The 2021 COJ/HUD Public-Philanthropic Initiative Award

Club 904 Teen Center
MALIVAI WASHINGTON YOUTH FOUNDATION

OVERVIEW
Located adjacent to MWYF’s Youth Center and the Emmett Reed Community Center and Park, Club 904 is a 13,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility featuring a teaching kitchen, game room, music and technology room, lounge, classrooms, and administrative offices. Services offered include academic assistance, mental health counseling, college preparation, scholarships, employment and leadership training, recreational activities, and elective and enrichment courses. Family engagement and support is also included.

CHALLENGE
To help teens develop skills needed to be successful in school, find steady employment, break cycles of poverty and become contributing members of the community.

INNOVATION
The Club 904 Teen Center is the first program of its kind in the Durkeeville community, an area lacking services and programs for teens. MWYF teens were engaged in every aspect of the creation of MWYF’s Teen Center. They traveled to centers across the country to get ideas, provided input on the rooms, layout and design of the building, and chose the name – Club 904 Teen Center! Now that the center is open, a Teen Board of Directors, elected by the students, provides input on programming and activities, plans events and trips, and acts as leaders to their peers. Research shows that crimes committed by juvenile offenders’ peak between 3 and 7pm. Providing innovative, research-based programming is a major component of Club 904. Research indicates that youth with strong social and emotional competence are less likely to engage in risky behavior. Developing these skills in youth will reduce the chances of their involvement with risky behavior and lead them to rise to their full potential and become contributing members of society.

Malivai Washington Youth Foundation
MWYF is a great place for youth. They help you prepare for the future and make sure you are doing good now. I love it here at the teen center because we all get along like one big family.

- Breona Holley, rising sophomore

PARTNERS
- City of Jacksonville
- Kids Hope Alliance
- Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office
- Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
- Lucy Gooding Charitable Foundation
- DuBow Family Foundation
- Florida Blue
- The Players Championship
- Duval County Public Schools