COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
Renewing Families With Pride And Purpose

2003
CELEBRATION OF LEADERSHIP

A TRIBUTE TO EXCELLENCE
2003

Celebration Of Leadership

A Tribute To Excellence

April 28, 2003
Prime Osborn Convention Center
Reception - 6 p.m.
Dinner - 7 p.m.
WELCOME
BY MARIANNE HILLEGASS

"Our ‘Tribute to Excellence’ event this evening recognizes an outstanding group of individuals—business leaders who have made a significant contribution to the growth and development of their companies; leaders in the volunteer sector who have shown outstanding leadership and philanthropy in the community; ‘Rising Stars’ who have demonstrated outstanding potential. Each of these individuals has made a positive difference in our community and deserves this special spotlight. CCJ is very grateful to the generous corporate support, which makes it possible to fulfill our mission as a Jacksonville community services organization."

-Marianne Hillegass 2003 Tribute Chair

C ommunity Connections . . . a Jacksonville agency dedicated to creating opportunities for women, children and families to enable them to become self-sufficient and achieve their full potential. This year, we are faced with many challenges due to funding reductions while the need for our services continues to grow. However, through the dedication and hard work of our staff and many community supporters, we are confident we will continue to meet our goals.

On behalf of the CCJ Board of Directors and staff, welcome to our annual Tribute event and thank you for your support and ongoing confidence in our community programs. Our dreams become a reality through your generous support.

Community Connections Mission Statement
Based on our belief in the dignity and resilience of the human spirit, the mission of Community Connections of Jacksonville is to assemble resources and partner with community organizations to strengthen families.

The Celebration of Leadership – A Tribute to Excellence plays an important role in the overall mission of Community Connections. The Tribute event allows companies or individuals the opportunity to honor leaders in the following categories:

- Business leaders who have made a significant contribution to the growth and development of their companies;
- Leaders in the volunteer sector who have shown exemplary leadership and philanthropy in the community;
- Young leaders who have demonstrated outstanding leadership potential.

The Tribute event also honors those businesses that have provided opportunities for leaders to achieve their highest potential while supporting the various programs of Community Connections and helping them to accomplish their mission.
April 28, 2003

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions
Mary Ellen Smith
President, Community Connections Board of Directors

Community Connections Video

~ DINNER ~

Introduction of Honorary Chair
Mary Ellen Smith

Introduction of Winner
Davis Award for Lifetime Achievement
Kitty Crenshaw and Florence N. Davis

Guest Speaker
Congressman Ander Crenshaw
U. S. House of Representatives

Introduction of Tribute Chair
Mary Ellen Smith

Introduction of Honoree Video
Marianne Hillegass, Chair
2003 Tribute

Closing Remarks
Mary Ellen Smith

PLATINUM SPONSOR
JACKSONVILLE GREYHOUND RACING

RECEPTION SPONSOR - AM SOUTH BANK
VIDEOS PRODUCED BY DIGITAL VIDEO ARTS PRODUCTION
Kitty Crenshaw was born in Birmingham, Alabama, and has lived in Jacksonville for more than 40 years. She attended Furman University and the University of Florida, where she studied both French and art. Kitty and Ander have been married for 33 years and have two daughters, Sarah, 25, and Alex, 23.

Much of her time and talent is devoted to improving children’s lives around the world. She has served on many boards, including that of Young Life, a nondenominational Christian organization that provides role models of trust, respect and responsibility to high school students. She was a founding board member of Amistad, an international organization that supports an orphanage, clinic and school for the Quechua Indians in Bolivia.

Currently, Kitty is a board member of BWS Ministries, a contemplative ministry in Jacksonville, and has written a book about its founder.

“I am thrilled to serve as the Honorary Chair of the 2003 Celebration of Leadership event. It is a privilege for me to be associated with Community Connections, an organization that has had such a wonderful impact on Jacksonville’s women and their families.”

-Kitty Crenshaw
2003 Honorary Chair
PLATINUM PATRON
Jacksonville Greyhound Racing

RECEPTION SPONSOR
AmSouth Bank

GOLD PATRONS
AmSouth Bank
Baptist Health
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Florida
Citi Cards
Compass Bank
Digital Video Arts
Donna L. Harper
Holland & Knight LLP
Jacksonville Association of Fire Fighters
Presentation Resource
Prudential Financial
Mary Ellen Smith

SILVER PATRONS
Bennett’s Business Systems
Burger King
Andy & Toni Crawford
Dr. & Mrs. George H. Dorion
ERA Davis & Linn
Fidelity Information Services
Gate Petroleum Company
Gresham Smith and Partners
Jacksonville Magazine
Mayo Clinic/St. Luke’s Hospital
Memorial Hospital Jacksonville
Miller Electric Company
Milne Family
St. Vincent’s

RISEING STAR PATRONS
Arlington Toyota
Board Members: Janet Mallot, Janet McCoy and Tami Jones
Board Members: Anne Bridgers, Jennifer Lee, Beverly Rossiter and Mary Ellen Smith
Body Shop of America (2 sponsorships)
Jim & Mary Burt – Volunteers in Medicine, Jacksonville
Coggin Automotive Group
DuBow Family Foundation, Inc.
DWC Rotary
First Alliance Bank
John, Linda and Laura Franklin
Marianne Hillegass
Jacksonville Jaguars
Carolyn Kraus—Robert Tison & Associates, Inc.
Kara Land and Kristina Smith
Jim & Susan Main
Marks Gray/Charity, Inc.
Kitty & Phil Phillips
Sir Speedy Printing-Downtown
Mary Ellen Smith
Surety & Associates/Tom Lobrano
TAPESOUTH, INC. (2 sponsorships)
United Parcel Service
The Vestcor Companies
WJXT Channel 4

