



'STOP THE BLEED'

When Every Second Counts

By Dr. Leslie Rosenfeld and Paul Scicchitano

Every child who attends a Miami Beach public school this year will be steps away from a potentially lifesaving Stop the Bleed Kit at all times.

"Obviously, the mutual goal is to not have an incident where these kits would have to be used," explained Elisheva Rogoff of the Miami Beach Committee for Quality Education, which urged the Miami Beach City Commission to fund Stop the Bleed kits in all city classrooms. "We always want to be prepared and we want to be preemptive."

The city partnered with Parkland mother Lori Alhadeff's Make Our Schools Safe organization to install the kits in the city's five public schools and at Treasure Island Elementary School in nearby North Bay Village, which serves a number of Miami Beach students.

Each kit contains tourniquets, compression bandages and blood-clotting, hemostatic gauze to control excessive blood loss. The kits have been mounted on classroom walls while teachers, first responders and other school personnel have been undergoing training on how to use them in an emergency.

The training also covers bloodborne pathogens and gives participants an opportunity to be vaccinated against hepatitis B if they wish to do so.

"I think we are the only municipality in the state that has funded the purchase and installation of Stop the Bleed kits in every school in the city," Rogoff noted.

The City of Miami Beach contributed \$20,000 to the kits. Make Our Schools Safe contributed \$15,000 and the office of Miami-Dade School Board Member Lucia Baez-Geller donated \$2,000.

Make Our School's Safe was born from the horrific Parkland school tragedy on Valentine's Day 2018 to promote a culture of school safety through efforts such as Stop the Bleed.

In addition to the kits, Make Our Schools Safe promotes school clubs for safety-minded students, who meet on school grounds every two weeks to develop community service projects and become advocates for school safety in their schools.



School personnel and first responders undergo training on Stop the Bleed kits.

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Miami Beach Senior High School already had Stop the Bleed kits, but the other city schools received a total of 349 new kits. Miami-Dade County Public Schools will absorb the cost of training, installation and upkeep of the kits.

The city also funds two full-time mental health professionals for city schools to identify and treat students who may be suffering from emotional issues that could develop into more serious conditions if left unchecked.

The city provided such funding even before the Parkland school shooting focused national attention on the issue.

“Our community in particular, is very proactive,” added Aimee Hershkowitz of Miami Beach. “The community wants to be prepared and understand what’s going on across the country. There’s an onslaught of cyberthreats that keep coming. Even when the threats have no merit, you are living that fear. This can happen anywhere.”

Parkland Mother Honors Daughter’s Memory

Lori Alhadeff recalls standing outside Westglades Middle School in Parkland with her 14-year-old daughter’s best friend on Valentine’s Day 2018 as the teen received a chilling text message that would forever change both their lives.

“She read the text message saying that Alyssa was shot,” Alhadeff recalled, which is how the mother of three first learned that her daughter had been the victim of a school shooting only steps away on the campus of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Alyssa was shot in room 1216 during her afternoon English class in a free-standing satellite building on the tree-lined campus.

“I just fell to the ground and started screaming,” Alhadeff told MB. “I got back up and tried to run toward the school.”

Alyssa would not survive the attack by an emotionally troubled former student wielding an AR-15 rifle who fired indiscriminately as he roamed the corridors. A freshman at the school and mid-fielder on the girls soccer team, Alyssa was among 17 students and staff who perished in what is considered to be one of the worst school shootings in the nation’s history. Another 17 people were wounded in the attack.

Determined that some good could come from the tragedy, Alhadeff founded the Make Our School’s Safe organization to promote a culture of school safety through efforts such as “Stop the Bleed,” which puts life-saving medical supplies in classrooms.

Under a separate initiative, Make Our Schools Safe supports the passage of Alyssa’s Law, which requires public schools to install silent panic alarms in classrooms. As of early this year, the measure had been signed into law by Florida and New Jersey Govs. Ron DeSantis and Phil Murphy, according to Make Our Schools Safe. It was pending in Virginia and New York.



"The feedback that I've gotten from kids is that they feel safer knowing that the kits are there, knowing that if a traumatic event occurred, that the teacher or school staff would be equipped to be able to stop the bleed in that emergency situation," Alhadeff said of the initiative.

The goal behind the kits is to give victims more time, something there was simply not enough of during the Parkland shootings, where first responders weren't immediately able to gain access to the victims.

Alhadeff, who is now an elected member of the Broward County School Board, believes such kits might have given Alyssa a better chance of surviving the attack had one been available in her classroom at the time.

"The shooter never came into her classroom. He broke open the window and shot into the classroom," Alhadeff said. "But if Alyssa was out of the line of vision and there was a Stop the Bleed Kit in that corner, hypothetically, a teacher or a student could have put a tourniquet on

Alyssa's arms or legs, then hypothetically could have saved her life if help got there faster."

