

## Towler, Susan

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**From:** Farley, Jay on behalf of Towler, Susan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2016 2:48 PM  
**To:** Altmire, Jason; Finley, Renee; Harrison, Camille; Healy, Gary; 'Mr. Valdes-Fauli' (gonzalovf@bellsouth.net); Lerer, René; Divita, Chuck; Harrison, Camille; Joseph, Charles; Marino, Andy; Patel, Prakash; Ruth, Amy; Schrader, Elana; Smith, Darnell; Somers, Erin; Thomas, Craig A.; Griffin, Cynthia; Anderson, Gary  
**Cc:** Monteiro-Tribble, Velma; Towler, Susan  
**Subject:** Florida Blue Foundation E-Newsletter - May/June 2016

Please enjoy the Florida Blue Foundation's May/June e-newsletter...

### **Susan B. Towler, APR**

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Florida Blue is the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan for Floridians

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**E-Newsletter 28 -- May-June 2016**

***Report on 2016 Sapphire Symposium and Awards***



2016 Sapphire Award Honorees with Florida Blue leaders. Back row, left to right: Lynn Layton, Susan Towler, Pat Geraghty, Doug Kent. Front row, left to right: Sydney Liebman, Beverly Hougland, Chris Christensen, Kathy Moeder Christensen, Mike Griffin, Lisa Gwynn, William Sappenfield, Ana Karina Mascarenhas and Aggie Pappas. Not pictured: Jasmin Shirley, Bret Smith, Edward Burr and Bakari Burns.

## **2016 Sapphire Symposium and Awards**

### ***Professional Development, Networking and Recognition of Innovation and Excellence***

The 2016 Sapphire Symposium and Awards, held on April 20-21 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando, Florida, was a great success, and we thank all of you who attended this year. We had approximately 400 participants in attendance, and, based on the post-event survey responses, they felt very satisfied with the professional development sessions, speakers, plenaries and the entire experience.

The Honorees of the 2016 Sapphire Awards were recognized by Florida Blue CEO Pat Geraghty at the awards ceremony on April 21. The 13 individuals, programs and organizations selected from more than 112 nominees across Florida were recognized and awarded for excellence, leadership and innovation in nonprofit community health. The honorees have made a significant, positive impact on health-related outcomes for Florida's at-risk people and communities.

Since 2005, Florida Blue Foundation has presented 60 Sapphire Awards, totaling more than \$3.4 million, to nine individuals and 51 programs and organizations from across Florida.

Videos and profiles of the honorees are posted to the Florida Blue Foundation website, [www.floridabluefoundation.com](http://www.floridabluefoundation.com).

Some highlights and photos from the 2016 Sapphire Symposium and Awards are posted below.

We are making plans for the 2017 Sapphire Symposium and Awards. Dates and location will be confirmed in future publications and on the Florida Blue Foundation website. Stay tuned for details on nomination applications, guidelines, deadlines, speakers, dates and the venue.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the Florida Blue Foundation, we thank you for your continued support.

## 2016 Sapphire Awards Honorees

### Program Category Honorees

#### **Monique Burr Foundation for Children *MBF Child Safety Matters***

(TM)

Jacksonville, Duval County

Edward Burr accepts the Runner-Up award and \$20,000 on behalf of the Monique Burr Foundation for Children and its Child Safety

Matters(TM) program. It is a comprehensive, research-based, primary prevention program designed to educate and empower students, parents and school personnel to prevent bullying, cyberbullying, digital abuse and all types of child abuse based on polyvictimization research and industry best practices.



#### **Nova Southeastern University *Smiles Across Miami***

Miami-Dade County

Dr. Ana Karina Mascarenhas accepts the Runner-Up award and \$20,000 for Smiles Across Miami. The program brings oral health services (education, diagnostic, preventive and treatment) to underserved and primarily uninsured school children in Miami-Dade County through two programs: Schools Oral Health Services and HealthConnect in our Schools.

The goal is to identify oral diseases early and improve access to vitally needed oral health care for Miami-Dade school children most at risk and their families, thereby reducing health disparities and improving health and social equity.

