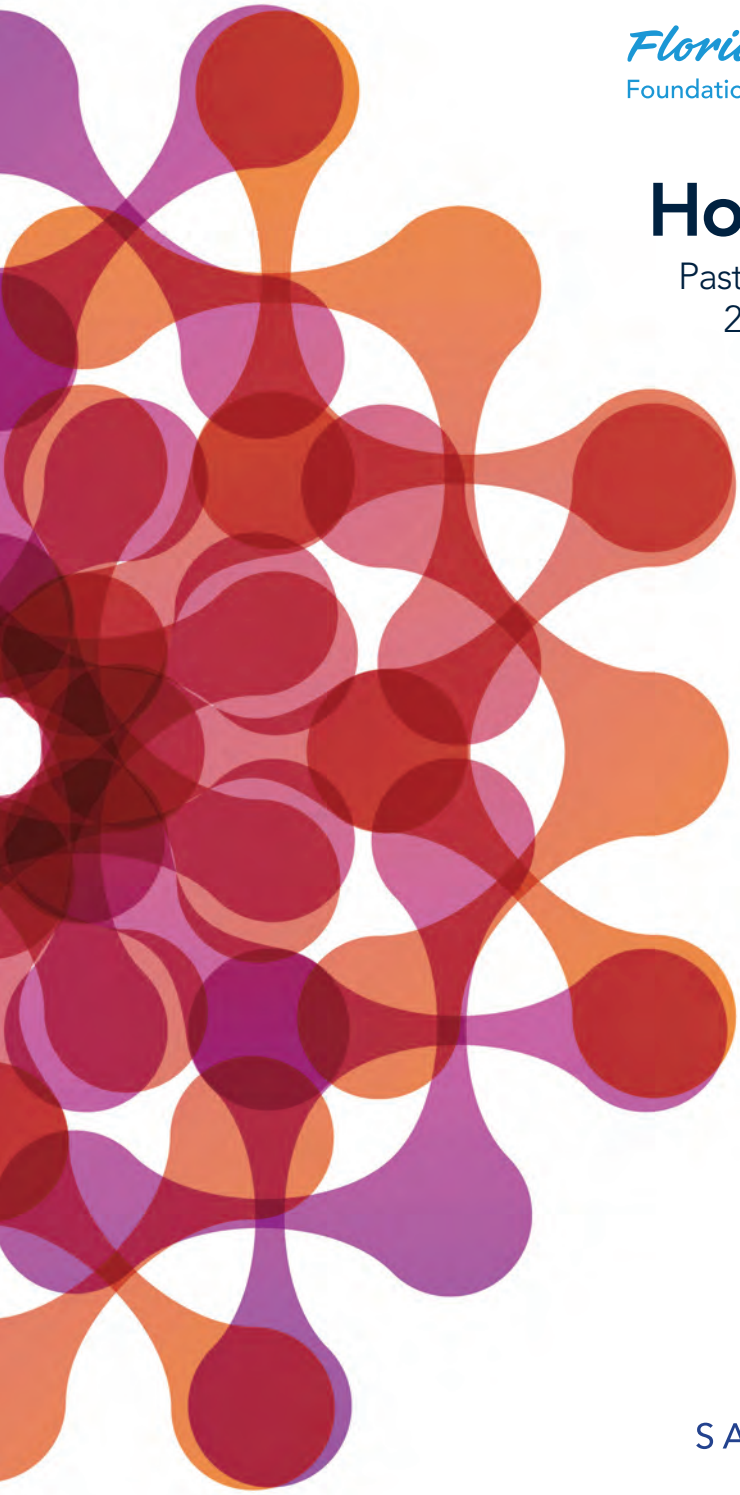


# Honorees

Past and Present  
2005-2018



**SAPPHIRE**  
AWARDS  
2018



# Welcome to the 2018 Sapphire Awards

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

The Sapphire Awards are designed 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 individuals and communities.

The 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 2018 Sapphire Awards Honorees all embody thoughtful, creative and innovative leadership. They are committed to using all resources possible to create improvements in the lives of individuals and communities in Florida who are underserved in health care. Their accomplishments and unselfish dedication to improving health care services and best practices for individuals and communities in Florida are laudable.



