2017 Sapphire Awards
Present and Past
WELCOME TO THE 2017 SAPPHIRE AWARDS

Florida Blue Foundation is committed to its mission – to help the people and communities of Florida achieve better health – through strategic grant making to nonprofits that provide services to all 67 Florida counties.

The Sapphire Awards embody our desire to recognize and award excellence and innovation among organizations, programs and individuals that have made a significant, positive impact on health-related outcomes for Florida’s at-risk people and communities.

The Sapphire Awards honor outstanding individuals, programs and nonprofit organizations in community health care, or health care related fields, whose work is distinguished by leadership, innovation and achievements in community health.

The 2017 Sapphire Awards Honorees all embody thoughtful, creative and innovative leadership. They are committed to using all resources possible to create improvements in the daily lives of the people of Florida who are underserved in health care. Their accomplishments and unselfish dedication to improving health care services and best practices for the people of Florida are laudable.
2017 Sapphire Awards Honorees
Program Honorees

Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County
Healthy Lifestyles Initiative
Fort Lauderdale, Broward County

The award-winning Healthy Lifestyles Initiative was designed to improve the health among Broward County's youth and teach children skills that will help to prevent future health challenges. It consists of a range of programs designed to teach members the importance of good nutrition and physical fitness, including: Child Care Food Program, Summer Food Program, Culinary Arts Program, and Defeating Food Insecurity. Since 2011, the Child Care Food Program provided over 3.9 million snacks and meals, and served 300 members ages 6-18 in the Culinary Arts Program. In 2014-2015, a total of 867,212 healthy snacks and meals were served; 45,664 meal-packs containing 273,984 meals were distributed to families in need; and nearly 1.2 million hours of physical fitness activities were performed by club members. In addition to healthy eating and physical activity, the Club focuses on character development, good hygiene and social skills that lead to healthy development and outcomes, sports leagues, academic and mentorship programs.

Hebni Nutrition Consultants
Fresh Stop Bus
Orlando, Orange County

The Fresh Stop Bus was formed through a partnership with LYNX Transit, Florida Hospital, the Winter Park Health Foundation and Orange County Government to convert a LYNX city transit bus into a mobile produce market to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to the 16 USDA-identified food deserts in Orange County. A food desert is any census tract where at least 33% of the tract's population has low access to a supermarket or large grocery store, and where all residents must drive more than a mile to the nearest supermarket.

From January 1, 2015, through August 31, 2016, The Fresh Stop Bus served 22,071 customers and had more than $32,164 in produce sales to underserved populations at wholesale prices, an average of $4.80 per customer per visit. Customers may use EBT/SNAP cards to purchase the produce. Hebni partners with Second Harvest Food Bank two Fridays a month to donate more than 15,000 pounds of fresh produce to students at local Title 1 schools in Orange County. Hebni also provides culturally appropriate nutrition education to families on the mobile farmers market.
Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center

Girl Matters®: Continuity of Care Model
Jacksonville, Duval County

The goal of the Girl Matters®: Continuity of Care Model is to improve the well-being of girls by interrupting the revolving door of girls cycling in and out of the justice system due to unaddressed mental health needs. The objectives are to increase access to community-based therapeutic services and to strengthen girls’ connections to family, school, communities and themselves. A team of psychologists, clinicians, and care managers provide individualized counseling, crisis intervention, care management, psycho-educational groups and advocacy, and partner with the girls and families. They have built collaborations with different agencies, including: State Attorney’s and Public Defender’s Offices, Circuit IV Judges, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Children and Families, schools, Sheriff’s Office, FBI, Mental Health Association, and other service providers.

In 2015-2016, 293 girls from Florida’s First Coast (Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Nassau and Baker counties) were served. The incarceration rate for girls from the First Coast decreased by 48%, and by 67% in Duval County.

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Broward County

Direct on Scene Education
Lauderhill, Broward County

The nationally-recognized Direct On Scene Education (D.O.S.E.) program was created with the following goals: to improve the likelihood that every baby will be placed for every sleep in a safe sleep position (on their back) and in a safe sleep environment; and to lower the number of preventable sleep-related infant deaths to zero. To meet these goals, they targeted fire/rescue, Child Protective Investigative Services (CPIS), Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) personnel, parents/caregivers and families about Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), safe/unsafe infant sleep practices, and how to use a crib properly.

