



**“We Connect Families In Need, To Friends With Resources.”**

## **FFC 2012 Graduates**

**Name:** Miss Shaneil Melisa Wedderburn: She is one of the pride and joys of Family and Friends Connection, Inc. and is the only member graduating this school year 2012.

**School:** She attends College Academy @ Broward College where she is dual enrolled in college and high school. Shaneil will graduate high school with an Associates degree.

**Parents:** She is the daughter of FFC President Donneth & Kevin Wedderburn

**School activities:** Shneil won the Stranahan High School Biology and Medical Research Honors Award, June 2009, and the Biotechnology Award, June 2010. National Honor Society Fundraising Co-head, Member of the National Achiever Society, Member of First Priority, Principal Honor Roll throughout high school

**Volunteer activities:** FFC Tutor, Administrative Assistant, mentor, and photographer, Youth Leader and Sunday School Teacher. Shaneil also won numerous community volunteer awards including: FFC Academic Achievement Award 2011, FFC Community Volunteer Award 2011 & 2012, Volunteer Broward Community Volunteer Award, April 2011, FFC Volunteer of the Month Award, November 2011, City of Miramar Outstanding Community Volunteer Awards, 2011 & 2012, The Presidential Volunteer Service Award, April 2012. Martin Luther King Cultural Center “Youth Changing Trailblazer” Award, January 2012.

Schools applied to: University of Florida, University of Miami, University of Central Florida, University of South Florida, Florida State University, and Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University

Schools accepted to: All - University of Florida, University of Miami, University of Central Florida, University of South Florida, Florida State University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University.

Shaneil will be attending the University of Florida where she will major in Biology, following a pre-med track. She plans to finish her medical studies to become a Pediatrician, at Johns Hopkins University.

She could not receive an FFC Realizing Your Self Worth Scholarship because she is a member, and also the president's daughter, but other community organizations have decided to bless her for her hard work and outstanding achievements.

**Shaneil Wedderburn received scholarship awards from South Florida Connects (SFC), and A Place of Restoration Prayer Line. She received an outstanding scholastic achievement awards plaque from Family & Friends Connection, Inc. (FFC).**

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## **Community Volunteer Graduates**

**Salt Changers our Community Praise Dancers from  
Eternal Life International Worship Center**

**Chaszmeque (Chad) Rachel, from Boyd Anderson High:** Already completed one year at Broward College. He is the leader of the Salt Changers Praise Dancers and on occasion delivers the sermon at his church on Sunday.

**Chaszmeque Rachel received and award from Miramar Commissioner Alexander Davis, South Florida Connects, and Family & Friends Connection, Inc.**

**JaChae' (Chae') Sanctious,** from Plantation High - Salt Shangers; will be attending Broward College starting this summer.

**JaChae' Sanctious received an award from Family & Friends Connection, Inc.**

**Janice (Lucy) Brown**, from Boyd Anderson High – plans to attend either Florida Memorial (Miami) or Broward College.

**Janice (Lucy) Brown received an award from Family & Friends Connection, Inc.**

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### **YRIMI Graduates**

Rachel Francois graduated from Hallandale Magnet High School and will study at the University of South Florida

**Rachel Francois received an award from Family & Friends Connection, Inc.**

Trudie Smith graduate of Miramar High, will study at Broward College.

**Trudie Smith received an award from Family & Friends Connection, Inc.**

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### **FFC 2012 Scholarship Award Recipients**

**1: Name: Miss Alexsandra Bello**

**School:** West Broward High School

**Parents:** Eric & Melissa Bello

**School activities:** Math Honor Society-President, Youth Leadership Broward, Student Gov. Ass., Played Varsity Soccer- City of Miramar, Recreational Soccer Ass. Coach- Pembroke Pines

**Volunteer activities:** Community Service: More than 2000 hrs.

Director of Community and Player Relations- West Pines Miracle League

Historian- Bobcat Buddies- A club for ESE disabled students -West Broward High

Do Something Club, Key Club, National Honor Society,

City of Pembroke Pines Summer Camp Volunteer Counselor

Destiny Textbook Distribution

Junior class Officer – Community Service Senator

Future Florida Educators of America

Miramar Optimist Baseball League

Seafarer Shoe Box Project – Project Leader

**Miami Herald 2012 Silver Knight Awards winner:** This is one of the nation's most highly regarded student awards programs. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding students who have not only maintained good grades but have also unselfishly applied their special knowledge and talents to contribute significant service to their schools and communities. Alessandra won the Mathematics Award for Broward County. After all of that she still has a

**Weighted GPA:** 4.92

**Schools applied to:** FSU, UCF, and UF

**Schools accepted to:** She will study for her Masters Degree at: The University of Florida, and wants to be a Mathematics Teacher.