"Stop the Bleed" kits were developed through a collaboration of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma to improve survivability in cases of severe blood loss based on the lessons learned during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Alhadeff said she and her family visited Alyssa's grave on the fourth anniversary of the tragedy before attending a Parkland memorial service.

"I think, Alyssa would be supportive of everything," the mother shared. "I think it would be really important to Alyssa that I'm doing this to keep her friends safe, to keep her two brothers safe in school. I know she's watching down and is rooting me on." MB



For more information on Make Our Schools Safe visit www.makeourschoolssafe.org.





Stop the Bleed kits put lifesavings supplies within reach for emergencies.

‘Detener el sangrado’ cuando cada segundo cuenta Cada niño que asista a una escuela pública de Miami Beach este año estará a muy poca distancia, en todo momento, de un botiquín de primeros auxilios para detener una hemorragia (Stop the Bleed) que pudiera ser mortal.

“Obviamente, el objetivo mutuo es que no haya ningún incidente en el que haga falta usar estos botiquines”, explicó Elisheva Rogoff del Comité de Miami Beach para la Educación de Calidad, el cual abogó ante la Comisión de la Ciudad de Miami Beach por el financiamiento de los botiquines de Stop the Bleed en todos los salones de clase de la ciudad. “Siempre deseamos estar preparados y buscamos la prevención”.

La ciudad se ha aliado con Make Our Schools Safe, organización a favor de la seguridad en las escuelas bajo el liderazgo de Lori Alhadeff, una de las madres de Parkland, para instalar los botiquines en las cinco escuelas públicas de la ciudad y en la escuela primaria Treasure Island Elementary School en la comunidad cercana de North Bay Village, que atiende a un buen número de estudiantes de Miami Beach.

Cada botiquín contiene torniquetes, vendas de compresión y gasas hemostáticas anticoagulantes para controlar la pérdida excesiva de sangre. Los botiquines han sido colocados en las paredes

de los salones de clase mientras los maestros, los socorristas y el resto del personal de la escuela ha recibido capacitación sobre cómo utilizarlos en caso de una emergencia.

La capacitación también abarca patógenos presentes en la sangre y les da a los participantes una oportunidad de vacunarse contra la hepatitis B si desean hacerlo.

“Creo que somos el único municipio del estado que ha financiado la compra e instalación de los botiquines de Stop the Bleed en cada escuela de la ciudad”, señaló Rogoff.

La Ciudad de Miami Beach aportó \$20,000 para la compra de los botiquines. Make Our Schools Safe contribuyó con \$15,000 y Lucia Baez-Geller, miembro de la Junta Escolar de Miami-Dade, hizo un donativo de \$2,000.

La organización Make Our Schools Safe surgió a raíz de la espantosa tragedia escolar de Parkland el Día de San Valentín del 2018 con la finalidad de promover una conciencia sobre la seguridad escolar mediante esfuerzos como los de la campaña Stop the Bleed (Detén el sangrado).



Teachers undergo training on Stop the Bleed kits recently in Miami Beach.

Además de los botiquines, *Make Our Schools Safe* promueve clubes escolares para estudiantes interesados en la seguridad, quienes se reúnen en los recintos escolares cada dos semanas para crear proyectos de servicio comunitario y convertirse en defensores de la seguridad en sus escuelas.

La escuela secundaria Miami Beach Senior High School ya contaba con botiquines de Stop the Bleed, pero las demás escuelas de la ciudad recibieron un total de 349 botiquines nuevos. Las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Miami-Dade asumirán el costo de capacitación, instalación y mantenimiento de los botiquines.

La ciudad también financia el servicio de dos profesionales de salud mental a tiempo completo para que las escuelas de la ciudad identifiquen y traten a los estudiantes que puedan estar padeciendo problemas emocionales que, de no ser tratados, pudieran convertirse en condiciones más graves.

La ciudad ofrecía dicho financiamiento incluso antes de que el tiroteo en la escuela de Parkland atrajera la atención nacional a esta problemática. "Nuestra comunidad, en particular, es muy proactiva", agregó Aimee Hershkowitz de Miami Beach. "La comunidad quiere estar preparada y entender lo que está sucediendo en todo el país. Hay un constante ataque de amenazas cibernéticas constantes. Incluso cuando las amenazas no tienen fundamento, vivimos con ese temor. Esto puede pasar en cualquier lugar".

Madre de Parkland rinde homenaje a la memoria de su hija

Lori Alhadeff recuerda que esperaba en la entrada de la escuela Westglades Middle School en Parkland junto a la mejor amiga de su hija de 14 años el Día de San Valentín del 2018 cuando la adolescente recibió un mensaje de texto estremecedor que cambiaría la vida de ambas para siempre.