



## **LES AILES DU DESIR FOUNDATION**

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. LES AILES DU DESIR FOUNDATION specifically focuses on embracing our local community unique diversity of culture along with their potential unexplored creativity. The main goal of this foundation is to articulate structured and progressive distinct training course for the under 16 years old that meets specific hardship criteria such as emotional and/or financial distress, learning disabilities or physical disabilities by providing opportunities to introduce and inspire youth by using circus activities.
  - Providing youth with alternative forms of positively releasing energy
  - training for professional circus
  - Pre-professional Circus training offering scholarships & Circus Art After school programs within greater Miami
  - Encourage and allow positive self-expression through the exploration of movements and the various circus arts disciplines.
  - Leveraging the unique experience of professional performers and inspire up and coming talent
  - Keeping youth and teen at risk out of trouble by addressing sensitive subjects and share their insights as a focus group on topics such as gun violence, drugs, and youth exposed to domestic violence and family dynamics destroyed due to drug addiction.

### **2. SCOPE OF OUR SOCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMS**

LADD Foundation Social inclusion outreach program strives to provide support for people who face barriers to arts participation. We offer multiple approaches to address the diverse spectrum of needs and abilities and provide opportunities for continued engagement and advancement within our recreational, after-school and pre-professional programs.

Our experience has shown us that cost is only one of the many barriers to arts access for underserved youth and we have recently expanded our programming to address the diversity of needs we see.

In our after-school program, we are looking to collaborate directly with social service partners, Miami Dade School board and other outreach programs to identify and support youth facing a variety of systemic barriers who are drawn to circus but need resources and a plan to be able to engage more fully with our programs. In addition to working with each student to co-create a training plan, our Social inclusion coordinator will be connecting students with resources as needed, including athletic wear, food, bus to and from the circus school, access to showers and personal hygiene items, mentorship, translation.

### **A. LES AILES DU DESIR FOUNDATION After School Programs**

With program offerings ranging from one-term circus classes to annually enrolled sessions LADD Foundation is committed to spreading the joys and challenges of circus arts to groups who might not otherwise have access.

In a non-competitive and encouraging atmosphere, students are challenged to explore their bodies' capacity for powerful physical expression through a playful and imaginative approach to circus activities.

In addition to individual growth, activities like group acrobatics and aerial work on cultivating a trusting and supportive social environment. Students celebrate each other's successes and support each other through failures, all while developing a sense of belonging and responsibility to each other.

These programs would be available to:

After-school classes  
(sessions 8-14 weeks)

Partnering with Miami Dade School board, local community centers and YMCA, LADD Foundation brings enriching after-school classes for youth age 6 to 16 years old in the greater Miami area.

- Elementary students from 4 to 5 PM daily
- Middle School Students from 5 to 6 PM daily
- High School Students from 3 to 4 PM daily

## **Activities we offer in our after-school outreach programs**

- Acrobatics and tumbling
- Trampoline ( TO BE ACQUIRED)
- Juggling
- Aerial (rope, silks, trapeze, lyra)
- Cyr wheel
- Object manipulation
- Hand to hand balancing
- Acro partnering
- Handstands
- Flexibility & contortion
- Mini-trampoline

## **B. LES AILES DU DESIR Pre-Professional Scholarships (annual intake of limited participants)**

One of the missions of our foundation is to enable homeless and at-risk youth to develop their physical and emotional integrity, by providing intensive skill training in circus and performing arts. Our emphasis is on empowerment, personal development, and relationship building. We encourage youth participants to create and direct their personal stories in innovative and artistic ways, while offering them an opportunity to present their work by performing locally in our community and network with other world class circus organization in the desire of pursuing a professional career in Circus arts.

This pre-professional program design for at risk youth would meet three times per week and focus on artistic, skill, and personal development. Circus, dance, music, and creativity are integrated with life skills teamwork. The participants would then use their personal struggle they face and to inspire their choreographic work. Improvisation would serve as a springboard for personal sharing while our instructors would provide the skill while guiding them through the process. The student's training culminates in annual performances to engage in local selective theater.

The idea is to provide those youth who complete the initial training period have the opportunity to continue with LADD foundation as interns, and later as paid faculty responsible for recruiting and mentoring other at-risk, and community youth.

We recognize that in order to engage in the physical and emotional demands of training, basic needs must be addressed. Thus, youth participants receive healthy food, exercise clothing, transportation. We would work closely with other organization to ensure that students are offered a daily respite from the hardships of street life in addition to shower and night shelters when relevant.

### **C. Workshops**

These workshops will consist in familiarizing youth facing hardship ( emotional or financial) to circus arts and share our unique passion and testimonies of how it's help us in difficulties or life changing events. Our Artistic Director Jerome Sordillon from the Cirque du Soleil and 3 additional members of the Cirque du Soleil Crystal team will be working on a two hours workshops touching upon a wide array of disciplines. We are looking for 25 kids between age 7 to 10 who are from schools located either in Allapattah, Overtown, or downtown.

### **D. One-time field trips**

LADD Foundation will send teaching artists out to your school or organization for an introductory lesson in the circus arts. These are intended to establish connections between LES AILES DU DESIR CIRCUS SCHOOL and your organization in order to cultivate a future partnership.

## **3. LES AILES DU DESIR FOUNDATION disabilities programs**

### **A. Learning disabilities**

New ties are developed among young people with disabilities as well as the other adults and students drawn to the circus arts. All participants work together to organize an annual performance, which teaches them tolerance and acceptance of differences while boosting the confidence of young students with disabilities. The role of the association is to promote socialization, integration and good citizenship. That is why there is a growing demand for classes for individuals with disabilities.

Kids living ADHD or are on the autism spectrum, learning circus is a highly encouraging environment as there is never any winner or loser which does wonder for self-esteem and the ability to work together. As such, all kids have an opportunity to build resilience and trust in a noncompetitive environment. They can embrace and accept their differences rather than hide them.

The students would be provided with a set curriculum of achievable skill progressions that enable youth to develop physical and social interaction skills. These progressions are adapted to the abilities and needs of the students participating in each class.

This LADD FOUNDATION program for would run once a week serving 20 kids with special needs ranging from autism, ADHD and other learning disabilities. Most of the students receive one-on-one instruction customized to their needs, interests and goals and teach them the skills they wish to learn. As circus training requires practice,

constant repetition of the same tricks, and focus, parents have noticed a significant improvement in the children's attention span in classes.

## **B. LES AILES DU DESIR FOUNDATION Physical Disabilities Programs**

Kids living with partial paralysis to hemiparesis (weakness on one side of the body from a stroke) can progressively gain core strength, balance, and gripping strength through a variety circus skill, including trampoline, tightrope, juggling, handstands, trapeze, and aerials. Similar programs have accomplished amazing proficiency with many circus skills in spite of incredible obstacles, including visual or hearing impairment, stroke, spina bifida, hemiparesis, and more.

The LADD FOUNDATION would work closely with medical professionals in order to co-host small collective or one to one session relative to the severity of the physical impairment.

## **4. LES AILES DU DESIR FOUNDATION women at risk & homelessness outreach program**

This program would work in conjunction with the Lotus House by hosting small focus group working with trained circus coaches who are supervised by a Licensed Social Worker and psycho therapists in order address physical and or socio-emotional difficulties, thus enabling the healing process. The idea is to use Circus as a therapeutic tool in order to provide women and their emotionally distress potentially helping their Anxiety Reduction, Confidence, Self-efficacy, Social Skills, Trust, Artistic expression, Sensory integration.