**Florida Hospital  
Bithlo Transformation Effort - Dental Care  
Access Program**

Bithlo, Orange County

Mike Griffin accepts the Sapphire Award trophy and \$50,000 for Florida Hospital's Dental Care Access Program in Bithlo. The program provides free, high quality, preventative, restorative and/or emergency-based dental care and education to the poor, uninsured residents of Bithlo. Services are provided through mobile dental clinic visits with licensed volunteer dentists and hygienists, and free preventative dental services and oral hygiene instruction to children in their schools - elementary through high school - including toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, topical fluoride and nutritional/tobacco counseling.



**University of Miami  
Pediatric Mobile Clinic**

Miami-Dade County

Dr. Lisa Gwynn accepts the Sapphire Award trophy and \$50,000 for the Pediatric Mobile Clinic. Established in 1992, the mobile clinic provides access to year-round, comprehensive, quality medical and mental health care, social service assistance, and case management services, regardless of ability to pay, to underserved children and families in Miami-Dade County; promotes health education and healthy living in the communities served; and trains future health care providers for careers that will reduce health care disparities. The telemedicine program provides remote consultations with physician faculty specialists in dermatology, cardiology, endocrinology, nutrition and hematology. Internet connectivity allows for the use of electronic medical records to facilitate improved quality of care, reduced medical errors, tracking of health trends, outcomes and reporting methods.

**Organization Category Honorees**

**Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative**

Tampa, Hillsborough County

Dr. William Sappenfield accepts the Sapphire Award trophy and \$50,000 on behalf of Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative. Its mission is to advance health care quality and patient safety for all of Florida's mothers and babies through collective quality improvement efforts with state and hospital partners. This collaborative approach monitors and assesses state and hospital health care quality indicators,



develops and implements joint quality improvement initiatives, advances data-driven evidence-based clinical practices, and promotes provider and patient education and training.



### **HANDS of St. Lucie County**

Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County

Sydney Liebman accepts the Runner-Up award and \$20,000 on behalf of St. Lucie County Health Access Network. HANDS of St. Lucie County is a Volunteers in Medicine affiliate that provides primary health care services and access to a continuum of health care to qualified, low-income, uninsured, adult residents of St. Lucie County. Services provided include primary medical care, adult dental clinic, vision care, mental health assistance, patient prescription program and

health education on diabetes management and nutrition, smoking cessation, chronic disease self-management and pediatric dental checks and screenings.

### **Osceola County Council on Aging**

Kissimmee, Osceola County

Beverly Hougland accepts the Runner-Up award and \$20,000 on behalf of the Osceola County Council on Aging. It is the mission of the Osceola County Council on Aging to administer programs and services that enable independence and self-sufficiency for seniors, disabled adults, the disadvantaged and families in poverty in Osceola County, Florida, through the following services: OCOA Health Clinic, Wellness Programs, Adult Day Health Care, Health & Wealth Initiative, In-Home Services, Respite, Building Strong Families, Case Management, Emergency Assistance, Guardianship, Home Rehabilitation, Housing, Osceola Financial Pathways, Asset Building, Center for All Generations, Transportation, Weatherization Assistance, and Nutrition Services.



## **Individual Category Honorees**



## **Bakari F. Burns, MPH, MBA**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Health Care Center for the Homeless (dba Orange Blossom Family Health)  
Orlando, Orange County

Bakari F. Burns received an Honorable Mention award and \$10,000 for Health Care Center for the Homeless. His life mission is to ensure that affordable quality health care is available to all members of the community. Under his leadership, the Health Center has experienced significant growth from a \$1.9 million operation in 2003 to nearly \$8 million in 2015, caring for over 14,000 unduplicated patients annually. He effectively mobilizes individuals, resources and organizations to improve access and the quality of care provided to homeless and medically indigent members of the community.

## **Richard C. Christensen, MD, MA**

Former Director, Behavioral Health Services  
I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless  
Jacksonville, Duval County

Kathy Moeder Christensen and Chris Christensen accept the Sapphire Award trophy and \$50,000 for the I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless on behalf of Dr. Richard Christensen. He single-handedly changed North Florida's approach to providing behavioral health services to those experiencing homelessness. Initially by himself, and later leading a behavioral health team of four professionals, he conducted 41,500 patient sessions, not including those treated during his twice-weekly street psychiatry sessions. In 2014 alone, Christensen and the behavioral health team treated 387 patients during 1,952 patient visits. He was selected to be a Sapphire Award Honoree prior to his tragic death in a hit-and-run accident while on a two-week mission trip in Zambia for a Habitat for Humanity International Global Village Build with his wife Kathy.





