

Area of Hope Grant Builds After School Classrooms in Greenacres

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Contact: Edward Lowery, Director, Dept. of Economic Sustainability, (561) 233-3600



The city of Greenacres After School Services can now serve up to 150 children in its newly renovated facilities, thanks to a Special Area of Hope grant from Palm Beach County.

The \$322,000 grant, provided through the Department of Economic Sustainability (DES) under the Community Development Block Grant program, was applied toward the \$466,000 remodeling project of the city's Community Hall and Perry buildings. Improvements were made to child care classrooms, a secure public lobby, administrative offices, kitchen and restrooms, all with impact-resistant windows and doors shaded by awnings.

On November 7, County Vice Mayor Paulette Burdick was joined by state Rep. Lori Berman and DES staff to tour the new facilities and see the after-school programs in action. The year-round programs offer activities and academic assistance for students in elementary through high school grades, including an intergenerational garden club.

The Special Area of Hope funds were established by the Board of County Commissioners in 2001 and are a portion of CDBG funds distributed each year to one of eight block grant entitlement municipalities in Palm Beach County. Projects must meet one of three national objectives: benefitting low- and moderate-income persons, preventing or eliminating slums or blight, and meeting urgent needs.