

TUESDAY IS FAMILY NIGHT
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We are very proud of our Parents are Learning nights and Parent Enrichment Program. Both meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:30 where child care and a family style dinner for the whole family is provided.

Parents are Learning (PAL)

PAL (Parents Are Learning) nights have a long tradition at Jack & Jill. Early on, well before it was considered "Best Practice", Fran Payne, Executive Director Emeritus, recognized that the best way to effectively teach children and help families break the cycle of poverty was to educate parents as well. Today this is the essence of J&J's holistic family focused approach to education and family services. PAL night topics range from health and wellness to financial literacy and first time home buying. We even had our very own "The Biggest Loser" competition in an effort to help parents get healthy and prevent heart disease and diabetes. The winner lost 20 pounds in 6 weeks! Parents often suggest topics of interest or need and we do our best to address these topics with them. Through the PAL program and the help of our Friends Auxiliary Board we have built strong community ties with the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine, Nova Southeastern University, Urban League, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies and many more.

Additionally, we recently completed a Women's Empowerment Workshop led by Fran Payne Member Lisa Gaeta and Social Worker, Allison Brown. Lisa is the President and C.O.O. of Finance Placements & Consulting, Inc., an executive placement firm in the areas of financial institutions, investment banking and private equity firms. Jack & Jill has been very fortunate to have Lisa volunteer her time and expertise to help empower our mothers to be better advocates for themselves. At Jack & Jill, we strongly believe the best way to empower our parents and help them become stable and self-sufficient is to improve their earning potential through better employment. Over the course of 8 weeks, the workshop topics and events included: resume and cover letter writing, interviewing, networking, dress for success, financial planning by RSM McGladrey, Inc. Director Joey Epstein, makeovers by expert Lisa Lee and a final graduation dinner. The program has been a great success. Attendees in some cases have resumes and are going on real interviews for the first time. Lisa has committed to being their mentors for life and on hand for advice and guidance as they need it. Allison is at the Center daily to help these women utilize their new tools and skills to find the job that will really make a difference.