2018  
Sapphire  
Awards  
Honorees



SAPPHIRE  
AWARDS



### Caregiving Youth Project

## **American Association of Caregiving Youth**

Boca Raton, Palm Beach County

The American Association of Caregiving Youth (AACY) is the only U.S. organization that is solely dedicated to children who sacrifice their education, health, well-being and childhood to provide care for family members who are ill, injured, elderly or disabled. Locally, the professional team of the Caregiving Youth Project (CYP) supports student-caregivers in school, out of school and at home where families are also strengthened. With support from grade six through high school, caregiving youth learn they are no longer alone, reduce their isolation, manage stress, improve grades and progress to the next grade level, graduating from high school at rates greater than 95% and far exceeding the county average. More than 83% go on to post-secondary education. The success of the Project has spawned affiliates in locations throughout the country.

The Caregiving Youth Project began in 2006 at one middle school and is now in partnership with The School District of Palm Beach County at 25 schools. It has raised special project funds to get clean water for families, installed ramps, obtained medical equipment, and demonstrated family-centric care. Since its inception, the project has provided direct services to over 1,340 caregiving youth and their families. The average length of time in the program is 5.46 years, which is more than a year longer than adults continue caregiving. In the past school year, there were 547 eligible youth caregivers.



### Healthcare Navigation Program

## **Epilepsy Foundation of Florida**

Miami, Miami-Dade County

Epilepsy Foundation of Florida (EFOF), is committed to the promotion of access to adequate health care services and follow up to epilepsy education and stigma reduction, and to the promotion of health care coverage and health literacy.

Established in 1971, EFOF is the principal agency for epilepsy programs and services sponsored by the State of Florida, servicing the estimated 400,000 Floridians who suffer from the condition.

The Healthcare Navigator Program seeks to provide underserved, previously-uninsured populations with access to health insurance and the knowledge to successfully use it, including the understanding of terminology and policy specifics, with programming and materials delivered in the languages spoken by the populations served. During the last fiscal year:

- 2,605 consumers received assistance with selecting and enrolling in Medicaid/CHIP
- 1,462,400 consumers served through outreach, education and direct services
- 4,390 enrolled in insurance programs through the ACA Marketplace



Florida's Vision Quest  
**Florida's Vision Quest**  
 Orange City, Volusia County

Florida's Vision Quest is a comprehensive vision care program providing annual vision screening throughout Florida for over 100,000 school-age children (5-18 years) with concentrations in Orange, Osceola and Collier counties.



Following screenings by Florida Vision Quest and others, the program uses mobile clinics to provide follow-up comprehensive vision exams and eyeglasses on school grounds for approximately 7,500 low income children who have no access to follow-up vision care. Since inception in 1994, this program has screened more than 400,000 students, conducted vision exams for more than 200,000 children and provided more than 155,000 pairs of eyeglasses (one for school, one for home, and free replacements if broken or lost). This evidence-based program provides seamless coordinated vision care through a collective partnership with local school districts, health departments and state government to ensure children are provided the tools critical for social and academic success.



Achievements have been realized by identifying, testing/developing and using state of the art screening equipment, development of proprietary software facilitating collection, analysis, use and reporting of screening data, use of mobile clinics to maximize access, sourcing funding to support the vision services, and developing program and procedures with school districts and health personnel to support ongoing services.

In 2013, an independent academic institution conducted a randomized trial of the impact of providing eyeglasses on academic outcomes of disadvantaged students served by Florida's Vision Quest. The study concluded: "...providing free vision exams and eyeglasses significantly improved student achievement in math and reading..." They also concluded that there were no improvements in test scores when only a vision report is provided to parents. Results are also traced by using the school's grades as the benchmark for academic improvement.

