



“You make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give.”

Allapattah Music and Literacy Education Center

Vision: The Allapattah Music and Literacy Education Center’s main focus will be on creating a unique community center in the heart of Allapattah, Florida. The Center will target local families who are underserved and underprivileged. The Motivational Edge (ME) Team will provide the youth with a creative outlet for musical expression, while at the same time integrating components of literacy into its music programs. Free tutoring will be available to all youth participating in music; however, those students who are underperforming in school will be required to attend academic tutoring sessions. Success in school is a vital part of ME’s mission. Using music as a motivational and learning tool, we impel students who are underachieving toward desperately needed academic instruction.

The youth currently served by The Motivational Edge programs are walking testaments that music is an extremely powerful learning tool when integrated into the academic setting. Our unique programs integrate reading and writing skills with music instruction in innovative ways, which motivates and benefits the youth participants.



Within the first six months of service, we envision creating a large impact on the community of Allapattah. For example, ME’s music production program, “RAY- Recording Arts for Youth”, includes a cutting edge writing component, which emphasizes different writing styles, types of poetry, and various forms of lyrical developments which improve performance in the classroom and on standardized tests. This also provides a rare and safe outlet for the underprivileged youth to positively express themselves, without being judged. We believe that the success of our programs will be evident and documented by increased standardized test scores and increased grades by at least 33% of the Allapattah ME participants within the first six months of their involvement.

The Motivational Edge, Inc.
555 N.E. 15 St. Suite 213
Miami, FL 33132
305.350.3950
www.TheMotivationalEdge.com



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As with many other cities, the roots of educational deficits are deeper than the youth’s academic performance. For that reason, we envision Allapattah to be a center of motivation with a focus on family, engaging everyone in the learning process. With that intention, we will offer *The Motivating Parent*; an educational series presenting tools and insights which increase positive communication within families, thus strengthening the bonds between parent and child. Parents will become the most effective and powerful educators for their children.

Allapattah was chosen because it is Miami’s melting pot, with residents from all across the Caribbean, Central America and Latin America. The rich cultural background and family values that make up the core of this community will be nurtured and will thrive with this center in their midst.

The benefits for the youth and community as a whole are as follows:

- Increased self-awareness and discipline
- Inspiration of the creative spirit through music and rhythm
- Academic Improvement
- Motivation to succeed in and out of school
- Increased confidence and morale
- Skills taught that afford viable options with legitimate income potential
- Creation of jobs in the community (clerical, music production, DJ, tutoring, janitorial)
- Referral Source to other community organizations



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