In 2015-2016, D.O.S.E. trained 13 fire/rescue trainers, 98 DLE trainers, 64 CPIS personnel and approximately 700 families. Since 2012, D.O.S.E served 3,175 EMS, CPIS, DLE first responders and 2,800 families.
Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade
Fit2Play™
Miami, Miami-Dade County

Fit2Play™ is a childhood obesity prevention and afterschool program that serves approximately 7,000 low income, urban children between the ages of 6 and 14 annually at 35 parks and seven special disability services parks in Miami-Dade County. The evidence-based prevention program incorporates physical activity with interactive learning designed to assist youth in developing healthy lifestyles and good citizenship. It provides seamless coordinated medical care and wellness services through a collective partnership of a large university medical school, local health department, local school district and county government.

For each registrant, the current health system partner conducts a pre- and post-school year measurement battery, including anthropometrics, blood pressure, fitness, and nutrition knowledge tests, to track progress. Results were published in the scientific literature demonstrating the overweight/obese group significantly decreased their mean BMI score (2.0 to 1.8) and subscapular skinfold measurements (19.4 mm to 17.5 mm) while the normal weight group maintained a healthy weight. Similar results were found for children with disabilities. Based on these results, Fit2Play™ is now the gold standard park-based afterschool program model of the National Parks and Recreation Association.
BASIC NWFL
Panama City, Bay County

BASIC NWFL is a volunteer-governed, community-based organization dedicated to aiding, assisting and comforting those living with HIV/AIDS, their families and friends. BASIC also provides awareness, education, advocacy, prevention, testing and substance abuse/HIV education to people in Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson and Washington counties. As the lead agency for coordination of all services under Ryan White Part B funding, BASIC provides case management services for approximately 300 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) annually. It is recognized as the only comprehensive HIV/AIDS organization in the region that provides a full continuum of HIV/AIDS services to vulnerable and disenfranchised populations, particularly among communities of African-Americans and Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM) that have been disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS. In 2015, HIV prevention services reached over 7,000 general and target populations, and provided direct assistance to at least 281 PLWHA.

DLC Nurse & Learn
Jacksonville, Duval County

DLC Nurse & Learn provides year-round, high quality education, nursing care and therapies to children of all abilities from birth to 22 years of age so that children and families have the opportunity to reach their maximum potential. Children ages birth to age 6 may attend the full-day and preschool inclusion program. Students ages 3-22 may attend before/after school for educational activities, therapy and medical care. Any child with a disability or medical problem that prevents them from attending regular day care or other developmental preschools is eligible for services. DLC cares for over 100 children each year and has cared for more than 3,500 children since opening in 1989.
Organizations Honorees

Florence Fuller Child Development Centers
Boca Raton, Palm Beach County

Making a difference through education for economically challenged children and families to build a positive future in our community is the mission of Florence Fuller Child Development Centers.

Founded in 1971 to serve immigrant children in need of quality early childhood education, Florence Fuller Child Development Center has grown from serving 22 children to serving more than 700 children and 500 family members per year. Programs place an emphasis on quality early education and offer every opportunity for future success. Children aged 6 weeks through 12 years receive comprehensive educational opportunities and health care, and behavioral health assessments and developmental screenings to identify and address any concerns so that they may reach their full potential. Full family support services provided to family members address their needs for economic assistance, employment, budgeting, child development education, nutrition, parenting, access to social services, health care, behavioral health counseling and case management. Both centers are fully accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Jewish Family & Community Services
Jacksonville, Duval County

Jewish Family & Community Services (JFCS) was originally established in 1917 to provide food and shelter to Jewish immigrants. Today, JFCS is the premiere case management and counseling agency in Northeast Florida, providing family-centered wraparound services to the entire community, strengthening and stabilizing families in crisis. Through prevention, advocacy and education, JFCS helps solve significant issues: access to mental health counseling, hunger and malnutrition, child abuse and neglect, and the lack of in-home services for isolated seniors.

