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Donate to LEAP

## From all of us at LEAP...



HAPPY  
holidays

## A Note From Mahlia...

For ten years LEAP has taught women in prison how to start their own micro-businesses. The idea of empowering women transitioning from prison to create their own opportunities was the brainchild of three women who had been volunteering in prisons. They saw the near impossibility of the formerly incarcerated to find jobs and decided to do something about it. That spark ignited and expanded to include over 300 hours of in-prison classes, including entrepreneurship, employability skill, trauma, addiction and life skills.

Two years ago LEAP partnered with the Center for Social Change to provide transitional housing for up to 6 women at a time. That same year LEAP was recognized as the most innovative small non profit by the Miami Chamber of Commerce. This year we opened the Dragonfly Thrift Boutique where we employ LEAP graduates and host community events to spread awareness of LEAP's mission. Most recently, we advocated for and celebrated the passage of Amendment 4, which allows formerly incarcerated citizens to vote.

While Leap was born of the efforts of our founders, it has been able to survive by virtue of support from our community. From the first grant awarded on a leap of faith by the Women's Fund, to the individual donations that helped us reach our goal on Give Miami Day, to supporters who drop off donations on a daily basis to Dragonfly Thrift Boutique, to the charitable foundations that allow us to think bigger, to our volunteers and engaged people who attend our events, LEAP is truly a community endeavor.

By choosing to support LEAP you become part of our graduates' redemption story. Over 150 of them are about to enjoy a peaceful holiday. They are reconnecting with families, and celebrating with friends and colleagues -- many for the first time in years. There are dozens of women in prison now who have no idea how much their life will change when they enter the LEAP program this year.

THANK YOU for believing in second chances. Through your help LEAP has been able to

empower woman in prison, impacted change in hundreds of families, and made our community safer.

To continue our work, LEAP is counting on your continued generosity as we enter the new year. We would be honored to receive your year-end gift. Just click below to donate.

***From all of us here at LEAP, we wish you a Happy Holiday and a prosperous 2019***

***With Gratitude,***

***Mahlia Lindquist  
Executive Director***

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## Human Trafficking: What you need to know

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all those who attended our panel discussion on human trafficking last month. It was inspirational to see the community come together to discuss such an important cause.

We are incredibly grateful to the high caliber of panelist who gave their time to the event: Dr. Kimberly McGrath, Dr. Austin Jerani, Diana Cordona and Esther Jacobo.

As a follow up from the discussion, please find below some importation links regarding Human Trafficking:

**[Project Phoenix: a Human Trafficking Recovery Program](#)**

**[State Human Trafficking Unity Info](#)**

**[Citrus Health, Chance Program](#)**

**[Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking, Lucha](#)**

**[International Rescue Committee](#)**

## Graduate Spotlight

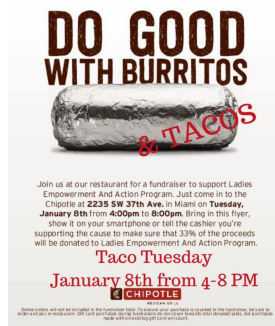


**Elizabeth "Liz" Guy** graduated from LEAP class 5 in 2012. Over the last 6 years, Liz has been a shining example of what one can accomplish if given a second chance. After her release, she faced many of the struggles most ex-inmates do: finding a job, renting an apartment, and transitioning back to life outside of the debilitating walls of the prison system. With the skills she learned in LEAP, coupled with her own perseverance, she has continued to break stereotypes and climb her own personal ladder of success. She is currently enrolled at Florida International University working on a Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations & Advertising, with a focus on Travel & Tourism, and she has a successful career as an Operations Manager at a prominent travel company in the Miami area. Her smile, positive energy, and professional acumen are admirable, and her story an inspiration to others to rebuild after incarceration.

"When you're locked up, you have a lot of time to think and reflect on the life you've lived versus the life you want to live. I made a choice to turn my life around, and I'm just

thankful I've had the opportunity to do so. Going to prison may have felt like a setback, but it's put me right path. LEAP helped keep me focused, and that focus is what helped change the trajectory of my life."

## Upcoming Events



Join us at our restaurant for a fundraiser to support Ladies Empowerment And Action Program. Just come in to the Chipotle at 2235 SW 37th Ave. in Miami on Tuesday, January 8th from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 20% of the proceeds will be donated to Ladies Empowerment And Action Program.

**Taco Tuesday**  
January 8th from 4-8 PM

**CHIPOTLE**

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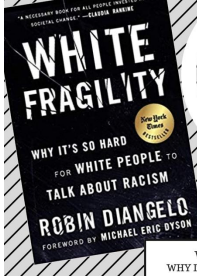
**January 8th:** Taco Tuesday fundraiser at Chipotle Mexican Grill in Coral Gables. Come in for Dinner from 4-8 PM and tell the Cashier you're supporting the Ladies Empowerment & Action Program - LEAP!

33% of the proceeds from this day will be donated back to LEAP!

Join us for LEAP Community Connection Book & Lecture Series, where we aim to delight, enlighten and educate.

On **January 24th** we will gather to discuss *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*.

The New York Times best-selling book explores the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality.



COMMUNITY CONNECTION BOOK DISCUSSION

WHITE FRAGILITY: WHY IT'S SO HARD FOR WHITE PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT RACISM  
ROBIN DIANGELO  
FOREWORD BY MICHAEL ERIC DYSON

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24th @ 6:30 PM  
Dragonfly Thrift Boutique



Volunteer Information Nights are held the second Thursday of every month! Join us to learn more about LEAP and how you can volunteer to help out the ladies of LEAP.

The next Volunteer Information Night will be held on Thursday, January 10 @ 6:30 PM

## Engage With Us on Social Media

LADIES EMPOWERMENT AND ACTION PROGRAM



DRAGONFLY THRIFT BOUTIQUE



## Thank you to our generous supporters!

Over the past 9 years working with women in prison, we at LEAP have learned that if given tools to succeed, most will remain crime free. Those tools include education, access to jobs, mental health and addiction services and housing. Thanks to the support of our community, over the past 2 years LEAP has expanded from an in-prison program, to one that includes housing, employment and other support post release. We

Thank You

have been able to expand our services thanks to community support.

We are proud to announce that the Denise Moon Fund of the Miami Foundation, Capital One Bank and the Miami Foundation Community Grants Program recently awarded LEAP grants to expand our post release services, and to develop a comprehensive paid retail internship for LEAP graduates at the Dragonfly Thrift Boutique.

LEAP is 100% dependent on the generosity of our community. Please consider donating today.

## Donate to LEAP



THE JOSEPH H. & FLORENCE A. ROBLEE FOUNDATION



Ladies Empowerment and Action Program | Dragonfly Thrift Boutique | (833) 757 - 5327 |  
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STAY CONNECTED

