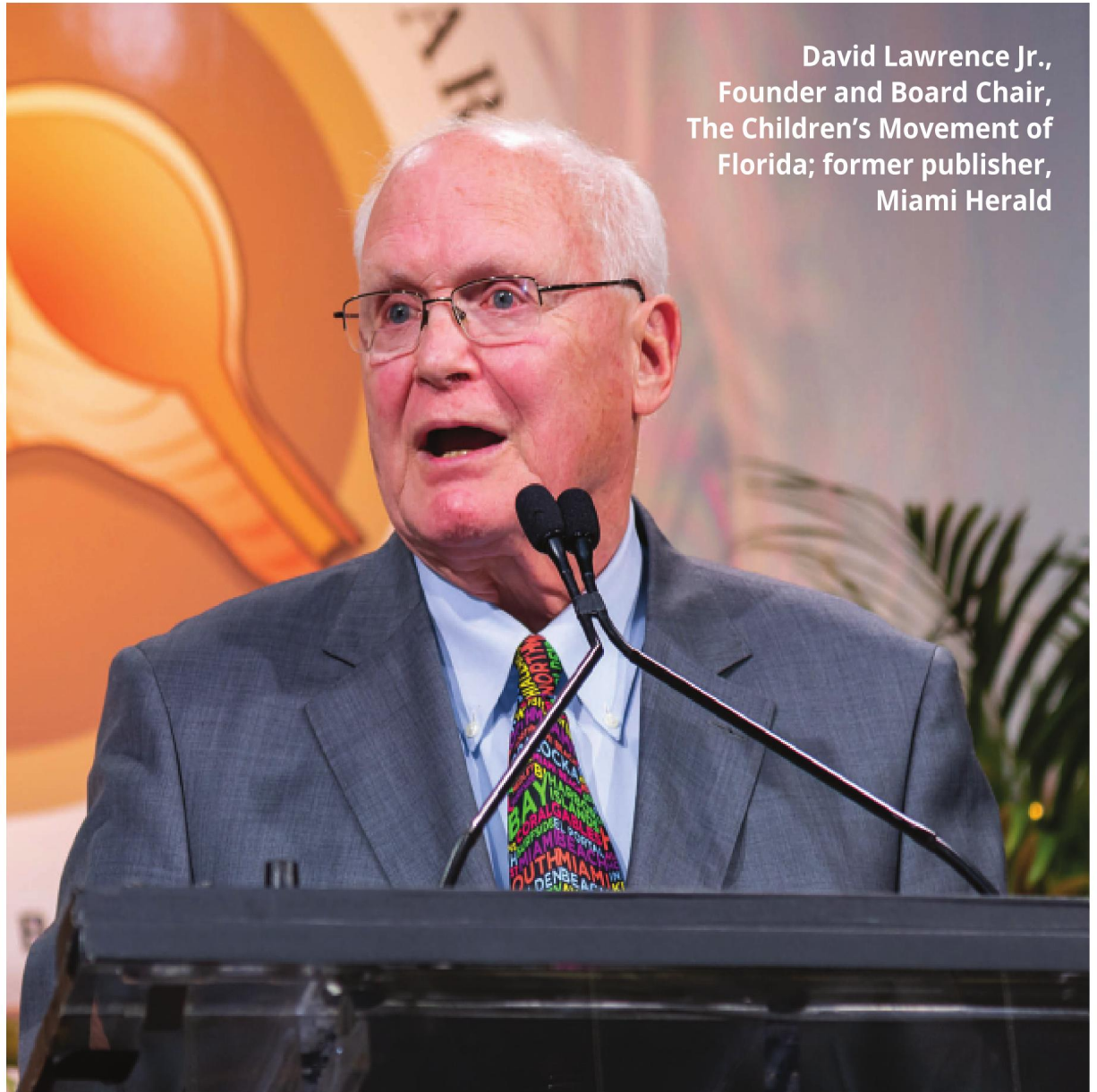


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A key figure in passing a statewide constitutional amendment to provide pre-K for all 4-year-olds, Lawrence received the Sand in My Shoes Award, presented by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, on March 1st. His acceptance speech became an opinion piece that was published in the Miami Herald on March 3rd. “This evening I share a dozen lessons of life that I absorbed from great parents, eight siblings, great bosses and colleagues, and so many of you. I am still learning. I always will be.”

1. Tell people you love them while they are still here. Life can depart so quickly.
2. Believe in people.
3. Grow spiritually. Believe in what is higher and better than yourself. For otherwise, what could be the meaning of life?
4. Know that racism is the great cancer of society. I have been in 56 countries, and witnessed racism in every one of them. Only by confronting oneself can racism be diminished.
5. Have the courage to speak up. Never tell so-called “jokes” that diminish others. Being thoughtful and sensitive has nothing to do with being “politically correct,” whatever that is.
6. Be a lifelong learner and reader. Read widely. Read wisely. Deeply. Closely. Then make up your own mind.
7. You and I cannot get through life without pain. But we can grow from pain.
8. Get back to people quickly — the same day, even if it is to say, “It will take me a couple of days to give you a full enough response.”
9. Believe in redemption. We are all sinners. We all make mistakes.
10. Always vote for someone with an obvious moral core.
11. Love this country. Help make us better. Listen, really listen, especially to those who see things differently than we may. The future of this great republic depends more than ever on diminishing tribalism and hatefulness.
12. Be useful, be responsible, be compassionate. May we bring from what is within each of us the best of ourselves to do the best for others.



