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Connecting Communities

Bravo and Partners Realty ranks among top sales firms



PICTURED ARE (L-R) LUIS GONZALEZ, NEYDA BRAVO, ALEJANDRO DIAZ, AND KEVIN MARTINEZ.

TO MIAMI'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

In the heart of South Miami is Bravo and Partners Realty, presently one of the most successful commercial real estate firms in South Florida. Its success is in part due to the environment created within the firm.

It is considered a "boutique" within the vast real estate industry but a powerhouse nonetheless. It is formed by a team that has surpassed trials and have made the company as family oriented as it gets.

The company has experienced over 25 years of fruitful business ventures, relationships — local and beyond — and has helped to build a strong community in many aspects throughout the Miami area.

Neyda Bravo, one of the top producing members of the firm, has helped to establish a presence throughout South Florida after achieving more than \$1 billion in sales over the course of 2021. She has

experienced multiple markets such as New York and in Georgia primarily as an investor.

It is the innovative mindset and creative brainstorming that has allowed the Bravo team to not only survive among the greats but to strive as pioneers in one of the most prominent industries in the world.

Commercial Real Estate information company Costar awarded Bravo and Partners Realty with the 2021 Power Broker award recognizing it as one of the top sales firms of the year. This recognition, along with the hard work and other achievements, has set a new standard for the company as they look forward to achieving massive success and continue to bond as the family that they have become. Business is booming as far as real estate goes in Miami. It will be exciting to see what next big feats the Bravo team achieves in the future.

Bravo & Partners Realty Inc. is located at 5830 SW 73 St. in South Miami, FL 33143; phone 305-270-1555.

Doctor retires after 50 years of caring for children with cancer

BY FUAD KIUHAN

After more than 50 years of providing leading-edge care for children with cancer in South Florida and beyond, Dr. Enrique A. Escalon, esteemed pediatric hematologist-oncologist, has announced his retirement.

Dr. Escalon served as director of the Division of Hematology-Oncology, within the Cancer and Blood Disorders Institute at Nicklaus Children's Hospital since the 1980s, guiding the program through its growth and transformation into a nationally and internationally recognized institute for the treatment of pediatric cancer and blood disorders.

Following Dr. Escalon's retirement announcement, Dr. Ziad Khatib was appointed interim director of the Division of Hematology-Oncology. Since 2020, Dr. Khatib has served as the vice president of the Nicklaus Children's medical staff and has served as an attending physician in the Division of Hematology-Oncology since 1993.

Under Dr. Escalon's leadership, the Cancer and Blood Disorders Institute achieved approved cancer program status from the American College of Surgeons (ACS), Commission on Cancer. Dr. Escalon also served as principal investigator for the prestigious cancer research consortium, the Children's Oncology Group.

Dr. Escalon's vision to ensure no child would have to leave the region to receive

pediatric cancer care was instrumental in the program's growth into the renowned Cancer and Blood Disorders Institute it is today. The institute provides care for 130 to 150 newly diagnosed pediatric patients each year, more than any other facility in South Florida. The institute has grown to offer specialized programs including a blood and marrow transplantation program, a neuro-oncology program in collaboration with the hospital's Brain Institute, as well as a sarcoma and solid tumors program for children with soft tissue and bone cancers.

"On behalf of all of us at Nicklaus Children's Hospital, we extend our gratitude to Dr. Escalon for his unwavering commitment in ensuring children facing a cancer or blood disorder diagnosis receive the best care possible," said Matthew Love, president and CEO of Nicklaus Children's Health System. "Throughout his storied career, spanning half a century, he has touched the lives of countless patients and their families and served as an inspiration to the clinical teams who have been privileged to work with him."

Dr. Escalon earned his medical degree from University of El Salvador Medical School. He completed his residency at Nicklaus Children's, where he served as chief resident in 1974. He also completed his fellowship in pediatric hematology-oncology at Nicklaus Children's. He is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric hematology-oncology.

For more information, visit online at www.nicklauschildrens.org.



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The brain is not fully developed until age 25 or older. Teens who drink before age 15 are 5 times more likely to become alcoholics.



LEARN MORE




NAMI Miami-Dade to host second annual Mental Health Awareness Walk, May 21



PARTICIPANTS GET READY FOR THE NAMI MIAMI-DADE MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WALK.

