

Eve Awards



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Do you know a woman who has touched lives in the field of Education, Volunteer Service, or Employment? [Click here](#) to nominate them for all that they have done for others.

Welcome to the 2010 EVE Awards!

The EVE Awards are a North Florida and South Georgia tradition. Started in 1969, Jacksonville's daily newspaper recognizes women for their efforts and accomplishments in the areas of Education, Volunteer service and Employment at an annual luncheon ceremony attended by at least 600 people. For the past several years, the ceremony is held the first Friday in June. Four finalists in each of the three categories are honored for their significant contributions of the past year. One woman from each of the three categories is presented the coveted golden apple, representing our community's first and most esteemed award for women.

Did you know? *124 individual women have won a golden apple award.* [[More EVE Facts](#)]

2009 Winners

Education:

Donna Keenan, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, University of North Florida For the past 12 years, Donna Keenan has served West Jacksonville Elementary School as professor in residence. Her efforts with students and teachers improved student achievement that elevated the school from a grade of F to an A in 2008. In the past year, her leadership led to the UNF and the Duval Schools urban professional partnership's receiving the prestigious national award. Donna wrote the award-winning application documenting the partnerships in four schools.

Volunteer:

Mary Virginia Terry

President, CHT Corporation

Following years of exemplary volunteer service and philanthropy, Mary Virginia Terry's efforts culminated last year in major service to the Sulzbaher Center's Transformations event, the Wolfson Children's Hospital Fashion Show and the American Cancer Society's Cowford Ball. Terry's contributions to the community can be seen all over, from the Terry Theater at the Times-Union Center to the C.Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Children's Heart Center at Wolfson Children's Hospital. An EVE judge declared her to be the "epitome of what volunteerism is all about"...and "getting behind a cause and getting personally involved."

Employment:

Davalu Parrish, DVA

President and CEO, The Bridge of Northeast Florida

Davy Parrish 's entire career of more than 30 years has enriched children and youth development programs. Last year, she led The Bridge's 25th anniversary and completed the renovation of a 1911 school, now named the Weaver Zone. A major milestone in The Bridge's history, The Weaver Zone is a place where more than 150 youth can interact daily in a safe and fun learning environment. Parrish's leadership has grown The Bridge from a small agency to a nationally recognized model, serving more than 2,000 youth each year through multiple sites and programs.

EVE of the Decade 2009:

Sister DeSales Wisniewski

Since EVE's founding in 1969, one EVE winner of the past 10 years is named "EVE of the Decade" for her exemplary and sustained efforts. Sister

DeSales, a longtime health care advocate, became the fourth woman to hold the title for her consistent commitment to addressing the community's needs. Other EVEs of the Decade were Dr. Frances Bartlett Kinne, the late Lois Thacker Graessle and Pamela Y. Paul.

2008 Winners

EDUCATION

PAMELA S. CHALLY

Dean, Brooks College of Health, University of North Florida

Primary accomplishment in 2007: Chally performed a year-long survey to evaluate the area's nursing shortage and what could be done about it, and she obtained the naming grant to complete the \$10 million needed to expand the Brooks College of Health at UNF. This has taken the university's nursing and physical therapy programs from the master's level to the doctoral level and increased the number of nursing and physical therapy graduates.

Judges' comments: Diplomatic, visionary, she just stays on the task until she gets it done.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

DONNA DEEGAN

News anchor, Gannett Communications

Primary accomplishment in 2007: In the midst of her own recurring breast cancer, Deegan added to her cancer-fighting efforts by developing, organizing and running in 26.2 with Donna: The National Marathon to Fight Breast Cancer. It may be the most successful inaugural marathon ever, attracting more than 7,000 runners from every state and nine foreign countries and raising almost \$1 million -- 30 percent for the Donna Hicken Foundation's work caring for area women with breast cancer and 70 percent for the Mayo Clinic's clinical trials for breast cancer and its Multidisciplinary Breast Clinic.

Judges' comments: She has done so much, and it was on her own time.

EMPLOYMENT

MARTHA "MARTY" LANAHAH

North Florida area executive, Jacksonville City President, Regions Bank

Primary accomplishment in 2007: Beginning in April 2007 with the merger of AmSouth and the locally unknown Regions Bank, Lanahan developed strategies to maintain business and raise name awareness using everything from in-house programs to the delivery of doughnuts, airplane flyovers, bicycle brigades at the beach and, on the night of the switch, personally helping to change out signage at each branch. The results were impressive: the state's highest customer service scores; a 6 percent increase in deposits and 18 percent in loans; successfully converting a private residence to a bank branch so it fit comfortably within the historic Riverside-Avondale neighborhood and, not surprisingly, a promotion for Lanahan that gives her responsibility for the North Florida area from St. Augustine to Pensacola.

Judges' comments: She has done a fantastic job; Marty has really