Each year, JFCS serves over 17,000 clients of all backgrounds. In August 2016 alone, JFCS kept 611 children out of foster care, linking them with life-stabilizing services. Over 96% of clients completing counseling lead healthy lives, not returning for further treatment. Sixty-one Holocaust Survivors receive food, housing and case management to help them live independently. Wraparound services help keep at-risk families together, keep children safe, connect seniors with their community and prevent homelessness.
FoundCare
West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County

FoundCare operates two programs, a Health Center and Comprehensive AIDS Program (CAP). Both offer programs and services that support and advance the agency’s mission to fulfill unmet health care and social service needs in Palm Beach County. The primary goal of the Health Center is to provide access to high-quality primary health care services without regard to patients’ ability to pay. In 2015, FoundCare’s Health Center served 8,774 (approximately 10% of whom are also CAP clients). CAP’s primary goal is to provide and promote education, advocacy, and compassionate services for individuals and families infected and affected by HIV. In 2015, CAP served 3,126 clients directly, including 150 through the Antiretroviral Treatment Access Study (ARTAS). Another 17,597 people were touched through outreach, which resulted in 2,560 being tested for HIV; 20 were identified as being HIV-positive.

For the period of 2013 (when FoundCare became a Federally Qualified Health Center) through 2015, the following rates of improvement in quality of care for its patients were recorded:

- Children who are fully immunized: 37% increase (57% of patients to 78%)
- Cervical cancer screening (Pap test): 49% increase (45% of patients to 68%)
- (33% of patients with asthma to 71%)
- Colorectal cancer screening: 380% increase (5% of patients to 26%)
- Well-controlled hypertension: 12% increase (57% of patients with hypertension to 64%)
- Well-controlled diabetes: 9% increase (54% of patients with diabetes to 59%)
Individual Honorees

Teddy Floyd
Deputy Sheriff, Indian River County Sheriff’s Office
Vero Beach, Indian River County

In Teddy Floyd’s 30 years of service as a police officer, he has set the standard of how to successfully service his community, and, as a result, changing lives by ensuring communities are safe and healthy. He has worked with the health department, local government and community leaders to bring over $10 million in community-identified improvements to the most impoverished communities in the county. He has leveraged the trust he has earned to get key information that resulted in taking millions of dollars in drugs and guns off the streets, and the demolition of over 200 crime-ridden abandoned houses. Floyd volunteers on numerous nonprofit boards and currently coaches four youth football teams. His solid network of health and social services resources enables him to help improve the infrastructure in the community, including improvements to parks and playgrounds, demolition of abandoned homes, reduction in crime, and homes and jobs for those in need. He is a role model to so many in the county and people are inspired by his dedication and resolve in changing lives for those most in need.

Butch McKay
Executive Director, Okaloosa AIDS Support and Informational Services (OASIS)
Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa County

Butch McKay’s leadership has resulted in consistent, effective, high-quality, comprehensive, compassionate, client-centered service delivery to people living with, affected by, or at-risk for HIV/AIDS for nearly a quarter of a century. Okaloosa AIDS Support and Informational Services (OASIS) is the only remaining comprehensive AIDS Service Organization in the four-county region of Northwest Florida, a rural area with limited health care resources, especially for underserved populations such as racial/ethnic and sexual minorities disproportionately impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. His work is distinctive in its innovation, quality, accessibility, reliability, and scope. McKay’s leadership and participation in the field of HIV prevention, care, and advocacy in Northwest Florida and beyond has resulted in lives saved, increases in longevity, improved quality of life, active engagement in medical care, improved HIV service delivery, increased awareness of HIV status, HIV infections averted, active engagement in advocacy, and legislative policy changes and improvements.
Michael L. Cunningham  
CEO, Florida Keys Area Health Education Center  
Marathon, Monroe County

Michael Cunningham has contributed to improving health and health care in communities by building and developing evidence-based medical, prevention and educational programs for children and adults. All programs, including clinics located in schools, health fairs, and community health and education programs, are delivered in the community and focus on at-risk individuals tearing down barriers to care. Of significance are the six no-cost primary care clinics in six Monroe County school sites to provide basic primary care for at-risk children. The clinics reported over 4,700 unique patients with over 8,000 annual visits while providing nearly 50,000 services each year. The programs he collaborated to build, oversee and deliver provide services and programming to over 10,000 individuals per year. For over two decades, Cunningham has focused on putting patients first and ensuring they get the health services they need.