BY ANNETTE GALLAGHER

In honor of Mental Health Awareness month in May, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Miami is hosting Miami-Dade County's first in-person Walk for Mental Health Awareness, "NAMI Walks Your Way 2022," on May 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Maurice A. Ferre Park (Museum Park).

The event raises awareness and crucial funding for local mental health services and has sponsorship and walk team opportunities available for those interested in participating.

The walk is designed to combat the stigma of mental health, address the high incidence of suicide due to untreated mental health disorders and raise funds for NAMI Miami's free programs such as support groups, peer mentoring programs, outreach and educational classes. Despite the many challenges of the past two years, NAMI Miami aided more than 8,000 students, young adults, adults, families and local leaders with its prevention, education, mental wellness and support programs. These programs are offered at no cost to participants, led by NAMI trained peer-leaders and remain confidential.

"Psychological distress from the past two years has really increased the demand for mental health services in our community," said Susan Racher, NAMI

Miami board president. "Our goal is to provide mental health for all and we can begin to achieve that with such supportive partners in our inaugural Walk including the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Hollywood, FL, Segal Trials, Baptist Health South Florida, Citrus Health, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and many more including community partners, volunteers and friends."

According to the CDC, in 2020, an estimated 12.2 million American adults seriously thought about suicide, 3.2 million planned a suicide attempt, and 1.2 million attempted suicide. The psychological and financial effects of the past two years add urgency to NAMI's outreach efforts. NAMI Miami-Dade's free programs augment clinical and therapeutic care according to evidence informed standards.

Sponsorship benefits are available for this historic inaugural event and range from \$250 to \$15,000. Sponsors will have the opportunity to join other organizations, corporations, foundations and individuals on a national level while supporting the effort to increase awareness of mental health challenges during one of the most arduous years in history.

For more information, registration and/or donations, visit NAMIWalks.org/Miami; send email to Kate@NAMIMiami.org or call 305-665-2540 or (cell) 786-775-0667.

Leadership Miami program to help prepare next generation of leaders

BY MARITZA ARCEO

The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) has announced that it has augmented its Leadership Miami program offering participants the opportunity to share an intensive learning experience that focuses on community issues and leadership skills through lectures, seminars, small group discussions, and renowned leadership curriculum imparted by six local universities.

Application is now open for anyone interested in the GMCC Leadership Miami program. Deadline to apply is May 20.

The Leadership Miami program will provide a curriculum delivered by top scholars from South Florida's leading educational institutions: Barry University, Florida International University, Florida Memorial University, Miami Dade College, St. Thomas University, and the University of Miami.

The program will run twice a year with a smaller class size to facilitate a more intimate learning experience and encourage a stronger network among the class. Leadership Miami graduates will gain leadership credentials through this unique higher education partnership.

"We are excited to be offering this leadership training program that will help leaders gain a better understanding of key issues relevant to the South Florida region," said Alfred Sanchez, president and CEO of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. "With our new and expanded program, participants will build and improve on their current leadership skills and help their companies and the community thrive."

With more than 4,000 accomplished

alumni and over 200 local nonprofits impacted, Leadership Miami is the premier community leadership training program in South Florida. The fall program is being chaired by Jen Bouza, vice president, Bank of America, and Brandon Mitchell, vice president, Venture for America.

The program's new dynamic format stimulates animated and critical discussions among participants and guest speakers. Its goal is to prepare the next generation of Miamians to address vital issues affecting Miami-Dade County and meet future challenges. Throughout the Leadership Miami program, curriculum designed and imparted by faculty from the six universities and the program's focus sessions, participants will build leadership skills needed in today's fast changing business climate and encourage further exploration and action related to specific community issues.

The Community Service Project is a fundamental part of the Leadership Miami curriculum and a requirement for completion of the program. Through the selected nonprofit project, team members will develop team building, leadership skills, and a shared unique experience.

In addition, all participants will be required to complete fieldwork assignments to graduate. The program's primary leadership curriculum will be taught by faculty from the six universities, in-person or on-line format. The GMCC Leadership Miami program is open to everyone, and program fee is \$2,650. For more information and to enroll in the GMCC Leadership Miami program visit online at www.miamichamber.com/committees/leadership-programs/leadership-miami.





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