Results from the 2015-2016 school year are as follows:

- Screenings: 98,173 (93%) of total population in 3 counties in grades K, 1, 3, 6
- Number of "fails": 13,387
- Number qualifying for Florida's Vision Quest program: 7,908 (59% of the total "fails")
- Number of exams: 7,595 (96% of those who qualify)
- Number of eyeglasses: 8,499 (includes free replacement for lost/broken)



### Daniel Memorial

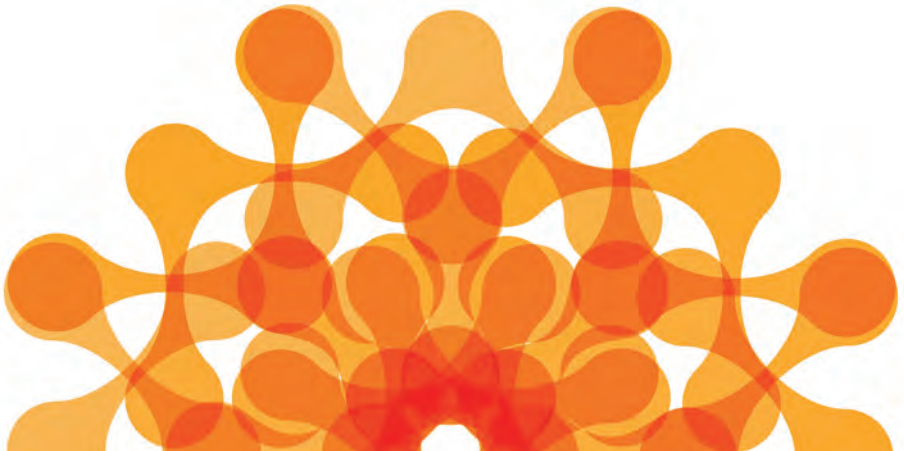
Jacksonville, Duval County

Daniel Memorial, founded in 1884 as an orphanage, has grown into a full-service agency that provides services to children, their biological families and/or foster parents that include: residential and community mental health; foster care, foster care prevention and therapeutic foster care services; adoption services; homeless services; school-based mental health; and residential mental health treatment. Daniel fills the gaps in mental health and support services for children and their caregivers and seeks to reduce entry into foster care, to reduce arrests among troubled youth, and to find safe homes for children in need.

Some of the innovative programming includes:

- Private elementary school to serve children with learning and emotional disabilities;
- Respite center to prevent involuntary hospitalization;
- Post-reunification program to prevent return to foster care; and
- Adult mental health services for the parents and caregivers of the children in care.
- Daniel Memorial Institute that develops and markets training materials for independent living, foster care and social service agencies, including their signature Independent Living Skills System.

In fiscal year 2016-2017, Daniel served over 3,500 children who faced barriers to success attributable to mental health disorders and/or involvement in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. Over 95% of the mental health services were provided in-home or in the schools that the children attend.





## Barnabas Center

Fernandina Beach, Nassau County

Organized by local churches in 1986 as a central place where residents could get assistance with food and emergency financial assistance, Barnabas Center is Nassau County's only comprehensive service organization that addresses critical issues of access to affordable health care, hunger, and homeless prevention for individuals and families with incomes at 200% or below the Federal Poverty Level. Its programs collectively address the short- and long-term needs of individuals and families in crisis so they can become healthy, productive citizens, thereby strengthening the entire community. Their health care model is based on holistic and integrated care that addresses the physical, nutritional, social and emotional issues, addressing causes, not only symptoms. Through education and support, they strive to empower individuals to take responsibility for their health and well-being.

In the last fiscal year

- 334 unduplicated households in crisis received financial assistance and were linked to other services within Barnabas and its partners
- 1,901 unduplicated households received more than 382,400 pounds of food, serving a total of 4,551 people, of which 28% were children; 75% of this food was produce, meats, and dairy products, as opposed to processed foods and sweets
- 328 unduplicated homeless children received 9,000 pounds of nutritious food in 5,036 SnackPacks on Fridays during the school year
- Approximately 900 unduplicated patients received urgent and primary medical care through 2,578 visits
- 142 patients received specialty care provided by volunteer practitioners at no cost through the Barnabas initiative, Nassau Cares
- 367 women received a well-woman exam and/or free screening mammograms, representing 98% of women referred
- 768 patients received dental care; 95% completed an initial dental hygiene visit; 80% returned for an annual hygiene visit
- 53 adults received behavioral health services; 100% reported an improvement in well-being
- 122 adults received on-site vision and hearing screenings; many received free eye exams and eye glasses
- In-kind health partnerships valued at \$2.9 million
- More than 200 volunteers contributed more than 16,000 hours of service valued at \$500,000, including medical practitioners, food pantry assistants, instructors and community garden caretakers