Colleen Gonzalez  
Founder/President/Volunteer, GROW Central Florida  
Maitland, Orange County

Motivated by an article on walking programs at schools, Colleen Gonzalez, mother of two, started a wellness program at her children’s elementary school with 50 students. Her drive and leadership have grown a completely volunteer effort of elementary running clubs in 38 schools serving nearly 3,500 students per year. Noting the need for continued support, she created the nonprofit, GROW Central Florida, to continue to support student wellness programming in Seminole County Public Schools. In addition to the running programs, Gonzalez partnered with the Sheriff’s Office and the Department of Health to implement the Walking School Bus program, and coordinated the food pantry at one elementary school where 18 homeless students were given the nutrition they needed for the weekend every Friday. She has raised more than $50,000 to support her efforts, contributed more than 5,000 hours and brought together numerous organizations and partners to positively impact childhood well-being.
Edward J. Shahady, MD
President and Medical Director
Diabetes Master Clinician Program
Jacksonville, Duval County

Edward J. Shahady, MD, has dedicated his life to education and quality of medical care. His contributions to the health field began as a drafted Navy medical officer attached to a Marine combat battalion where he galvanized the energy of a Marine battalion and their leadership to build Hoa Khanh Children’s Hospital. Started in 1965, the hospital had 11 beds and grew to 44 beds during his year in Vietnam. Upon his return to the U.S., he continued his dedication to the children of Vietnam with fundraising for the hospital until it was closed by the North Vietnamese in 1975. He was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V, and Republic of Vietnam Social Service Medal, 1st and 2nd class for his work during that time.

Shahady has inspired generations of family physicians, medical providers and medical staff over his memorable career through his direct teaching and mentoring.

He founded the Diabetes Master Clinician Program that uses technology and medical staff to improve population health. Since 2003, the program has assisted over 15,000 patients, 100 practices, 400 clinicians and 1,000 nurses and medical assistants in Florida improve quality care of diabetes.
Sapphire Awards
Honorees 2016-2005

S A P P H I R E
A W A R D S

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2016

Sapphire Awards Honorees

Individual Category

Winner
Richard C. Christensen, MD, Former Director, Behavioral Health Services, I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless; Jacksonville

Runner-Up
Jasmin Shirley, MSPH, Senior Vice President, Community Health Services, Broward Health; Fort Lauderdale

Douglas M. Kent, MPH, Administrator, Florida Department of Health in Bay County; Panama City

Honorable Mention
Bakari F. Burns, MPH, MBA, President and Chief Executive Officer, Health Care Center for the Homeless (dba Orange Blossom Family Health); Orlando

Aggie A. Pappas, MSW, Executive Director, PACE Center for Girls Broward County, Wilton Manors

Bret A. Smith, CEHP, MBA, Environmental Administrator, Florida Department of Health in Osceola County; Kissimmee

Program Category

Winner
Dental Care Access Program, Florida Hospital – Bithlo Transformation Effort; Bithlo

Pediatric Mobile Clinic, University of Miami; Miami

Runner-Up
MBF Child Safety Matters™, Monique Burr Foundation for Children; Jacksonville

Smiles Across Miami, Nova Southeastern University; Miami

Organization Category

Winner
Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative; Tampa

Runner-Up
St. Lucie County Health Access Network; Fort Pierce

Osceola County Council on Aging; Kissimmee

2015

Sapphire Awards Honorees

Individual Category

Winner
Moody Chisholm, MBA, Former President and CEO, St. Vincent’s HealthCare; Jacksonville
Margarita Romo, Founder and Executive Director, Farmworkers Self-Help; Dade City

Program Category Winner
Pesticide Safety and Environmental Health Program, Farmworker Association of Florida; Apopka

Organization Category Winner
Florida Department of Health in Indian River County; Vero Beach

Honorable Mention
Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired; Miami

2014 Sapphire Awards Honorees

Individual Category Winner
Paul R. Ahr, PhD, MPA, President and Chief Executive Officer, Camillus House; Miami-Dade

Honorable Mention
Estrellita “Lo” Berry, MA, President and Chief Executive Officer, REACHUP, Inc.; Tampa

Susan Widmayer, PhD, Founder and Former Executive Director, Children’s Diagnostic & Treatment Center; Fort Lauderdale

Program Category Winner
Green Family Foundation NeighborhoodHELP™ (Health Education Learning Program) at Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine; Miami-Dade

Organization Category Winner
Big Bend Cares; Tallahassee

Chapman Partnership; Miami

2013 Sapphire Awards Honorees

Individual Category Winner
Nancy Sisson Hardt, MD, Director, Health Disparities and Service Learning Programs; and Professor of Pathology and Obstetrics and Gynecology, College of Medicine, University of Florida; Gainesville

Program Category Winner
St. Vincent’s HealthCare Mobile Health Outreach Ministry; Jacksonville
Florida Blue Foundation
Past Sapphire Awards Honorees 2016-2005

