

PAST WINNERS

2023

EDDIE RHODES

Take Stock in Children

Selected for his commitment to Take Stock in Children and his dedication to mentoring 14 young men since 2011. Mr. Rhodes never hesitates to call parents, school staff and administrators to ensure his mentee's needs are being met, and that the school, home and student are working together to improve the mentee's overall quality of life.

"We are so proud of Mr. Rhodes and what he has accomplished within our organization and the lives he has influenced over the years. I tell my mentors. 'be the change.' Our kids need role models especially our young boys. He is the change for our boys to follow but for our mentors as well. He sets the mark, the expectations and focus on what all our mentors should strive for with their mentees. Mr. Rhodes is truly an inspiration."

*- Kimberly Briard, Mentor Manager,
Take Stock In Children, Palm Beach County*

2022

ELLEN KRANZLER

Speak Up For Kids

Honored for her dedication to Speak Up For Kids as an advocate for Guardian Ad Litem, Ellen has been serving as the voice in court for children in the foster care system for 13 years. She volunteers 40 hours a week and is determined to represent the youth in our community to ensure they can grow and develop in a safe and healthy environment.

"When you work with children, you are there for them; it is not a 'surface thing', it is not temporary. You are giving them something they need very badly and you are really there to speak up for them. You get paid in 'warm fuzzies', and I have been paid in so many 'warm fuzzies'."

- Ellen Kranzler

2021

JAMES RIGOLO

Friends of Palm Beach

Recognized for his commitment to Friends of Palm Beach, James has attended every monthly beach clean up, rain or shine, since 2015. Additionally, as a teacher at Wellington High School, his dedication has inspired hundreds of students to follow his example and give back to their community, resulting in thousands of volunteer hours.

"There is something about the ocean that is powerful and timeless. It is the driving force behind weather and climate and is the place where life on this planet began. It has the ability to captivate our imagination, inspire our souls and hold us in absolute awe."

- James Rigolo

PROGRAM PAUSED DUE TO COVID-19

2020

GAENOR SPEED

American Red Cross

Chosen for her tireless commitment to helping others, Gaenor volunteers over 35 hours a week with the American Red Cross. Serving as a Regional Disaster Sheltering Lead, she provides immediate assistance for individuals affected by major disasters such as fires, hurricanes and tornadoes.

"Hope is Amazing. It is a belief that the future is positive. My hope is that I continue to be of service to the American Red Cross doing the job that I love for as long as I can."

- Gaenor Speed

"Ramon and Mirella have accomplished so much at Alzheimer's Community Care, most significantly, they make a difference in our patients and caregivers lives, they truly exemplify outstanding service to others in our community."

*- Malaika Barlow, Vice President of Human Resources,
Alzheimer's Community Care*

2018

RAMON & MIRELLA REYNA

Alzheimer's Community Care

Selected for their compassion to provide comfort and care for the patients of the Alzheimer's Community Care. The couple takes two buses each day before the sun rises to help the nurses at the center prepare for the day.

"Through JoAnn Dallas, our children see a better side of humanity. She is a shining example of someone who can be depended on, admired and an inspiration to the many children we serve."

*- Jane Snell, Volunteer Coordinator,
Children's Home Society of South Florida*

2017

JOANN DALLAS

Children's Home Society

Honored for her dedication and commitment of over 19 years to Children's Home Society, JoAnn selflessly organized donation campaigns to support the ongoing needs of less fortunate children in our community including a gift campaign to make the holidays special.

"No amount of money has made me as happy and joyful as working with these women and watching them gain strength and self-esteem on their journey to recovery."

- Kathy Novak

2016

KATHY NOVAK

Gratitude House

Recognized for generously providing counseling, practical advice and available resources to women in substance abuse treatment. Kathy founded a morning support group for residents and members of the community in recovery.

"I realized El Sol was fighting many battles and struggling to feed the workers a hot meal was one area where I felt I could help. I did not want anyone to go hungry on my watch, so we used our own resources. We are fortunate enough to have it to give, so we did."

- James Sparger

2015

JAMES SPARGER

El Sol - Jupiter's Neighborhood Resource Center

Selected as the first Be Our Guest winner for contributing an average of five service hours each Monday preparing hot meals for guests of the center. He also volunteers with the Jupiter Historical Society giving tours of the Jupiter Lighthouse and tutors fourth grade students daily at Jupiter Elementary School.