### **Chad Bernstein, DMA**

**CEO, Guitars Over Guns Organization**

Miami, Miami-Dade County

Chad Bernstein's work with Guitars Over Guns has positively impacted the lives of thousands of Miami-Dade's at-risk youth, and created a vehicle for community change inspiring countless other individuals from all walks of life to devote their time, talent and treasure to build safer and more promising futures for the youth of Miami. Since 2008, when he co-founded Guitars Over Guns, Bernstein, an internationally renowned musician, has shown relentless resolve creating program models that are innovative and sustainable, recruiting dedicated professional musician mentors to empower youth in the most challenged schools and neighborhoods to take ownership of their lives, and developing the social, emotional and artistic well-being for children that are often written off as "too hard to reach."

Bernstein crafts custom program models that champion the musical and artistic roots and passions of each unique neighborhood and population. From school ensemble programs, to production studios for foster youth, to Miami's first homeless choir, he continues to seek out partnerships that reach more people in need. That participants choose to spend their time developing their artistic, academic and prosocial capacities during the afterschool, peak crime hours when they are most likely to be recruited by gangs or engage in other negative behavior represents a critical shift for the thousands of students who, thanks to the care and stability of a meaningful mentor relationship, are now focused on achieving in the classroom, on the stage and in life.



### **Christine A. Cauffield, Psy.D.**

**CEO, LSF Health Systems**

Jacksonville, Duval County

Christine Cauffield, a neuropsychologist, is described as a visionary leader who builds and nurtures strong relationships with community leaders, providers, stakeholders and consumers, seeking their input to determine gaps in service delivery and forging creative partnerships to better serve individuals affected by behavioral health disorders. Her passion for improving community health and strengthening the capacity of providers dedicated to this cause spans several decades. She has initiated innovative partnerships among government, private for-profit companies, local universities, the criminal justice and child welfare systems, and the Managing Entity safety net of behavioral health providers serving uninsured individuals who have mental health and substance abuse disorders. Examples include: enhanced Certified Recovery Peer Specialist training program for paraprofessionals who are in recovery from behavioral health disorders; trauma recovery provided following the September 11 terrorist attacks; and bachelor's and master's level internship program for social work, mental health counseling and public health. She is actively engaged in public policy, advocacy and education around key behavioral health issues impacting the underserved population.





**David Lawrence, Jr.**  
**Chair, The Children's Movement of Florida**  
Miami, Miami-Dade County

David Lawrence, Jr., has dedicated his life to helping people of all ages and backgrounds have the opportunity for better lives. After a distinguished 35-year journalism career, Lawrence redirected his passion for telling engaging stories to focus on making sure Florida's youngest children are healthy and ready to learn. Over the last 18 years, he has become one of the nation's leading advocates for the well-being of young children.

In 2002, Lawrence spearheaded a successful voter referendum in Miami-Dade County to create The Children's Trust, a dedicated funding source for early health intervention and prevention for children. In 2008, he led a group of children's advocates tasked with creatively persuading voters to tax themselves in perpetuity and thereby keeping The Children's Trust forever. If the initiative had not passed, more than 300 high-quality health, educational and safety programs that serve hundreds of thousands of children would have disappeared. At least \$100 million of annual services would have been lost.

In 2010, he founded The Children's Movement of Florida, a non-partisan advocacy organization focused on health care, education and parental support during a child's first five years. Through the Movement, he has fought to expand Help Me Grow, an integrated statewide system designed to help parents address early needs of children, to Florida, and achieved the expansion of KidCare, the federal-state health insurance that covers children in families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to afford private insurance.