Organization Category
Winner
Community Smiles; Miami-Dade County

Honorable Mention
Womankind; Key West

Honorable Mention
Cared Vision Program, Vision is Priceless Council; Jacksonville

Organization Category
Winner
Primary Care Access Network; Orange County

Honorable Mention
Life Management Center of Northwest Florida; Panama City

Honorable Mention
PACE Center for Girls; Statewide

2012 Sapphire Awards Honorees

Individual Category
Winner
Charles S. Mahan, MD, Dean and Professor Emeritus, University of South Florida, College of Public Health, The Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies; Tampa

Honorable Mention
Josephine Mercado, Founder and Executive Director, Hispanic Health Initiatives, Inc.; Orlando
Richard C. Moss, Administrative Volunteer, Citrus County Family Resource Center; Hernando

Program Category
Winner
Teen Xpress, Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children, The Howard Phillips Center for Children and Families; Orlando

2010-2011 Sapphire Awards Honorees

Winner
Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center; Broward County

Award of Distinction
Hebni Nutrition Consultants, Inc.; Orlando
Tykes and Teens; Martin County

Honorable Mention
DLC Nurse and Learn; Jacksonville
Okaloosa AIDS Support and Informational Services (OASIS); Fort Walton Beach
2009 Sapphire Awards Honorees

**Winner**
Ann Storck Center; Fort Lauderdale

The Education Fund; North Miami

**Award of Distinction**
Comprehensive AIDS Program of Palm Beach County; Palm Springs

**Honorable Mention**
Capital Medical Society Foundation, We Care Dental Network; Tallahassee

Children’s Volunteer Health Network; Santa Rosa Beach

Hispanic Health Initiatives; Casselberry

Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, Beaches Community Healthcare; Jacksonville Beach

2008 Sapphire Awards Honorees

**Winner**
All ‘Bout Children, Inc., Building Wellness, Resilience and School Readiness: A Preschool Preventative Intervention; West Palm Beach

Memorial Foundation, Inc., Health Intervention with Targeted Services (HITS) Program; Hollywood

**Award of Distinction**
BayCares, Inc.; Panama City

Capital Medical Society Foundation, We Care Network; Tallahassee

**Honorable Mention**
Charlotte Behavioral Health Care, Healthy Families, Charlotte County; Punta Gorda

2007 Sapphire Awards Honorees

**Winner**
Shands Vista PALS (Partners in Adolescent Lifestyle Support) Program; Alachua County

**Award of Distinction**
Epilepsy Foundation of Florida, Inc.; Miami

HUG-Me, a program at the Howard Phillips Center for Children and Families; Orlando

**Honorable Mention**
Big Bend Cares, Inc.; Tallahassee
2006

Sapphire Awards Honorees

Winner
Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs (ACORN Clinic); Brooker
Kristi House; Miami
The Bridge of Northeast Florida; Jacksonville

Honorable Mention
Neighborhood Health Clinic; Naples

Finalist
Henderson Mental Health Center
Cottages in the Pines COURT Project; Fort Lauderdale

2005

Sapphire Awards Honorees

Winner
Camillus Health Concern; Miami
Crisis Center of Tampa Bay; Tampa
The Rubin Center for Healthy Aging at Senior Friendship Centers; Sarasota

Honorable Mention
BayCares, Inc.; Panama City
Broward Children’s Center, Inc.; Pompano Beach
The Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies at the College of Public Health, University of South Florida; Tampa
Wayside House; Delray Beach

Finalist
Epilepsy Foundation of South Florida; Miami
Neighborhood Health Clinic; Naples
WE CARE; Jacksonville
2017 Sapphire Awards Review Team

Henrie M. Treadwell, PhD
Founding Director and Senior Advisor, Community Voices, Healthcare for the Underserved, and Research Professor, Community Health and Preventive Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine; Atlanta, Ga.

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Terry J. Rhodes, DMin
Director of Research, Evaluation and Systems, Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida; Tallahassee, Fla.

2017 Sapphire Awards Selection Committee

R. Paul Duncan, PhD
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Curtis Holloman, MA, MBA
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Penny Ralston, PhD
Professor, Dean Emeritus and Director, Center on Better Health and Life for Underserved Populations, Florida State University; Tallahassee, Fla.
The hand-blown glass sculptures used for the Sapphire Awards Trophy are created by Nathan Nardi, a glass artist and sculptor based in Decatur, Georgia. When originally commissioned in 2005, Nardi was a glassblowing instructor at Jacksonville University.