

# SOUTH FLORIDA SunSentinel

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## Community

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### Ultimate makeover

#### Volunteers make a big difference at ARC Broward

BY SCOTT FISHMAN  
Staff Writer

More than 100 employees recently came together to provide ARC Broward in Sunrise a much-needed makeover.

Volunteers from Weston-based Ultimate Software divided into four projects throughout the 9-acre property. ARC Broward provides services to children and adults with developmental disabilities and various life challenges.

They tore up old flooring in classroom areas inside the Center for Financial Stability to make way for more durable surfaces, renovated work spaces, painted the culinary room, brought donated furniture and artwork, de-weeded the culinary institute's herb garden and more.

"Our motto and how we live is people first," said Heather Gerone-mus, Ultimate Software spokeswoman. "This place is all about people first. What they do is serve their population and the rest of the community by improving the lives of the people that they serve. So I thought our missions are similar."

Ultimate Software employees are given four paid days a year to use for a volunteer or community effort. For Michelle Ault, product analyst and advisory team member, this project hit close to home because she has a 6-year-old with Down syndrome.

"This is a place he can come and grow and learn from," she said. "This has been an ongoing project. We started on the Saturday before pulling up the floor. We just split everyone up, and they are all doing great."

Jody Ellis, ARC's director of work force services, said the work and donated items would have cost them tens of thousands of dollars.

"We started with no capital budget, meaning we had no start-

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### for parents

#### vie school

"With today's world and as crazy as it is, I want to make sure I'm doing the right thing, especially for a divorced family," he said. "There are always two sets of rules. You try to be on the same page, but it's almost humanly impossible, even under normal circumstances. I want to make sure that when they're with me, I'm parenting correctly and know what is expected because it is a crazy world with all the gadgets, friends and peer pressure and what's going on in schools."

in the program's effectiveness that she's going for the third year.

"You hear feedback from other parents," she said. "It's kind of like having this support system because sometimes you feel like you're the only one having the situation. ... While you are in the class, you practice at home what is being taught. It is reinforcement and about constantly learning more each time."

The remaining meetings for the current session are Oct. 1, 8 and 15. There is no registration required. For more information, contact Carol Beitler at 754-321-3400 or carol.beitler@browardschools.com.

### n the move

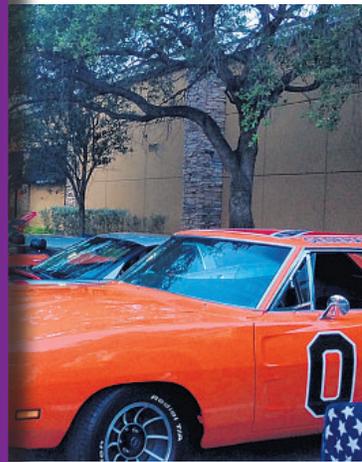


PHOTO BY SCOTT FISHMAN

### MAKEOVER

Continued from Page 1

up supplies," she said. "We just opened it with the materials we had, so we had mismatching chairs, mismatching tabletops, the drawers didn't shut. The work Ultimate Software is doing will promote a more effective learning environment for our students. Our students are so looking forward to it."

Among them is Givonni Douglas, who started at ARC Broward in August.

"I like having them here," he said. "They came out and did a good job."

For more information, visit Arcbroward.com.

Scott Fishman can be reached at smfishman@tribune.com.

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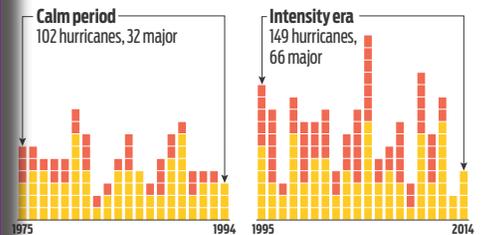
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### ATLANTIC HURRICANE CYCLES



SOURCE: National Hurricane Center

DAVID SCHUTZ/STAFF ARTIST

## Radio outages plague system

### 911 responders alert for dispatch failures

BY BRITTANY WALLMAN  
Staff writer

"All units be aware that we are experiencing radio difficulties at this time."

The written alert went out last week to firefighters and cops, as the radio system they use to communicate with dispatchers once again failed.

The new regional 911 system in Broward County has been dogged by a communications outage. The sporadic failure is a mystery even to Motorola, the equipment vendor, which has assigned the sleuth work to specialists in Schaumburg, Ill.

When a firefighter, police offi-

### Import

#### Active Parenting of

BY SCOTT FISHMAN  
Staff Writer

Raising teenagers can be difficult, but a series of sessions at a Davie school is aimed at making it easier.

The free Active Parenting of Teens at Indian Ridge Middle School is presented by Broward County Public Schools and the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System.

"I am very passionate about this subject," said Emily Gonzalez-Abreu, an exceptional student ed-

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