

**Step Up For Students  
Monthly Student Spotlight**



**Clenol Jean  
Miami Union Academy  
North Miami, FL**

Clenol Jean is a tenth grade student attending Miami Union Academy, a school he has attended for the past two and a half years on a Step Up For Students Scholarship. His parent-selected school has enabled him to overcome academic challenges and perfect his musical talents.

Clenol was an average student until he reached the seventh grade and transferred to his assigned middle school. It was then that he began to develop bad habits and his attitude towards school changed. Clenol's mother, Clenide Jean, started to receive phone calls from Clenol's teachers reporting that he was either not in class or when he was in class, he was not paying attention. His lack of motivation and attention to his classes caused his grades to decline and his grade point average (GPA) dropped below a 2.0.

Clenide thought her son would be able to overcome his difficulties in school if he were placed in an environment that could better address his learning needs. However, as a single mother of three with limited financial resources, Clenide could not afford to send Clenol to private school. Distraught with the direction her son was going, Clenide began searching for options when she learned about the Step Up For Students Scholarships administered by Florida P.R.I.D.E. Thrilled to find a solution, Clenide immediately applied for the scholarship. Once Clenol's scholarship application was approved, Clenide enrolled him in Miami Union Academy, a school that she felt could help him overcome his academic and behavioral challenges.

Since attending Miami Union, Clenol's attitude towards schools has changed drastically and as a result his grades have improved. He now makes A's and B's in his classes and his GPA is above a 3.0. He no longer skips classes and his mother no longer receives negative phone calls from his teachers. Instead, Clenol is actively involved in his community and school, including the performing arts programs offered by Miami Union. The chorus programs have enabled Clenol to develop an amazing talent in singing. His voice is so impressive that he has been invited to perform during the Fall 2007 Step Up For Students Donor Appreciation Rally at Miami Union Academy. During the rally Clenol will sing "Hero" to showcase his appreciation for Step Up For Students corporate donors and honor Gov. Charlie Crist for advocating for educational options.

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The Jean family is appreciative of the Step Up For Students program and grateful to the corporate donors for making it possible for Clenol to attend a school that has helped him develop both academically and artistically and grow into a responsible and talented young man with dreams for the future.

### **About Miami Union Academy**

A local institution for 90 years, Miami Union Academy is making a significant difference in the South Florida community by giving hundreds of students the opportunity to achieve academic success. The school boasts an amazing 98 percent graduation rate, and 90 percent of their graduates go onto pursue higher education at a college institution. Miami Union accomplishes this while charging a tuition rate of \$4,500. Another interesting fact about the school is that 75 percent of its students are Haitian. Miami Union is home to over 300 students, 105 of which are Step Up For Students scholarship recipients. The school administers IOWA Test of Basic Skills, PSAT, Plan and Explorer. The cost of tuition ranges from under \$2,775 to \$4,910 depending on grade level.

### **About the Step Up For Students Scholarship Recipients**

The typical Step Up For Students scholarship family has an average income of \$23,000 for a family of four, and more than half of the scholarship families are single-parent homes. The typical scholarship student is an ethnic minority living with a struggling single parent/caregiver in a high crime community. They are either below grade level, failing at their previous school or both when they receive a scholarship. Parents, who find their children in these circumstances and care about their future, look for viable options. Parents apply for Step Up For Students Scholarships so their children can attend the school best suited for their special needs, beliefs, and abilities, and to address negative trends in their child's learning skills and/or environment.

Step Up For Students Scholarships are funded by corporations that redirect up to 75 percent of their corporate state income tax liability to a qualified Scholarship Funding Organization in exchange for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. For more information or to learn how your corporation can participate in the program, visit [www.StepUpForStudents.com](http://www.StepUpForStudents.com), or call 1-800 782-9140 for more information.

**Other ways you can support Step Up For Students.** Monetary donations and grants from individuals, foundations and other organizations are vital to the scholarship program. Because 100 percent of the CTC funds must be used for scholarships, there is no allowance in the law to cover program costs associated with administering and distributing the scholarships. Program costs are funded by generous individuals and foundations that believe in equipping all of Florida's children with the educational tools for a successful future. It only costs the Step Up For Students scholarship funding organizations \$50 to administer each scholarship. Because each donation is matched 100 percent by the Walton Family Foundation, a donation of only \$25 will provide \$3,750 scholarship to a low-income child. For more information, call 1 (866) 344-9553 or visit [www.stepupforstudents.com/donors.htm](http://www.stepupforstudents.com/donors.htm).