BRONZE PATRONS
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VyStar Credit Union

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Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Upsilon Lambda Chapter
Anheuser-Busch, Inc.
Bowditch Insurance Corporation
Dr. Ronald Elinoff (In Honor of Dr. James Burt)
Jack Meeks, CPA
Ms. Susan Ottenstroer

IN KIND DONATIONS
LaMee Florist/Richard LaMee
Trad’s Garden Center/Lou Trad
Florence N. Davis

Like the force of a gently flowing river, Florence N. Davis has brought her encompassing strength and vision to every community service organization with which she has been involved. She has touched the lives of people who have needed her, and she has truly made a difference. For her work and dedication, for her strength, and for her vision, this award is named in her honor.

1993 Winner
Violet B. Whittaker

1995 Winner
Delores Kesler

1994 Winner
Dr. Frances B. Kinne

1996 Winner
Jean Ludlow

1997 Winner
Doris N. Carson

1998 Winner
Pamela Y. “Pam” Paul

1999 Winner
Tillie Kidd Fowler

2000 Winner
Betty Holzendorf

2001 Winner
Delores Weaver

2002 Winner
Mayor John A. Delaney

2003 • CELEBRATION OF LEADERSHIP • A TRIBUTE TO EXCELLENCE
Congressman Ander Crenshaw serves Florida’s Fourth Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. Elected to Congress on November 7, 2000, Crenshaw has taken steps to make Northeast Florida neighborhoods safer, strengthen our military, improve education, provide tax relief, and win federal funding for North Florida-area projects.

In the House of Representatives, Congressman Crenshaw serves on the Appropriations Committee. As a member of Appropriations, Congressman Crenshaw serves on three subcommittees: the Subcommittee on Military Construction, the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, and the Subcommittee on Interior. Congressman Crenshaw also serves on the Budget Committee, the committee that drafts the annual spending targets for the federal government.

Within House leadership, Congressman Crenshaw serves as a Deputy Majority Whip, one of a handful of members appointed to help mobilize Members of Congress for key legislative votes.

Congressman Crenshaw is also a member of the Republican policy committee, which develops and promotes the issues to be considered by the House.

A third generation resident of Northeast Florida, Congressman Crenshaw was born on September 1, 1944, in Jacksonville, Florida. The son of an attorney and grandson of a cracker factory owner, he attended Robert E. Lee High School, the University of Georgia on a basketball scholarship, and later received his law degree from the University of Florida.

Congressman Crenshaw serves on numerous civic and community boards and lives in Jacksonville with his wife, Kitty, and their two daughters, Sarah and Alex. They are members of Grace Episcopal Church.

“To know and love God, to have positively impacted his state and his nation and to still be adored by his family are Ander’s lifetime achievements. What else could anyone hope for?”

-Kitty Crenshaw
Jane Craven has held the position of President and CEO of the Jacksonville Museum of Modern Art (formerly The Jacksonville Museum of Contemporary Art) since 1999. The Museum is renovating a six-story, 60,000 square foot historic building on Hemming Plaza in downtown Jacksonville that will open to the public in the spring of 2003. Ms. Craven's duties with the museum include the overall administration of operations including financial management, creation and implementation of strategic and operational plans as directed and approved by the Board of Trustees, employee management, marketing and public relations, development of capital and operational funding sources, and oversight of renovations to the Museum’s new facility.

Prior to her position with JMOMA, Ms. Craven owned and operated Blue River Gallery, a contemporary art gallery in San Marco. Her background includes ten years in information systems development with AT&T.

Ms. Craven is a member of the International Women’s Forum, the Jacksonville Women’s Network, and a graduate of Leadership Jacksonville’s Class of 1999. She is founder and Past President of the Jacksonville Association of Art Galleries (JAAG), and a former board member of The Women’s Center of Jacksonville. She holds a B.A. in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and lives in the Riverside-Avondale area of Jacksonville with her husband, Bill Kwapisil.

AmSouth is a regional bank holding company headquartered in Birmingham with $41 billion in assets, 600 branch banking offices and 1,200 ATMs. AmSouth operates in Tennessee, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Georgia. AmSouth is a leader among regional banks in the Southeast in several key business segments, including consumer and commercial banking, small-business banking, mortgage lending, equipment leasing, annuity and mutual fund sales, and trust and investment management services. AmSouth also offers a complete line of banking products and services at its web site, www.amsouth.com.

"Jane Craven has the gift of being able to marry patience and determination. Her tireless efforts on behalf of the Jacksonville Museum of Modern Art are an example of such. The opening of the museum this month is truly a tribute to Jane’s abilities."

-Marty Lanahan
City President
AmSouth Bank
Cindy Hamilton has been a prominent figure in Jacksonville and Florida’s healthcare public relations scene for nearly two decades. Her entry into the field began shortly after she was hired in 1982 as an assistant graphic artist by Baptist Medical Center. But, shortly after she was hired, the advent of personal computers changed her department’s needs, and she took on more public relations responsibilities.

