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MDC students raise money for Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

By Christina Mayo
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A group of busy college students recently found a way to have fun and raise funds for a good cause.

As finals approached, the students in Miami Dade College's Diverse Student Organization took a break to give back. They gathered at Arcade Odyssey in Kendall for gaming and to help support the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Organizer Jordan Dieppa said the event was an incredible success and she plans to repeat it next year.

"We made 10 times as much as last year's \$26. DSO, and especially Arcade Odyssey, did a great job in supporting my vision and goal, and I hope for an even bigger success next year when I plan on organizing it for a third year, and A.O. will have hosted for its fourth year," Dieppa said.

The students raised \$282.48, which they sent in a check to the national Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. According to the foundation's website, CF is an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system of more than 30,000 children and adults in the United States. There are 1,000 new cases diagnosed in nationally each year. About 70,000 have CF worldwide.

While some progress has been made, there is still no cure for CF. Patients must spend each day in efforts to loosen and clear their airways of the thick mucus that forms. They take inhaled medicines and antibiotics to aid this as well as pancreatic enzyme supplements to improve vital nutrient absorption.

"Currently, there is not a widespread cure for CF, only treatments that were designed to target specific areas of the body to maintain the symptoms," Dieppa said. "Recently, we have begun to hope as the FDA approved the drug Kalydeco for use in people ages 6 and older who have nine of the 1,800 mutations. The drug treats the underlying causes of the disease."

Members of the Diverse Student Organization club enjoy volunteering and have donated and raised funds for various organizations including the Chapman Partnership, Dieppa said.

She said Arcade Odyssey, at 12045 SW 117th Ave., has held multiple fundraisers to support CF and other causes over the last two years. The gaming center is a retro-style arcade with classics such as Pac-Man and Galaga, pinball machines, and Japanese games. For the recent CF fundraiser the arcade donated almost \$180 dollars to the cause.

If you would like to know how to get involved with helping the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation call 1-800-FIGHT CF, or email info@cff.org. To learn about symptoms and treatments visit www.cff.org.

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