**Alessandra Bello received the Family & Friends Connection, Inc. Realizing Your Self Worth Scholarship Award and the South Florida Connects Outstanding Academic Achievement Award.**  
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**2. Name:** Mr. Rahil Shah

**School:** Miramar High – 2012 Senior Class President

**Parents:** Mr. & Mrs. Shah

**School Activities:** Doctors Without Borders – President

National Honors Society – Treasurer, Varsity Tennis Team Player

Spanish Honor Society – Treasurer, Debate Team, Indian Student Association

Middle Years Program – Student Council Coordinator/Treasurer

Student Government Association, Tennis Club – Treasurer,

Mock Trial- 5<sup>th</sup> place.

**Community Service:** Volunteer activities: More than 1000 hrs. Memorial Hospital, Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute of Cancer Research, Dr. Robert Tomchik & Dr, Vijay Vakharia, Indian Religious Cultural Center for Youth, Habitat for Humanity, Jain Center – camp Counselor, Sony Ericson Tennis –Ball Boy, BMW Open Tennis – Ball Boy

**Broward County Silver Knight Nominee in Science**

**Weighted GPA:** 5.38

**Schools applied to:** University of Pennsylvania, George Town University, Duke University, Johns Hopkins University, Northwestern University, UM, Brown University, Boston University

**Schools accepted to:** George Town University, Boston University, UM, UF.

**Will attend:** University of Miami where he will study Medicine

**Rahil Shaw received the Family & Friends Connection, Inc. Realizing Your Self Worth Scholarship Award, and the South Florida Connects Outstanding Academic Achievement Award.**  
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**3. Name:** Orlando Watson

**School:** Hallandale Magnet High

**Parents:** Ms. Charmaine Turner

**School activities:** JROTC – Battalion Commander, Battalion Executive Officer and Command Sergeant Major, TV Production, Video Production, Broadcast Journalism, National Honor Society, CRMI Praise Team, Key Club,

**Volunteer activities:** Orlando did his community volunteer hours as JROTC – Battalion Commander, Battalion Executive Officer and Command Sergeant Major, and with YRIMI Youth Group as a Youth Leader.

**Schools applied to:** Four Colleges

**Will attend:** Broward College

**Orlando Watson received the Hylton Gordon Accounting Services Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award, and the Family & Friends Connection, Inc. Outstanding Academic Achievement Award.**  
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**4. Name:** Waqtasu Tesemma

**School:** West Broward High

**Parents:** Lives with his uncle and his wife Family. **(Waqtasu has a touching story.)** His mom left him and his brother with family, and came here from Ethiopia to have brain surgery for a brain tumor. He later migrated to the USA with his younger brother to be with her. Unfortunately his mom's health had deteriorated badly, so he had to assume an adult role. He did the shopping; he cooked, cleaned and took care of his mom and younger brother. It was stressful and he sometimes wished he was back in Ethiopia where he wouldn't have so much responsibility. Life in the US has been tough, but he persevered and got really good grades. Eventually his mom had to go to live in an assisted living facility as he could no longer take care of her, and there was no money.

He and his brother left Colorado and came to Florida last year to live with his uncle and his wife. He misses his mom but he is happy he came to Florida, because this young man has excelled and is thriving academically. He understands that an education can help him achieve the American dream. He has been through so much at his young age, but he does not regret it as it has prepared him for the world and life ahead. He is going off to college where all his housekeeping and cooking skills will come in pretty handy.

**School activities:** Soccer, Project Primal, Heroes at Home,

**Volunteer activities:** With all his challenges, Waqtasu found time to volunteer mostly at his church, and had more than the required number of volunteer hours.

**GPA:** 4.37

**Schools applied to:** University of Florida, Florida International University, University of Central Florida, Florida State University

**Schools accepted to:** University of Florida, FIU, and UCF

**Will attend:** The University of Florida

**Waqtasu Tesemma received the Carl's Seafood Restaurant Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award and the Family & Friends Connection, Inc. Outstanding Academic Achievement Award.**