Non-Profit Awards
2-1-1 Broward

Florida’s Children First
Nonprofits celebrated during annual awards ceremony

In true awards show style, more than 750 executives, community leaders and members of the nonprofit sector attended the sold-out 8th annual Community Care Plan Non-Profit Awards presented by Signature Grand and hosted by 2-1-1 Broward on Friday, Feb 23. The Non-Profit Awards celebrated the work of Broward County agencies and recognized the individual efforts of outstanding executive and board leaders while raising nearly $144,000 for 2-1-1 Broward.

The event began with a reception followed by a welcome from Sheila Smith, President and CEO of 2-1-1 Broward; and John Benz, President and CEO of Community Care Plan. After the welcome, a moment of silence was held for the victims of the tragic shooting that occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

Emcees Kevita Channe and Jonathan DeLaca began the awards ceremony and introduced an empowering performance by Alexander Star. A Coral Springs native, Star has been inspired by the movement that the students from Parkland have started and he dedicated his hit song "This Is My Era" to the kids in the community fighting for positive change.

During the luncheon, the winners of each of the 10 award categories were announced, each receiving an award and $1,000 for their non-profit organization. The finalists in each category were awarded $500. Winners were chosen for their dedication to Broward County and the impact they have on the community.

The 8th annual Community Care Plan Non-Profit Awards winners were:

- Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Non-Profit Organization of the Year: Arc Broward
- WBNN Outstanding Non-Profit Leader of the Year: Andy Fernandez, Firewall Centers
- FPL Non-Profit Board Leader of the Year: Robert Taylor Jr., Habitat for Humanity
- Greenspan Meriter Non-Profit Organization of the Year: The Arts Business for the Arts of Broward
- SunTrust Bank Non-Profit Organization of the Year – Collaboration: ArtServe
- Brown & Brown Insurance Non-Profit Organization of the Year – Innovation: Dan Marino Foundation
- Calvin Giorlando & Associates Non-Profit Organization of the Year – Rising Star: FLITE Center
- Children's Services Council Collective Impact for Youth Award: ChildNet
- The Sanford Institute of Philanthropy National Leadership Institute Development Executive of the Year, ARC Broward
- OK Generators Lifetime Achievement Award (winner to be selected by 2-1-1 Broward): John Benz
- Community Choice Award: Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

PHOTOS BY KARA STARZYK/CORRESPONDENT

Gavin Gaukroger, left, Mike Wild, Jessica Legger and Bob Birdson

John Benz, left, Gavin Gaukroger and Sheila Smith

Milan Espino

Beverly Bachrach

Julie Price, left, Dennis Haas and Jessica Rodriguez