuentes
Christine Del Portillo
Priscila Eidam
Jacqueline Gonzalez-Cuba
Annette Rodriguez
Akua Scott

Selection Committee

Kenia Fallat
Rosa Fernander
Sergio Guerrero
Weslyne Lewis Francois
Vanessa Morales
Richard Perez
Aileen Rodriguez

Staff

Ariadna Espinosa
Executive Director

Dayana Sanchez
Senior Administrative Assistant

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ariadna Espinosa
Executive Director
305-603-6957

MIAMI POLICE AND THE DO THE RIGHT THING PROGRAM HONOR STUDENT FOR TRANSFORMATIVE HEAT SAFETY INITIATIVE PROTECTING MIAMI'S MOST VULNERABLE

MIAMI, FL – January 20, 2026 – As school safety takes the national spotlight, the Do The Right Thing Program and Miami Police will honor 9 outstanding students out of over 700 nominees for their courage, compassion, and leadership. Amongst the honorees is Michelle Grados, a senior at School for Advanced Studies North whose initiative, Heat and Heart Outreach, transformed a personal family story into a powerful effort to protect outdoor workers and unhoused individuals from extreme heat. Alongside Michelle, eight other students are being recognized for stepping up in critical moments such as reporting suicide and self-harm, deescalating conflicts, and taking responsibility for the safety of their schools and classmates. Together, these student heroes exemplify the impact of choosing action over silence and doing the right thing when it matters most.

The ceremony takes place on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 10:00 am in the auditorium of the Chief Clarence Dickson Police College, 350 NW 2nd Avenue.

Do The Right Thing, Inc. is a non-profit community-based program operating in cooperation with the Miami Police Department and other local law enforcement. The program serves school age youth throughout Miami-Dade County by recognizing positive accomplishments and behavior. Each month of the school year students are recognized for their positive decisions and rewarded with prizes including a tablet, plaque, a Do The Right Thing t-shirt and bumper sticker, two tickets to a Miami Marlins game, a Papa John's certificate, gift cards, passes to Zoo Miami, HistoryMiami Museum, Philip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science, and Island Queen Cruises, and letters from United States Senator Ashley Moody as well as Congresswoman Maria Elvira Salazar and Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle. Two Special Recognition students are also selected and win trips to Rapids Water Park and Washington, D.C. Since its inception, Do The Right Thing has directly impacted over 270,000 youth across Miami-Dade County. Building positive relationships between police and youth at an early age can make all the difference!

###

A not-for-profit organization dedicated to recognizing and rewarding our youth

December 2025 Do The Right Thing Winners

Sofia Fuentes courageously spoke up when she learned a classmate was enduring difficult circumstances and contemplating self-harm, immediately reporting the situation to ensure the student's safety.

Selena Gomez Castro responsibly reported dangerous self-harm behavior among her peers, providing critical information that allowed the school to intervene quickly.

Michelle Grados founded Heat and Heart Outreach to protect outdoor workers and unhoused individuals from extreme heat.

Sanaii Horne and **Akila Solomon** intervened during a critical situation on a school bus, helping deescalate conflict and prevent harm.

Mia Mateu showed exceptional courage by reporting close friends who were engaging in self-harm, ensuring they received the mental health support they needed.

Meredith Ortiz took initiative to protect her school by organizing classmates to clean graffiti, taking pride in her school environment.

Aiden Pupo demonstrated remarkable responsibility for his age by turning in a lighter he found on the playground, showing a commitment to keeping his school and peers safe from danger.

Mauricio Sarria bravely stepped in when he witnessed bullying, calmly stopping the abuse and defending two classmates.