



COURTESY PHOTOS

Lisa Kozar, Diana Embick, Anna Poulin, Maria Marino, Edna W. Runner, Leah Frankel, Cary Stamp, Lee Owen and Phil Danford



Alice Hudson and Anita Johnson



Anna Poulin and Edna W. Runner

Edna Runner Center breaks ground on expansion

For more than 30 years, the Edna W. Runner Tutorial Center has served young and old alike in Jupiter.

In March, donors, guests and government officials joined the board of directors, volunteers, students and staff as they picked up shovels and hit the dirt in a ceremonious display to celebrate and make it official that the Edna W. Runner Tutorial Center has begun construction of its building and grounds expansion project. Construction will support the nonprofit's after-school, educational programs including music, culinary, science, workforce training, outdoor recreation, life skills and more.

To date, the community has garnered early commitments from private and business donors, but says it's still not met its \$2 million goal to complete the project.

In addition to serving children, Edna Runner, who has led the center as its executive director for 20 years, offers outreach to the senior citizens by busing them to the center to enjoy activities and holiday functions, hosted by the students. Many are grandparents of the students enrolled in the afterschool tutoring program.

"These improvements are overdue and significant to assist our children with gaining the skills and experience necessary in today's competitive higher



Shanel McDonald, Teriona Bias, Aiyana Richardson, Jaice Harper, Diamonique Worthen, J'Quan Worthen, Tyrese Campbell-Rollins and Jason Portillo-Lopez

education environment to help them achieve and reach their goals," Ms. Runner said. "We are so appreciative of the community's support, but we truly need more help ... we ask your help."

On the program, Ms. Runner welcomed and thanked the more than 100 guests seated under a tent outdoors amid architectural renderings of facility upgrades on tap. Lee Owen, president and board chairman of the Edna W. Runner Tutorial Center, addressed the group and detailed building enhancements planned to do more for the children who find the center, "...a safe and supportive learning environment to thrive in."

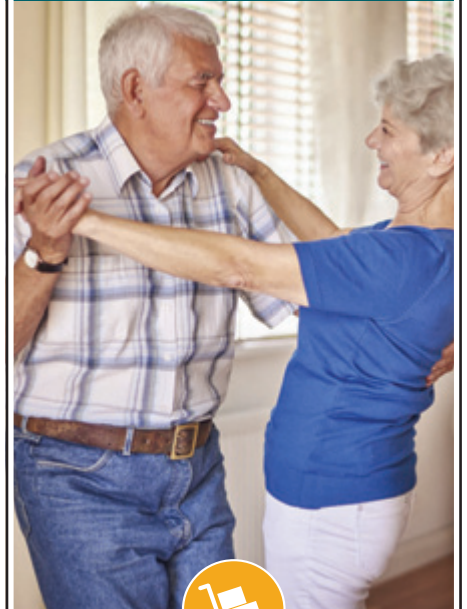
Prior to the ceremony, guests were

greeted by volunteers and students with ribbons and asked to wear them throughout the day as they returned to the community to help spread the word of the need for the center's support.

Edna W. Runner Tutorial Center is a not-for-profit organization that has been providing services and leadership in the West Jupiter community since 1986.

The tutorial center is a DCF-accredited provider of after school tutoring, as well as winter break, spring break and summer camp services for a licensed capacity of 107 at-risk children in grades K-8. For additional information or to take a tour, call 561-745-0950. To donate, visit www.ewrunnerctr.org. ■

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