Lawrence currently serves as a board member of the Board of Trustees of Florida A&M University, Americans for Immigrant Justice and the Everglades Foundation. He has served on numerous boards and received numerous awards for his commitment to improving our state and country. He volunteers as a mentor to the young son of a prison inmate, students at the David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center in North Miami, and others seeking career counseling. He is co-founder of a nonprofit vocational-technical school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, which he visits regularly. He has received 14 honorary doctorates and an endowed chair in early childhood studies was established in his name in the College of Education at the University of Florida, his alma mater.



### **H. Lee Moffitt**

**Founder**

**H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute**

Tampa, Hillsborough County

H. Lee Moffitt began his work to establish a first-class cancer center in Florida in 1977 as a Tampa attorney and state representative for south Tampa. The loss of three close friends who were forced to seek treatment outside Florida had a profound effect on Moffitt. Over a nine-year period, he and his colleagues planned and sought funding for the center that opened in October 1986 as the first free-standing cancer treatment and research center authorized by the state of Florida and the only such institution in the nation directly funded by a tax on tobacco. In 2017, Moffitt launched the George Edgecomb Society to fund research to address cancer health disparities and poorer health outcomes in cancer care.

Moffitt demonstrated that one person can indeed change policy and practice if they work strategically with colleagues to inform and educate the community and policymakers.

Today, the Center is the third largest cancer center based on outpatient volumes, one of 49 National Cancer Institute Designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the nation and the only one in Florida, and ranked among the top 10 best cancer centers in the southeast and Florida by *U.S. News and World Report*. The center has more than 2 million square feet devoted to research and patient care, more than 5,700 employees and an economic impact in the state of \$2.1 billion.

Moffitt, a former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, serves as a member of the Board of Advisors of the Center and other boards and committees in the public and private service sectors. He spends countless hours educating himself and others about cancer prevention, treatment and research. He is the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions for his public and community service. He is a member of the Florida Bar, the United States Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States.



The  
Sapphire  
Awards  
Honorees  
2005-2017



SAPPHIRE  
AWARDS

## 2017 Sapphire Awards Honorees

### Individual Category

#### Winner

Edward J. Shahady, MD, President and Medical Director, Diabetes Master Clinician Program; Jacksonville

#### Runner-Up

Michael L. Cunningham, CEO, Florida Keys Area Health Education Center; Marathon  
Colleen Gonzalez, Founder, President, Volunteer for GROW Central Florida; Maitland

#### Honorable Mention

Teddy Floyd, Deputy Sheriff, Indian River County Sheriff's Office; Vero Beach  
Butch McKay, Executive Director, Okaloosa AIDS Support and Informational Services; Ft. Walton Beach

### Program Category

#### Winner

Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade County, Fit2Play™ in Miami-Dade Parks Recreation and Open Spaces Department; Miami

#### Runner-Up

Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center, Girl Matters®; Jacksonville  
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Broward County, Direct On Scene Education (D.O.S.E.); Lauderhill

#### Honorable Mention

Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County, Healthy Lifestyles Initiative; Fort Lauderdale  
Hebni Nutrition Consultants, Fresh Stop Bus; Orlando

### Organization Category

#### Winner

FoundCare; West Palm Beach

#### Runner-Up

DLC Nurse & Learn; Jacksonville  
Florence Fuller Child Development Centers; Boca Raton  
Jewish Family & Community Services; Jacksonville

#### Honorable Mention

BASIC NWFL; Panama City

# 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

#### Winners

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

## Organization Category

### Winner

Community Smiles; Miami-Dade County

### Honorable Mention

Womankind; Key West

# 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

### 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  
PACE Center for Girls; Statewide

**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

Lakeland Volunteers In Medicine; Lakeland

### **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

## 2018 Sapphire Awards Review Team

**Henrie M. Treadwell, PhD**, Director, Community Voices and Men's Health Initiative; Research Professor, Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine; Atlanta, Ga.

**LaRon E. Nelson, PhD, RN, FNP, FNAP**, Dean's Endowed Fellow in Health Disparities, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, University of Rochester; and Associate Director of International Research, Center for AIDS Research, University of Rochester Medical Center; Rochester, N.Y.

