

The Blue Foundation

FOR A HEALTHY FLORIDA



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3, 2006

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The Sapphire Award Premieres in Orlando

*Ten Florida Nonprofit Organizations Receive
\$375,000 In Awards From The Blue Foundation*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's (BCBSF) philanthropic affiliate, is awarding \$375,000 to ten Florida nonprofit organizations at the inaugural presentation of The Sapphire Award. The presentations take place during a luncheon today at the Orlando Marriott in Lake Mary, Florida.

The Blue Foundation will present The Sapphire Award annually to Florida non-profit organizations that positively demonstrate excellence in community health.

"The Sapphire Award recognizes and rewards community health programs that have demonstrated excellence, success and high merit," said Susan Towler, executive director, The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida. "The Award's recognition of effective initiatives is meant to promote greater and more lasting support for improved services and systems that can be sustained over time."

Recipients and award totals are: **The Sapphire Award Winners (\$100,000 each)**

- **Camillus Health Concern** (Miami)
- **Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, Inc.** (Tampa)
- **The Rubin Center for Healthy Aging at Senior Friendship Centers, Inc.** (Sarasota)

Honorable Mentions (\$15,000 each)

- **Bay Cares, Inc.** (Panama City)
- **Broward Children's Center, Inc.** (Pompano Beach)
- **The Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies, College of Public Health, University of South Florida** (Tampa)
- **Wayside House, Inc.** (Delray Beach)

Finalists (\$5,000 each)

- **Epilepsy Foundation of South Florida, Inc.** (Miami)
- **Neighborhood Health Clinic** (Naples)
- **We Care Jacksonville, Inc.** (Jacksonville)

The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida is a separate, philanthropic affiliate of BCBSF incorporated in the state of Florida. The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, and its parent, BCBSF, are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies. For more information on The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, please visit its web site at www.bluefoundationfl.org.

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