She quickly graduated from patient condition reports and media relations to video production and advertising campaigns. Her work in video production has since earned her 11 Telly awards, and it played an important role in her 1987 promotion to Director of Corporate Communications for Baptist Medical Center.

And from that position, Mrs. Hamilton has participated in many endeavors that have made significant contributions to both Baptist Health and the community at large. She was instrumental in developing Baptist’s relationship with the Jacksonville Jaguars and has created a number of fund-raising and goodwill-building programs for Baptist Health, including activities that promote breast cancer research, childhood cancer treatment, diabetes prevention and asthma education.

She especially enjoys working with Wolfson Children’s Hospital and is involved with many projects that benefit the region’s only children’s hospital, including Caps for Kids, a national organization that gives hats signed by celebrities to children with cancer. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Mark Brunell Foundation, and is a member of the Full Service Schools’ Leadership Council.

Her peers at Florida’s hospitals have also taken note of Mrs. Hamilton’s proficiency. In 2000, she was elected to the Board of Directors of the Florida Hospital Public Relations Society.

Mrs. Hamilton and her husband, Richard, have been married for 21 years and live in Avondale. Her greatest joys are watching her children (Lindsey, 14, and John, 12) play sports, and cooking for family and friends.

**Baptist Health**

Baptist Health is a faith-based, mission-driven healthcare organization comprised of Baptist Medical Center, Baptist Medical Center Beaches, Baptist Medical Center Nassau and Wolfson Children’s Hospital — Jacksonville’s only children’s hospital. Baptist Health’s services include a state-of-the-art cardiology and cardiovascular surgery program, a comprehensive cancer center, an orthopaedic institute, a women’s resource center, an extensive psychology and psychiatry program, outpatient facilities and a network of primary care physicians throughout Northeast Florida. In 2005, Baptist Health will open Jacksonville’s first hospital of the 21st century, Baptist Medical Center South, a 92-bed facility that will serve communities in southern Duval and northern St. Johns counties. Baptist Health is the official healthcare provider for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

“There are too many years Cindy has been committed to the mission of Baptist Health and Wolfson Children’s Hospital. She has assisted us in delivering our message with passion and creativity, building positive relationships throughout our community.

Cindy has quietly and effectively served behind the scenes in so many situations; we are proud to put her in the spotlight and honor her for her commitment to improving the lives of those we serve.”

—Lois Fuqua
Senior Executive Assistant to A. Hugh Greene, President and CEO Baptist Health
Susan B. Towler’s commitment to excellence resulted in her appointment as the first Executive Director of The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida. Susan led a workgroup that explored the opportunities to expand the community relations and charitable giving programs of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida. The result was the formation of The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida in 2001. Since 2001, nearly $2 million has been directed by the Foundation to improving healthcare access for uninsured and underserved Floridians.

Susan came to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida in 1996, holding various positions in the Public Affairs group. Prior to that, she provided public relations support to a variety of Jacksonville businesses, including Gulf Life Insurance Company, BancBoston Mortgage Corporation and the Robin Shepherd Group, and owned her own public relations consulting firm.

Susan, an accredited public relations professional, holds a Bachelor’s degree in Public Relations from the University of Florida. Her hobbies include gardening, antiquing and community involvement. Actively involved in the public relations industry in Jacksonville, Susan is a member of the Public Relations Society of America, where she served as president of the North Florida Chapter in 1996, and is currently the Valdosta State University Professional Advisor.

She is a board member of the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida, a charter member of the advisory committee for Seamark Ranch, a member of the public policy committee of the Donors Forum of South Florida, a member of the Sierra Club and serves on the United Way’s Senior Partnership Council. She is a past board member of Southside United Methodist Preschool, the past board president for All Saints Early Learning and Community Care Center, a day care facility for pre-school children and disabled adults, and is past president and board member of Esprit de Corps, a young professional’s group supporting Community Hospice.

Susan and her husband, Jim, grew up in Jacksonville and have a two-year-old daughter, Emma.

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Florida
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSF) is a leader in Florida’s health industry. BCBSF and its subsidiaries serve more than 6 million people. Since 1944, the company has been dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of all those it serves by offering an array of choices. BCBSF is a private, policyholder-owned, tax-paying mutual company. Headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida, BCBSF is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies. For more information concerning BCBSF, please see our website at www.bcbsfl.com.
Stephen Parker lists his 14-year marriage and his family as his “greatest achievements.” For a community leader such as Stephen, with his long resume of service and professional accomplishments, that is a fitting and high compliment!

Stephen is a true achiever, attaining his position as Senior Vice President, HR Cards Technology, after serving as Vice President of Sales and Marketing at MPS Group, as Sales Planning Manager at Sarvis, Inc., and as a District Manager for General Mills (the youngest district manager in GM’s history!).

Stephen is known as an approachable person with a sense of humor, a man of strong faith and high integrity. Strongly committed to the I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, Stephen has served on the Sulzbacher Board of Directors and chaired both the 2001 Holiday Card and 2002 Transformations event.

Stephen takes his many civic responsibilities to heart. He has served as a coach for the YMCA girls’ and boys’ basketball teams, is a supporter of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Junior Achievement, and the Florida-Georgia Blood Alliance. He has served as Chairman of a United Way Campaign and is a member of the Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2002. When time permits, Stephen enjoys basketball, reading and the NFL internship program.

