

## Opportunity Inc. Palm Beach County earns top rating from Quality Counts

By **JOSEPH LUCIANO**

DAILY NEW STAFF WRITER

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Opportunity Inc. of Palm Beach County recently received a five-plus-star rating through the Quality Counts rating improvement system for early care and education providers.

Opportunity Inc., the oldest charity organization in the county, has been serving Palm Beach County children for more than 71 years.

It is designed to offer low-cost, quality preschool child care, educational programming and parent support to low-income families, single-parent families and families in crisis.

“Our goal is to provide our students with the tools they need to succeed in education to which they may otherwise never have access,” said Ali Eger, director of education and curriculum of the Opportunity Inc. Early Childhood Center. “Achieving a five-plus-star rating is a clear indication that we are accomplishing our mission and making a difference in the lives of children and the future of our community.

“Obtaining a five-plus-star rating requires an immense amount of time and dedication to quality. The requirements are rigorous, and the standards are unsurpassed. Obtaining our rating was a team effort from all staff members with the support of our board of directors.”

Quality Counts uses a five-star method to ensure quality standards so that children enter school eager and ready to learn.

The rating is based on these standards: learning environment, staff-to-child ratio/group sizes, family engagement, curriculum, administration and staff qualifications/professional development.

Quality Counts is managed by Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County, Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County Inc., Family Central Inc., Palm Beach State College and the School District of Palm Beach County.