



# Memorandum

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To: Mayor Christi Fraga  
Councilwoman Digna Cabral  
Councilman Rafael Pineyro  
Councilwoman Maureen Porras

From: Vice Mayor Oscar Puig-Corvé

Date: March 26, 2024

Subject: **Victory for Youth/ Share Your Heart Donation**

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## Introduction

It is my honor to support the efforts of Victory for Youth (VFY). VFY was established in 1998, and initially organized large scale resource fairs for the community at large. The then Department of Children and Families approached VFY to create Miracle Rooms for the children of Child Protective Services. Once that program was underway, it was evident that the children needed life essentials like food and emotional and spiritual support. Too often, families needed these essentials as well.

One of the critical components of VFY is the Volunteer Chaplaincy program. The program grew and a partnership was formed with DCF and Baptist Health to formally train volunteers interested in this work. Today, VFY has trained over 800 volunteer chaplains who continue to serve vulnerable children and adults in Miami-Dade County, and across the state of Florida.

The Share Your Heart (SYH) program was established in 2012 as a program under VFY where the organization, distribution, and corresponding logistics for the life essential needs (food, clothing, housing, etc.) were managed. Share Your Heart (SYH) is the program that recruits, trains, and screens caring adults to serve as volunteer chaplains for VFY. The SYH program partners with state and local government agencies and non-profit organizations to respond to referrals for children, families, and vulnerable adults who have been identified as in crisis or distress (e.g., in need of food or clothing, have suffered loss of a family member, have been abandoned, or have been exposed to domestic, gun or other violence and/or trauma like human trafficking). Today, SYH has grown to serve the entire state of Florida.

In preparation for my office's Domestic Violence event last year, we visited SYH's Miami-Dade County office located at 2400 South Dixie Highway. It is an impressive and complete one-stop shop for women and children and other vulnerable people in distress where they receive food, housing, pick out clothing, and other valuable services.

Women in Victory is a group of women in West Miami-Dade County who have organized to fundraise and are working to establish a Share Your Heart West Miami-Dade County center modeled after the original one on US1. The first event will take place on Friday, May 10, 2024. The invitation is attached.

Per the City's code Section 2-79, I would like to provide a \$2,000 donation to VFY in furtherance of establishing a Share Your Heart West Miami-Dade County location, which is the purpose of the May 10, 2024, event. The long-term benefit to Doral residents is having a nearby place to seek emergency help. This initiative contributes positively to the recognition and image of Doral as our city continues to seek to raise the quality of life and services available for all residents. The goal of this initiative is closely aligned with the city's goal to serve people in meaningful ways.

During the Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Community Conversation regarding NW 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Chief Edwin Lopez shared that in recent months Doral PD officers have responded to numerous Domestic Violence calls in just that area of Doral. Our city continues to grow, and to grow responsibly, we need to partner with long-standing, well-reputed organizations like VFY/SYH to make sure our community residents have access to emergency services.

**Fiscal Impact:**

In accordance with Section 2-79 Municipal Sponsorships, each councilmember is allotted a total of \$5,000 per fiscal year to sponsor special events and programs that support the city's mission and provide community benefit.

**Recommendation**

I ask my colleagues to support this donation to empower and support the goal of opening a SHY West Miami-Dade County location. Thank you in advance.