Hearts of Gold

By Robyn A. Friedman

The Golden Globe Awards. The Screen Actors Guild Awards. The Academy Awards. Celebrity award season 2017 is definitely here. But while South Florida doesn’t have Oscars, Globes or SAG awards, it does recognize those who are perhaps just as important — the local non-profit organizations and their staff and volunteers who make a difference in thousands of lives each year in Broward County.

The 7th Annual Community Care Plan Non-Profit Awards, presented by Signature Grand and hosted by 2-1-1 Broward, will pay tribute Feb. 24 to those who help improve the lives of others — and who are often unrecognized by the community.

The event will include a red-carpet arrival, awards ceremony, luncheon and after-party, and it brings together non-profit leaders and volunteers with the community.

"This event is about all of the work of all of the non-profit organizations, and 2-1-1 is the gateway to all of the different agencies," says Sheila Smith, president and CEO of 2-1-1 Broward, which provides a 24-hour comprehensive helpline, and support services, to individuals and families in the community seeking crisis intervention assistance or information or referral to health and human services in Broward. "Whether you’re passionate about helping children or victims of domestic violence or the homeless, when you support 2-1-1, you’re supporting them all."

Each winner in nine categories of service will receive a gold statuette and a monetary award for his or her organization.

"Community Care Plan is committed to supporting 2-1-1 Broward because 2-1-1 is the heartbeat of our community," says Jessica Lerner, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Community Care Plan. "As we serve the same population, we are keenly aware that we could not achieve our mission of improving the well-being of those we serve without 2-1-1 Broward."

The Non-Profit Awards begins at 11 a.m. at the Signature Grand in Davie. Tickets are $85, and the event sold out last year. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 954-390-0493 or visit 211-broward.org.