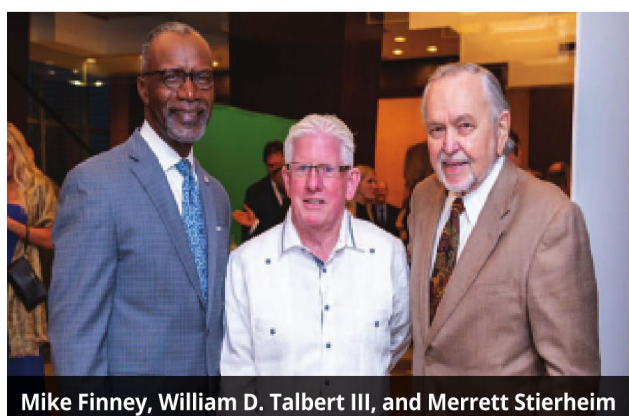
David Lawrence Jr., Founder and Board Chair, The Children’s Movement of Florida; former publisher, Miami Herald

What have you

David Lawrence Jr.’s prompt and habitual question to friends, colleagues, mentees and, likely, anyone who meets him, illustrates the tenacity of one of the greatest advocates for early childhood development and readiness in South Florida.



Alexandra Villoch, David Lawrence Jr., and Mike Fernandez



Mike Finney, William D. Talbert III, and Merrett Stierheim



Penny Shaffer and Felipe Basulto



Dr. Oscar Loynaz, Alfred Sanchez, Madeline Pumariega, Dr. Malou C. Harrison, and Dr. Bryan Stewart



From left to right: Rick Beasley, Executive Director of CareerSource South Florida, and Chairman of the Board for the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; Rudy Fernandez, Executive Vice President for External Affairs and Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff for the University of Miami; Doug Bartel, Market Leader for Florida Blue and At-Large Member of the Executive Committee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; David Wagner, Market President of Florida Blue; David Lawrence Jr., Founder and Board Chair, The Children’s Movement of Florida; Joe Natoli, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at Baptist Health South Florida; Alfred Sanchez, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce



Members of the Honorary Host Committee who made the 2021 Sand in My Shoes event possible, some of whom accompanied us on March 1st: Jayne & Leonard Abess Family Foundation; Dr. Mike Allen; Cesar L. Alvarez; Antonio Argiz; David A. Armstrong, J.D.; Christine Barney; Doug Bartel; Felipe Basulto; Rick Beasley; Trish and Dan Bell; Peter L. Belmont; Berkowitz Pollack Brant Advisors and CPAs; Javi Borges; Cressman D. Bronson; Raoul Cantero; Richard Cole; Jaret L. Davis; Miguel B. Fernandez; Rudy Fernandez; Dr. Kira and Neil Flanzraich; Jay Fraioli; Omar Franco; Ben Gilbert, Jr.; Adolfo Henriques; Kim Griffin-Hunter; Stuart Grossman; Goldman Sachs; James R. Haj; President George Hanbury, PhD; Barbara Havernick; Alberto Ibarguen; Kenneth Jessell; Manny Kadre; Jason Liberty; Matt Love; Justin Luger; Dr. Modesto Maidique; Jorge Martinez; Manny Medina; Roddy Melendez; Larry Mendelson; Leslie Miller Saiontz; Roberto Muñoz; Mario Murgado; Joe Natoli; Gilberto Neves; Jorge Perez; Matthew Pinzur; Jorge Plasencia; Madeline Pumariega; James M. Repp; Ira Rosner; Gene Schaefer; Charles and Roz Stuzin; Dolores Sukhdeo; William Talbert, III; Evelio Torres; William D. Turnbull; Christine Valls; Irene White; Ed Williamson; Louis Wolfson, III; Jane Wooldridge; Joe Zubi

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Alfred Sanchez, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce



Joe Natoli, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at Baptist Health South Florida; former president, Miami Herald Media Company



Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor, Miami-Dade County



Rick Beasley, Executive Director of CareerSource South Florida, and Chairman of the Board for the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce



Rudy Fernandez, Executive Vice President for External Affairs and Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff, University of Miami



Judith Siegal, Rabbi at Temple of Judea, Miami

read recently?

Lawrence's twelve lessons of life -contained in his acceptance speech-, are abridged and reproduced above, as the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce extends its gratitude to sponsors, philanthropists, family, and friends, in continuing to recognize outstanding leadership in South Florida.



From left to right: Rudy Fernandez, Executive Vice President for External Affairs and Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff for the University of Miami; Alfred Sanchez, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; Rick Beasley, Executive Director of CareerSource South Florida, and Chairman of the Board for the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; David Lawrence Jr., Founder and Board Chair, The Children's Movement of Florida; Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor, Miami-Dade County; Joe Natoli, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at Baptist Health South Florida; Doug Bartel, Market Leader for Florida Blue and At-Large Member of the Executive Committee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; David Wagner, Market President of Florida Blue



Trish and Dan Bell, and Ben Mollere



Roberto Muñoz and Vance Aloupis



Performance by the New World School of the Arts



David Lawrence Jr. and Katherine Fernandez Rundle



Ralph McNamara, Adrián Alfonso, Albert Lopez, and Jay Pelham