

Proclamation

A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 17, 2013, AS "OPPORTUNITY, INC. DAY"

WHEREAS, Opportunity, Inc. was founded by visionary women of the Women's Guild of Bethesda-by-the-Sea over 75 years ago to offer assistance to their less fortunate neighbors; and

WHEREAS, alerted by social worker Mary Anderson and guided by Winifred Clarke Anthony, the Guild recognized Riviera Beach fishing families, who faced poverty, weather, and the challenges of the depression, could take advantage of their crafting skills and market their products as Riviera Crafts, achieving commercial success, opening shops on Via Parigi and Via Mizner, and distributing products to 40 shops throughout the country for 35 years; and

WHEREAS, at the request of Dr. John I. Leonard, Superintendent of Palm Beach County Schools, established and maintained 12 nursery schools for working mothers during WWII; and

WHEREAS, following WWII through the turn of the Century community contributions included:

- Funding The Dunbar Village nursery school for African American children;
- Funding the Southridge nursery school for white children;
- Maintained a Detention Home for African American children so that their misdemeanors would not place them in jail with convicted prisoners;
- Maintained full responsibility for a Home for Dependent African American children;
- Founded the Boys & Girls Club, and Child Care Center for working parents on Sapodilla Avenue in 1948, and operated the facilities for almost fifty five years; and

WHEREAS, recognizing fifty years of clinical research confirms that vital learning happens before age five and that economic hardship limits the potential of children unable to make the most of this critical period, Opportunity, Inc. founded the Mary Alice Fortin Early Learning Center in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Opportunity Inc. offers 96 at-risk preschoolers from working families living below the poverty line, the most effective, proven path to a productive adulthood through a quality "Five Star" early childhood education and development program that includes helping parents develop family stability; and

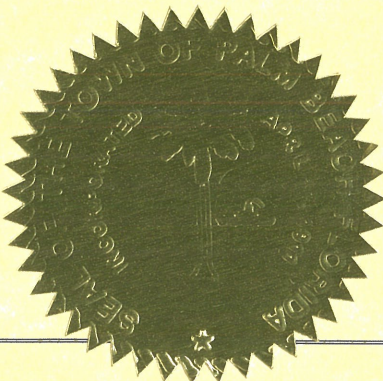
WHEREAS, recognizing a waiting list of over 300 children, Opportunity, Inc. is conducting a study to evaluate their ability to expand and garner community support to serve more children and families in need.

NOW, THEREOFRE, I Gail L. Coniglio, Mayor of the Town of Palm Beach, do hereby proclaim October 17, 2013, as

OPPORTUNITY, INC. DAY

in the Town of Palm Beach.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Town of Palm Beach, Florida to be affixed this 17th day of October 2013.



Gail L. Coniglio
Mayor