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

**Caroline Y. Hepburn**, Executive Director, Tampa Bay Healthcare Collaborative; Dunedin, Fla.

## 2018 Sapphire Awards Selection Committee

**R. Paul Duncan, PhD**, Associate Dean, The Graduate School, University of Florida; Gainesville, Fla.

**Curtis Holloman, MA, MBA**, Senior Director of Grants and Programs, Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg; St. Petersburg, Fla.

**Margaret D. Larkins-Pettigrew, MD, MEd, MPPM, FACOG**, Assistant Professor and Director, Global Health, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Biology, Macdonald Women's Hospital, Case Western University School of Medicine; Cleveland, Ohio

**Geeta Nayyar, MD, MBA**, Chief Healthcare & Innovation Officer, Femwell Group Health; Miami, Fla.

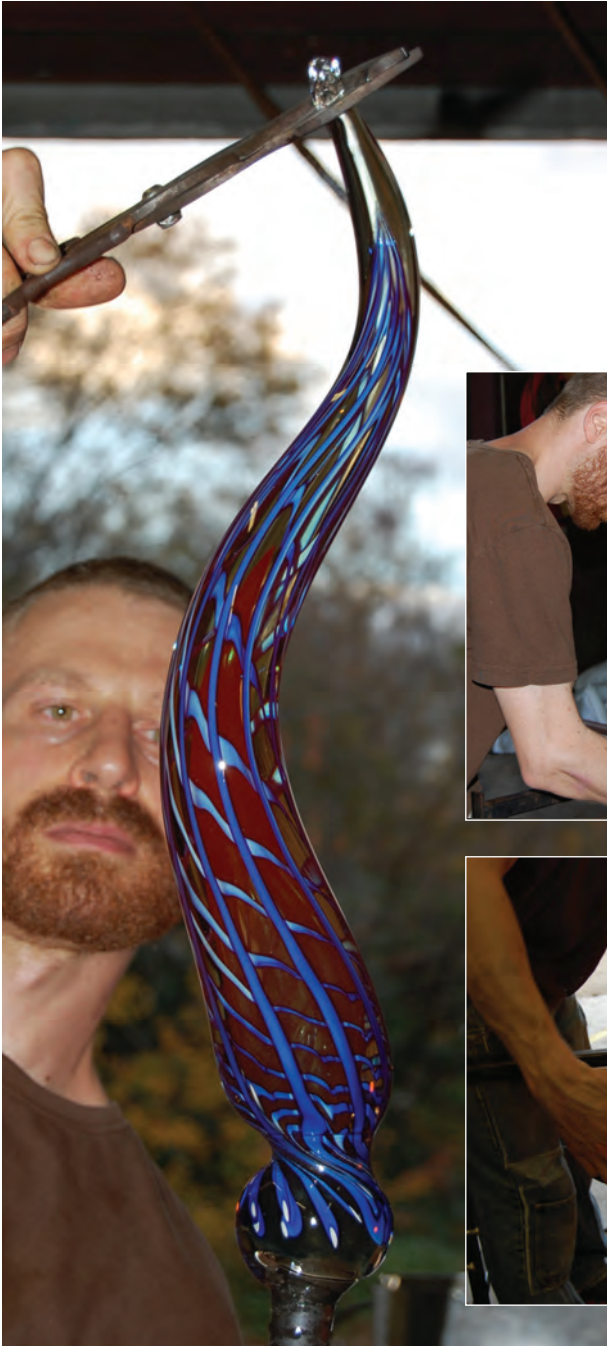
**David Odahowski, Esquire**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation; Winter Park, Fla.