## **Douglas M. Kent, MPH**

Administrator  
Florida Department of Health in Bay County  
Panama City, Bay County

Douglas Kent accepts the Runner-Up award and \$20,000 for Community Health Task Force. His distinguishing achievements during his 40 years of public health service encompass many impactful and innovative programs across two Florida counties. His vast experience, success, vision and diligence have been ongoing assets. Equally remarkable is his ability to bring community leaders and partnerships together to join his vision and mission in improving public health issues. His leadership and collaborative efforts accomplished major projects, acquired funding sources, fulfilled facility needs, and developed impactful public health programs.

## **Aggie A. Pappas, MSW**

Executive Director  
PACE Center for Girls Broward County  
Wilton Manors, Broward County

Aggie Pappas accepts the Honorable Mention award and \$10,000 for PACE Center for Girls Broward County. For over 30 years, Aggie Pappas has dedicated her career to providing quality mental health and case management services to socioeconomically disadvantaged and underserved populations -- from her early career as a social worker serving homeless individuals, to serving homeless, runaway, foster care, and at-risk youth. She is dedicated to improving the quality of life for underserved and disadvantaged girls in Broward County and throughout the United States.



## **Jasmin D. Shirley, MSPH**

Senior Vice President, Community Health Services  
Broward Health  
Fort Lauderdale, Broward County

Jasmin Shirley accepts the Runner-Up award and \$20,000 for Delta Education and Life Development Foundation. Her achievements span 32 years of dedication to the most vulnerable and forgotten who are most in need. Shirley currently oversees Broward Health's Community Health Services (CHS) division, inclusive of 10 primary care centers, a Federally Qualified Health Center for the Homeless, a home health and hospice

agency, and urgent care center. She is known for her early and continuous work in HIV/AIDS and for her dedication, passion and "never give up" attitude in providing quality health care to the most vulnerable.