Jacksonville is fortunate to have Stephen, a native of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, as a member of our community, along with his wife, Diane, and their four children, Mary Margaret, Theresa, Stephen and Maria.

Citigroup
Citigroup (NYSE: C), the preeminent global financial services company with some 200 million customer accounts in more than 100 countries, provides consumers, corporations, governments and institutions with a broad range of financial products and services, including consumer banking and credit, corporate and investment banking, insurance, securities brokerage and asset management. Major brand names under Citigroup’s trademark red umbrella include Citibank, CitiFinancial, Primerica, Smith Barney, Banamex and Travelers Life and Annuity. Additional information may be found at www.citigroup.com.

“Wisdom is a blending of mind and soul balanced with experience.”
Stephen Parker exhibits all that is wise in his career and in support of our community. Citi Cards is pleased and priviledged to recognize Steve as one of Jacksonville’s outstanding individuals.

-Nancy Hoover
Senior Vice President,
Human Resources
Citi Cards
Amy Sterling is quick to admit that she has a “wonderful” life! This hard-working, dedicated wife and daughter loves to get the job done, whatever it may be.

Amy and her husband, Brad, moved to Jacksonville in 1987. Amy completed her Bachelor’s Degree in Business at UNF. She quickly attained her MBA and began her banking career with Barnett Bank. In 1997, she accepted a position with Compass Bank as the Banking Center Manager at the Jacksonville Beach location. Two years later, Amy started with the Commercial Real Estate Group as an Assistant Relationship Manager. In 2002, she was promoted to Relationship Manager and she is still enjoying her career with Compass today.

Amy is a busy and well-rounded individual, interested in family, her book club, and horses. She has volunteered with BEAKS, with Hearts, Hands and Hooves, and is a founding member and current president of the Jacksonville chapter of CREW (Commercial Real Estate Women).

One of Amy’s passions is her horse, Loriot (pronounced “oreo”). Amy and Loriot have been competing successfully in dressage events in both Jacksonville and Gainesville, and hope to participate at higher levels soon. But win or lose, Amy’s love for Loriot makes her happy.

Committed to her family and her causes, and motivated to accomplish her goals, Amy is always busy. Compass Bank is proud to honor Amy Sterling.

Compass Bank

Compass Bank entered the Jacksonville, Northeast Florida area in 1994 and has since grown its presence to a network of 23 full-service banking offices.

Compass prides itself on providing the exceptional customer service of a small community bank while offering the products and services of a much larger institution. Compass offers a full spectrum of consumer and business banking products, including retail mortgages, construction financing, consumer and small business lending, corporate and private banking, investment services, asset management and international banking.

“The key to our success is undoubtedly the dedicated employees,” said Robert White, Jacksonville President for Compass. “Other institutions have similar products and services, but none can match the quality of our people. We are proud to serve the Jacksonville community.”
Nancy R. Seely is more than a public relations expert, she’s a Jacksonville champion. Currently enjoying her 15th year in charge of public relations at The Robin Shepherd Group, Nancy brings tireless energy and enthusiasm to every aspect of her life. From dealing with clients to staying involved in her community to participating in competitive surfing to being a devoted wife and mother, Nancy’s life defines the word leadership.

Even at the beginning of her career, she realized spirited involvement could overcome any challenge. Her first job was with the University of Florida (IFAS) teaching low-income families how to grow and use fresh garden produce. Upon finding much of the core audience to be illiterate, Nancy became a community advocate and proactively sought out donations of land from the city and from local churches and taught gardening in group settings using hands-on demonstrations and visual communications.

It’s this kind of dedication that Nancy applies to all she does as Executive Vice President of the firm. She’s been an instrumental communications ally for some of our city’s most prominent businesses and organizations, including World Golf Hall of Fame, the United Way of Northeast Florida and the PGA TOUR.

Her level of community involvement is impressive with past and present leadership positions for the Florida Public Relations Association, Learn to Read, Habitat for Humanity and the East Coast Surfing Association. One of her most noteworthy memberships has been as the first female member of the Seminole Club, Jacksonville’s oldest private men’s club. Through it all, she’s never missed a single one of her son’s sporting events, and she’s never failed to give guidance and support to new public relations practitioners.

Nancy’s hobbies include cooking, surfing, golf and spending time with her family.

Digital Video Arts Productions
Digital Video Arts is Jacksonville’s largest television and film production and post-production company. With national and local expertise in corporate communications, television commercials, broadcast programming and marketing videos, the talented and creative editors and artists at DVA are proud to salute this year’s honorees.
Disasters and being prepared for the unexpected consume Christian Smith’s life. Although working most of the time in organized chaos, she considers it a blessing to work for an organization whose mission is to help those in need and save lives. As the Director of Public Support for the Northeast Florida Chapter of the American Red Cross, Christian is responsible for providing full service communications, marketing, fundraising and public relations for Florida’s oldest and geographically largest Red Cross chapter.

A typical day in Christian’s life is not for the timid, especially during times of disaster or military conflict. Days often begin by rushing to 5:00 a.m. media interviews and end with the late evening news. Interspersed in the day are fundraising meetings, brainstorming sessions on expanded access to programs and services, and seemingly endless conference calls and inquiries. Balancing her four-part job might require spending lunch treading through floodwaters while disaster volunteers are assisting flood victims, or working with a team on the season’s latest storm-track and disaster-preparedness brochure.