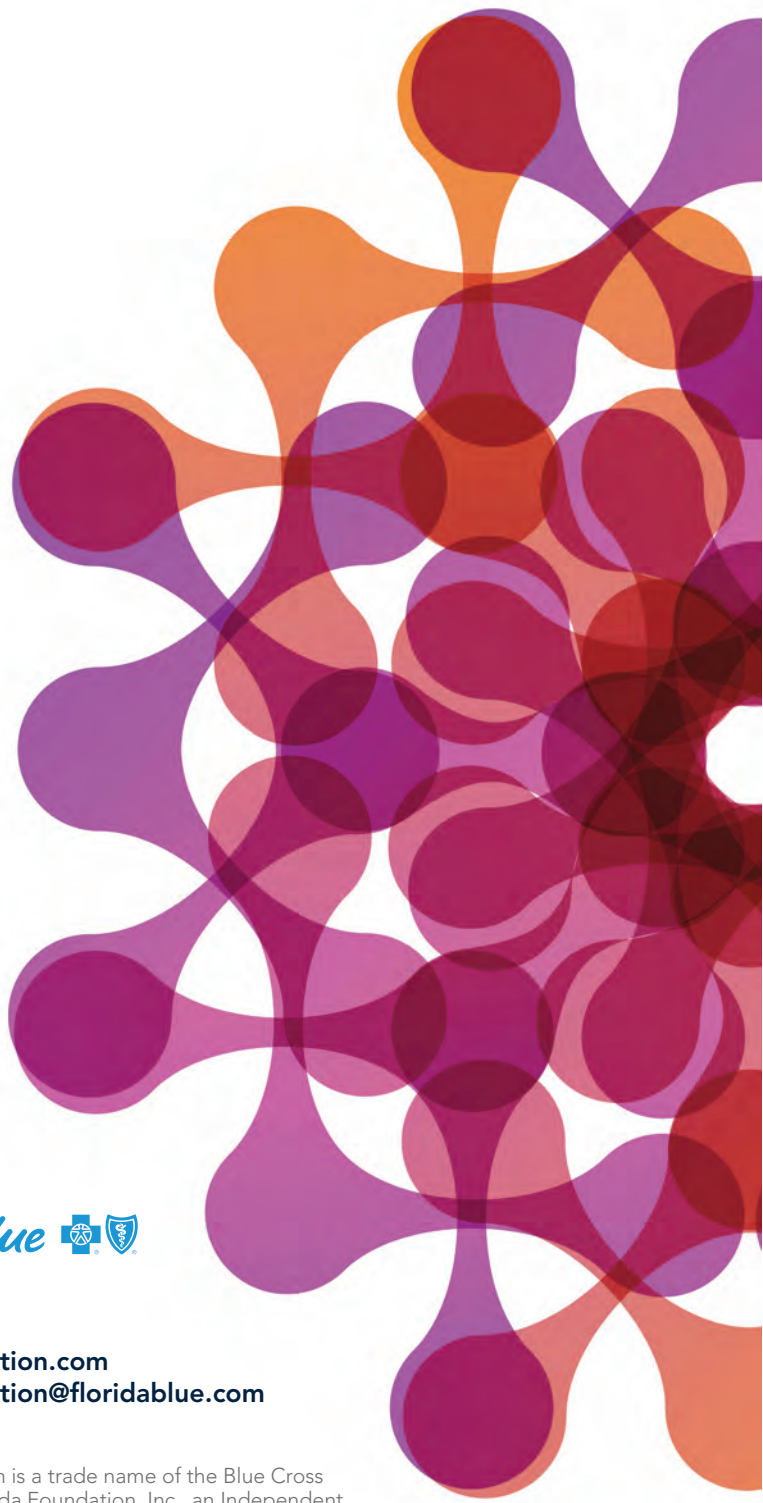
**Penny Ralston, PhD**, Professor, Dean Emeritus and Director, Center on Better Health and Life for Underserved Populations, Florida State University; Tallahassee, Fla.

**Anthony C. Speights, MD**, Assistant Professor, Family Medicine and Rural Health; and Director of Rural Medical Education, College of Medicine, Florida State University; Tallahassee, Fla.

## About the Sapphire Awards Trophy

The hand-blown glass sculptures used for the Sapphire Award 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.





*Florida Blue*   
Foundation

**floridabluefoundation.com**  
**floridabluefoundation@floridablue.com**

Florida Blue Foundation is a trade name of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Foundation, Inc., an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.