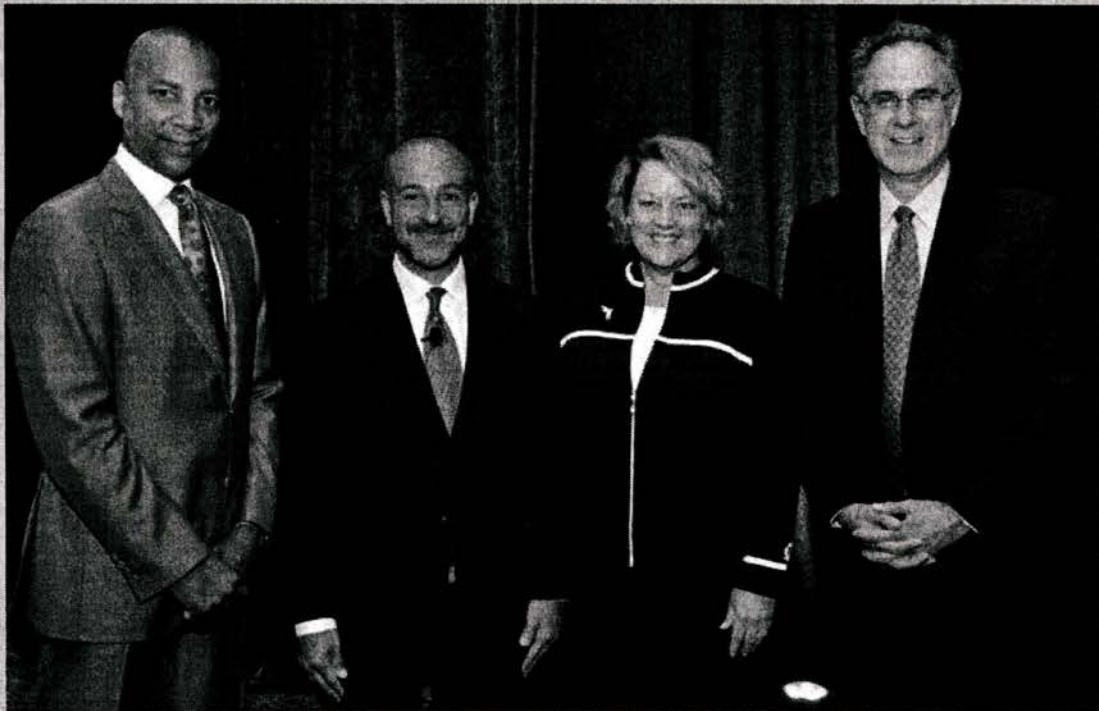
### **Bret A. Smith, DEHP, MBA**

Environmental Administrator  
Florida Department of Health in Osceola County  
Kissimmee, Osceola County

Bret Smith accepts the Honorable Mention award and \$10,000 for the Florida Department of Health in Osceola County. He has worked as a public health servant for over 20 years and is a leader in addressing the environmental issues that contribute to poor health. Because of the work he initiated and the partnerships he cultivated, improvements, totaling over \$4 million, have been realized to help improve the health and quality of life for very low-income residents in an impoverished community affected by crime and a polluting business.



## **Speaker Highlights**



**Joseph R. Betancourt, MD, MPH**, Director of the Disparities Solutions Center, Massachusetts General Hospital (second from left), is joined by Florida Blue leaders: Tony Jenkins, Susan Towler, and Charlie Joseph.





**Cara V. James, PhD**, Director, Office of Minority Health, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) (second from right), is joined by **Rosen Harris** (second from left), President and Chief Operating Officer, Rosen Hotels & Resorts, and Florida Blue leaders **Susan Towler** and **Jason Altmire**.

## **SMALL TALK Sessions**

A total of nine SMALL TALK Sessions were held on a variety of health-related topics, including health disparities, oral health, patient-centered health care, healthy eating and active living, metrics and evaluation, and grant writing.



## **GuideWell UST Global Innovation Center Tour**

Many attendees toured the GuideWell UST Global Innovation Center. The Innovation Center, a subsidiary of GuideWell Mutual Holding Corporation, is focused on advancing the transformation of the health industry through rapid acceleration of health innovation. It is headquartered in Orlando's Lake Nona Medical City.





## Networking

Attendees had opportunities for professional development and networking with other participants and exhibitors.





## National Nurses Week 2016

We are proud to join the American Nurses Association and numerous health care organizations across the country to celebrate National Nurses Week (May 6 to 12). We honor and recognize nurses for their incredible and invaluable service in providing care and to their contribution to safety and collaboration in health care.

Established in 1954, National Nurses Week recognizes nurses and their strong commitment to and fervent compassion for their patients. The annual recognition first honored the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's service and leadership during the Crimean War. The week-long celebration ends on Nightingale's birthday, May 12.





Nurses are a vital part of our health care system. With more than 3.1 million registered nurses practicing nationwide, they comprise the largest segment of the health care workforce and represent one of the fastest growing professions in the country. They are providers of hospital, in-office, home-based and long-term care, and are educators training the next wave of nurses.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all nurses for their commitment, hard work and dedication.

## **New Grants and Volunteer Management System to Launch July 18**

### **No applications accepted June 10-July 18**

This summer, Florida Blue and the Florida Blue Foundation will implement a new, comprehensive grants and volunteer management system that will modernize our end-to-end grant making processes and enhance communications with grantees.

The new online platform, called SmartSimple, will streamline the grantee application processes, offer real-time status and add efficiencies to the grant review process and data collection. It will also offer new capabilities for nonprofit organizations seeking volunteers.

"Florida Blue values our community partners, and the new system will allow us to better understand their needs and serve as better stewards of our community investments," said Susan Towler, vice president, Florida Blue Foundation.

**As we work towards a July implementation date, we will cease operation of the current grant application system on June 10 at 5:00 p.m. The new system will launch on July 18. To facilitate the conversion to the new system, we will be unable to accept grant applications between June 10 and July 18.**

Additional information will be shared leading up to the launch of the new system. In the meantime, if you have questions, please send an email to us at [communityrelations@floridablue.com](mailto:communityrelations@floridablue.com) or [floridabluefoundation@floridablue.com](mailto:floridabluefoundation@floridablue.com).

#### **FLORIDA BLUE FOUNDATION MISSION:**

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