Christian began her Red Cross career in 1994, working with clients and volunteers as a volunteer and special project coordinator. Over time, she has been involved in all facets of the organization and has become a state and national Red Cross asset as a fundraising professional and highly skilled communicator. In 2001 she was selected to serve on the Red Cross National Rapid Response Team, a small cadre of public relations professionals, to conduct national media interviews in times of crisis. Among her most memorable experiences have been her work with national and international media at Ground Zero in New York City following the terrorist attacks of September 11th and her extended role in facilitating the flow of Red Cross messages between a Jacksonville family and their son/husband who had been captured and jailed by the Iraqi government following the first Gulf War.

Ms. Smith is a lifelong Florida resident and a graduate of Jacksonville University, where she received a degree in Communications. Prior to joining the Red Cross, Christian worked as a fundraiser and public relations manager for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Jacksonville, Florida and Charleston, South Carolina. Before joining the non-profit sector, she worked for CSX Technology. For relaxation, she and her husband, Matthew, enjoy relaxing on the dock of their Intracoastal Waterway home.

**Digital Video Arts Productions**
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“Integrity, commitment and a passion for the mission — Christian Smith has them all. When she combines these attributes with her natural communications skills, no one can deliver a more compelling message. While most often recognized as the face and voice of the Red Cross, Christian is also a consummate fundraising professional and our marketing brains. No one cares more deeply about our mission nor holds us to a higher standard. Her focus has always been on saving lives and making our community a better, safer place. It is an honor to work with such an outstanding young leader.”

-Skip Cramer, CEO
American Red Cross Northeast Florida Chapter
Judy Hicks is a leader who demonstrates both passion and compassion in her career and her volunteer commitment. The primary force behind Judy’s success is her ability to remain positive and never shy away from difficult tasks or challenges. Judy has considered Jacksonville her home since moving here in 1985. “I love the feel of Jacksonville, the beauty of the beaches, the friendly people, the bridges and the water. It’s all very calming to my hectic schedule,” said Judy when asked what she likes about selling real estate in this great city of Jacksonville.

Judy discovered her passion for daniel in 1994 when a friend gave her the poem “The Legacy” shortly after her father passed away. The poem refers to remembering a loved one by giving to children. Jim Clark, president and CEO of daniel, states “She is an incredible humanitarian with a dedication to helping children.” Volunteering at daniel, she has chaired NEFBA Fall Fashion Shows raising nearly $100,000 for both daniel and Safe Harbor Boys Home, she serves on the Legislative committee on the board and her most recent endeavor is “Womenade.” Judy’s motto is “If life hands you lemons, you make lemonade, and if you are a woman you make Womenade.” Womenade started in 2001 as a group of ladies concerned about daniel’s children who meet bi-monthly to network and raise funds.

Professionally, Judy Hicks can be found at RE/MAX Real Estate Specialists in Mandarin happily selling 50 homes a year in and around the Jacksonville, Beaches and Orange Park areas. She has been recognized as the 2001 Top Producer/Individual from RE/MAX Real Estate Specialists, 2000 Humanitarian of the Year/Northeast Florida Association of Realtors, 1999 Associate of the Year/Northeast Florida Builders Association, Winner of 10 Laurel Awards, 2 Excel Awards, 2002 recipient of the Dick Baker Memorial Award for Community Service and the 2002 Volunteer of the Year from the Florida Coalition for Children.

Judy feels that learning to balance her work, family and volunteer commitment has been her most significant achievement. When not at work Judy spends time with her husband, Allen Dye, who is in the mortgage business. They share their lives with a cat named Leo and a Jack Russell Terrier named Bama. Both are huge college football fans. Judy loves the Gators and, Allen – you guessed it, loves Alabama.

Holland & Knight LLP
Holland & Knight LLP is a commercial firm with 1,250 lawyers who practice in more than 100 areas of law. The firm has 24 offices in the United States and international offices in Helsinki, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Tokyo, with representative offices in Caracas and Tel Aviv. Holland & Knight has a strong commitment to the community that emphasizes pro bono legal work and charitable activities focusing on children.

Holland & Knight LLP is proud to recognize Judy Hicks as one of Jacksonville’s outstanding volunteers. As a realtor, her career demands much of her time and attention. Yet she devotes many hours to daniel - a place for children. She raises money creatively - from planning fashion shows to forming her group called “Womenade,” where women can come together for networking and socializing while providing funds for daniel programs. Also a hard worker for Northeast Florida Builders Association charitable endeavors, Judy is a person worthy of the honor bestowed by Community Connections.

-Sharon Strayer Learch
Partner
Holland & Knight LLP
Doyle Carter, nominated by the Jacksonville Association of Firefighters, represents District 12 on the Jacksonville City Council. Born and raised in Jacksonville, Doyle has focused his life on family, community, and motorcycles.

As a member of the City Council, Doyle’s accomplishments for his district have included upgrading the parks, monitoring road improvements, and working towards a new westside regional library and a new fire station. He was the first to support the purchase of a thermal imaging camera to help firefighters see better in burning buildings.

In addition to his City Council work, Doyle has been the owner of Cycle Accessories West for 23 years and a member of Ironworkers Local 597. His devotion to working with people and helping others is reflected in his service on the Southwest CPAC, as a member of both the westside Kiwanis and the Special Olympics, and as a board member of the Justice Coalition. He is also an active member of his church, Macedonia Baptist Church, where he has been finance chair, chair of the building and grounds committee, and a Sunday school teacher.

Doyle is married to Trish Carter, and they have three children. Heather is 14, Meagan is 12, and D.J. is 7. He enjoys coaching his children’s ball teams and doing “almost anything with my family,” he says. “Having my best friend as my wife and raising three great kids” are among his best achievements, he believes. In his free time, he loves hunting, fishing and racing motorcycles.

He considers his election to City Council an honor and an opportunity to serve his family, friends, and community, and hopes to be remembered as a faithful servant whose job was well done and as a man committed to his family and his children’s lives.

Jacksonville Association of Fire Fighters

The Jacksonville Association of Fire Fighters represents the men and women who provide the citizens of Jacksonville with fire, disaster, and emergency medical services.

"Whether through his church and civic activities, or through his service as a member of the City Council, Doyle Carter has demonstrated a sincere dedication to make Jacksonville a better and safer place for all its citizens. His commitment and leadership are an inspiration to us all. We are proud to recognize Doyle as one of Jacksonville’s outstanding leaders."

-Jim Croft, Secretary-Treasurer
Jacksonville Association of Fire Fighters
Sherri Pike is best described as an energetic and passionate person who can really get people motivated. As Director of Operations for the Life Post Issue Jacksonville Call Center, she is responsible for more than 350 customer service representatives delivering service to Prudential Life Insurance customers and agents. Sherri is also responsible for implementing key Prudential initiatives, including raising diversity awareness. She also piloted a personal and career enrichment program for the Call Center, for which she was awarded the Prudential Financial Quarterly Team “LifetimemPRUver Award” for her outstanding efforts.

As a member of the Community Volunteer Council at Prudential, she is responsible for deciding on which community events and charities the company will focus. Consistently surpassing Prudential’s established goals for participation and funds raised, she actively participates in leading the Walk to Cure Diabetes for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Raised in Jacksonville, her community service efforts extend far beyond the halls of Prudential. She takes time out to volunteer at her children’s schools, and her church, Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church. Sherri has also been involved in the Alzheimers Walk, the National Conference for Community and Justice and Habijax. She helped collect more than 3,800 backpacks and supplies for children served by the Department of Children and Family Services and collected more than 1,600 pounds of food for the Baptist Home for Children.

A graduate of the University of North Florida, Sherri is a self-proclaimed “exercise enthusiast” who enjoys spending time with her husband, Steve, and children, Joseph, age 10, and Sophia, age 6.

**Prudential Financial, Inc.**

Prudential Financial companies, with approximately $556 billion in total assets under management and administration as of December 31, 2002, serve individual and institutional customers worldwide and include The Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark, New Jersey one of the largest life insurance companies in the U.S. These companies offer a variety of products and services, including life insurance, property and casualty insurance, mutual funds, annuities, pension and retirement related services and administration, asset management, securities brokerage, banking and trust services, real estate brokerage franchises and relocation services. In addition to donating thousands of employee volunteer hours each year, Prudential, through The Prudential Foundation, supports a wide variety of non-profit programs benefiting local communities across the United States and beyond. For more information, visit www.prudential.com.

“Sherri is remarkably talented. She epitomizes the characteristics of an outstanding leader. Sherri is forward thinking, respectful of others’ opinion, genuinely cares for all of the associates that she works with and consistently produces superior results. Sherri also understands the need to give back to the communities in which our clients and associates live and to support causes that improve society. Whether leading an effort to create a vacation bank for an associate whose daughter was terminally ill, or supporting causes related to children and the elderly, Sherri is always willing to not only participate, but to lead. Both Prudential Financial and the City of Jacksonville benefit tremendously as a result of Sherri’s talent and determination.”

-Jonathan Graybill, Vice President, Customer Service
Prudential Financial, Inc.
To make a difference in the lives of people who share the same community by connecting skills, experiences, perspectives, resources and hearts together through team building, goal setting and people valuing.” This was the objective on Vanessa’s resume and since arriving in Jacksonville more than nine years ago, she has sought to do just that.

Born in Richmond, Virginia, Vanessa earned her B.A. in Psychology from the College of William and Mary. After college, she entered the U.S. Army and served for more than ten years as an Air Defense Artillery Officer and Public Affairs Officer. While in the military, she earned her Masters in Human Resource, Development and Marketing from Webster University.

After her military service, Vanessa and her mother, Maedell Boyer, moved to Jacksonville where Vanessa worked for Frito Lay and Mutual of New York. Vanessa’s community involvement started while she was with MONY. Initially, she participated on a JCCI leadership study. That experience not only opened her eyes to the tremendous potential of the city, it also showed her areas of tremendous need. Vanessa’s community involvement over the last 7 years has been quite extensive. She served on the board of Community Connections (also serving on the A. L. Lewis Leadership Council), Leadership Jacksonville board, and she co-chaired an Interchurch Coalition for Action, Reconciliation and Empowerment. She participated in numerous JCCI sponsored projects/programs to include revision of the quality of life indicators and forming JCCI-forward. Actively involved with the Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she has served as chaplain and 2nd vice president. Vanessa now chairs the Mayor’s Commission on the Status of Women and is a member of the Junior League. She was appointed to serve on the Port Review Task Force in 2000 and has been active with the Jacksonville Association of Life Underwriters, contributing articles for the motivational corner in the monthly magazine.

Vanessa is an active member of First Baptist Church of Mandarin. She lives with her brother, Marques, a sophomore at UNF. The two of them spend time trying to put into practice all the good lessons taught by their beloved mom. One lesson remains vivid in their minds, and that is the responsibility of serving others.

Mary Ellen Smith
Mary Ellen Smith is a long-time Jacksonville resident and a tireless volunteer for many of Jacksonville’s non-profit organizations. Mrs. Smith has served on the Board of Directors for Community Connections, Jacksonville Community Council, Deerwood Country Club, the Jacksonville Symphony Association, and the Guild of the Jacksonville Symphony, to name only a few. Mrs. Smith has been married to local physician, Edward Smith, for 34 years and has two daughters who grew up in Jacksonville, Kara and Kristina.

"Vanessa Boyer has a leadership style that is both gracious and inspirational. Her dedication to the betterment of the Jacksonville community is evident in all she does.”

-Mary Ellen Smith
Bridget is a Jacksonville native and has been with Bennett’s Business Systems since January 2002, where she started out as the Human Resource Administrator. As the HR Administrator, Bridget proved her ability to learn quickly not only about Human Resources, but also the company and imaging industry. Additionally, she increased Bennett’s involvement in the community on her own initiative. Recently she transferred into the Sales Department where she continues to lead the company in community service.

Bridget graduated with honors from Florida State University, receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. While attending FSU, she was involved in many student organizations which helped the community. She served as President of Seminole Ambassadors, was a member of Lady Spirit hunters and the National Honor Society. She also was a mentor for the America Reads program, where she assisted elementary students in learning to read. Bridget has always had a passion for children and found this experience to be very gratifying.

Thanks to Bridget, Bennett’s employees have become very involved in the community. She has been active with the March of Dimes, the Florida Georgia Blood Alliance and the United Way of Northeast Florida. She loves getting others involved in these events and seeing the morale of the company rise.

For recreation, Bridget enjoys traveling, exercise, and spending time with her family and friends. Bridget is very proud of the positive values that her parents instilled in her and credits them for everything she has accomplished.

**Bennett’s Business Systems**

Bennett’s Business Systems is a Jacksonville based imaging solutions provider. Bennett’s provides customers with a complete line of copiers, printers, fax machines, and scanners while offering a broad range of customized document storage and retrieval solutions, electronic form design and management, cost recovery and accounting systems, as well as in-house software development for imaging applications. A leader in technology and customer service, Bennett’s offers intelligent answers with trained technicians and a knowledgeable sales force to innovate the workplace.

“Bridget has been an integral part of increasing the level of community involvement at Bennett’s. With her help, we have seen an increase in employee morale and teamwork across the board.”

-George Bennett  
President and CEO  
Bennett’s Business Systems
Ann has worked nineteen years with David Stein, Chairman and CEO of Southern Industrial Corporation, the local Burger King® franchisor. While working closely with David Stein, the founding force behind the Jewish Community Alliance and the guiding light in providing Greenwood School with a permanent campus, Ann has provided administrative support at the grassroots level for both of these very successful projects which have enriched the lives of countless Jacksonville families.

Throughout the years, Ann has also been involved in the school activities of her three children, whether it be international exchange programs, sporting events or providing transportation to a Brevard, N.C., running camp or out of town running competitions for members of the high school team. She has also found time to volunteer with HabiJax and March of Dimes and supports many other local non-profit organizations.

A native of Jacksonville and one of nine children of Ernest and Jean Nelson, Ann has been married for 28 years to her husband David. They have three children: 23-year old Charles, a recent FSU graduate, 20-year old Catherine, a Junior at FSU, and 17-year old Richard, a Senior at Wolfson High School. Ann’s priorities have been to her family and church, East Pointe Baptist, where she has worked in various areas of the Children’s Ministry and has taught Sunday School to the children for more than twelve consecutive years.

Ann’s hobbies include cooking and gardening and she finds no greater joy than hosting gatherings of family and friends.

Southern Industrial Corporation
Southern Industrial Corporation is one of the country’s oldest and largest Burger King® franchise groups, with 36 restaurants in Northeast Florida. The second largest fast food hamburger chain in the world started in Jacksonville in 1954 with a small unit on Beach Boulevard. The rest is fast food history, with Burger King® restaurants located throughout the world.

Southern Industrial provides development, operations and marketing support services to the Northeast Florida Burger King® restaurants. The company is locally owned by the David A. Stein family and descendants of David’s brother, the late Martin E. Stein, Sr.

“Ann, an extraordinary woman, puts 110% into her multifaceted life as a wife, mother, church leader and business professional. One of the things I admire most about Ann is her ability to get any job done, to get the job done on time, and to get a job done with an attitude that is nothing less than a perfect 10!”

-David A. Stein
Chairman, CEO
Southern Industrial Corporation
Described as fair, honest and tenacious with a strong concern for those less fortunate, James N. Burt, M.D., is honored this evening by Dr. and Mrs. George H. Dorion for his work with Volunteers in Medicine, Jacksonville. Dr. Burt is a native of Jacksonville and received his undergraduate degree at Emory University, studied pre-med at the University of Florida, and earned his medical degree at the University of Miami. His residency university was Georgia. He has been a urologist with the McIver Urological Clinic of Jacksonville for 27 years.

In addition to holding membership in various medical and urological societies, Dr. Burt was President of the Medical Staff and Chief of Urology at both Methodist Hospital and St. Vincent’s Hospital, where he was also Chairman of Allied Health. His leadership has extended to serving as a board member of the Florida Urological Association, President of the Greater Jacksonville Urological Association, President and Medical Director of the Jacksonville Lithotripsy Association, Co-director of the Southern Kidney Stone Center, and President of the Urology Clinics of Florida.

Most recently, he has been Vice President of Medical Affairs and President-elect of the American Cancer Society Duval Board and President of the North Florida Physicians Association. Dr. Burt is currently a member of Volunteers in Medicine and Rotary Club Downtown and works with StUN Quality Assurance.

Dr. Burt and his wife, Mary, have two grown children, Andrew and Matthew. In his free time, Dr. Burt enjoys photography.

Dr. & Mrs. George H. Dorion
George and Dottie Dorion have been residents of Jacksonville since the early 1970’s. They and their 4 children were immediately involved with sports, health and academics. Dr. & Mrs. Dorion continue to be dedicated to improving the Jacksonville social, health and athletic environment through a variety of pursuits. Mrs. Dorion’s nursing background, in particular, was key to establishment of Hospice of Northeast Florida and she is actively involved in the fundraising and organization of the Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) Clinic – Jacksonville.

“*We are delighted to honor Dr. Jim Burt. He is the confident, unassuming physician who makes us feel better just by being “on the case.” Jim is the force behind establishing the Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) Clinic in Jacksonville bringing medical care and hope to our community of uninsured citizens. All of Jacksonville will benefit from his generous spirit.*”

-Dottie & George Dorion
Barbara W. Denson worked as a legal secretary for Edward Booth in the State Attorney’s Office for many years. Thereafter, she worked at the private law firm of Arnold, Stratford and Booth for more than a decade. Following a brief stint in the executive department at CSX Transportation, she moved on to the position of Relocation Manager. After much hard work and dedication, she was promoted to her current position as Director of Relocation.

Barbara has obtained the Certified Relocation Professional Designation and Salesman’s Real Estate License. She is president of the Southeastern Regional Relocation Group, where she has previously served as membership chair and vice president, and been recognized as “Outstanding Corporate Leader.”

Raised in Jacksonville, she graduated from Robert E. Lee High School and has taken various professional courses at both Florida Community College at Jacksonville and the University of North Florida.

Barbara has participated in various walks including the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and American Cancer Society. She even served as team captain for the March of Dimes Walk America.

As a wife, mother of two and grandmother of four, she enjoys spending time with family and friends. She is also an avid traveler and enjoys walking on the beach.

**ERA Davis & Linn**

ERA Davis & Linn is a full-service real estate brokerage firm specializing in relocation, residential marketing and sales, and property management. The company was founded in 1976 and has more than 50 motivated and caring associates and staff. It has continued to grow since its inception and now serves Duval, Clay and St. Johns counties. The company has ranked in the top 5% of offices locally and nationally for service and production. ERA Davis & Linn is a two-time winner of the *ERA #1 in Customer Service Satisfaction Award* out of 2,700 offices and 30,000 agents.

“We have known and worked with Barbara in the relocation field for more than 15 years. Through her dedication and hard work, we’ve watched her climb to Relocation Director of CSX, which is a very responsible position. Barbara is dedicated to her profession and has held many voluntary and elected positions with the Southeastern Relocation Council. She is currently Vice President and Membership Chairperson. Barbara is an example of a person who always gives 110% to the job. We’re proud to have her as our honoree.”

- Carole Davis, President
ERA Davis & Linn
Leith A. Oatman, is being honored this evening by her company, Gresham Smith and Partners, where she is a principal. She is a Jacksonville native who graduated cum laude from the University of Florida with a degree in design then moved to Portland, Maine, to work for Portland Design Team Architects, where she became an associate in 1987.

After ten years in Maine, Leith returned to Jacksonville to work for PeopleSpace Interior Design. Leith’s professional achievements include serving on the Florida board of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) and serving as chair of the Student Advisory Board for the University of Florida’s College of Design.

Community service is an important part of Leith’s life as well. She is a member of Meninak, a volunteer for the Adopt A School Program, and a member of the Chamber of Commerce’s Existing Business Committee. She is also Gresham Smith and Partners’ chair for the American Heart Walk.

Leith and her husband, Michael Wood, have two children: Morgan, who is 13, and Forrest, who is 12. She enjoys working on their 1936 house, gardening, walking, and vacationing with her family. When she has time, she loves to paint children’s furniture, faux paint walls, and do oil painting. She especially loves playing golf with her husband.

Describing herself as spiritual, self-assured, people-oriented and with a good sense of humor, Leith says, “I generally try to see the positive, am deeply devoted to my family, and am a committed employee. I feel I have the ability to see the ‘big picture’ and learn from my mistakes.”

Gresham Smith and Partners
Gresham Smith and Partners is a national Architectural, Interior Design and Engineering firm serving clients from 13 offices throughout the United States. The Jacksonville office has been in existence for the past 13 years, providing design services in the areas of Corporate Interior design, Commercial Architecture, Healthcare design and Civil Engineering. Gresham Smith and Partners’ dedicated employees are committed to the Jacksonville community by providing ongoing volunteer services to numerous charities which include Duval County Schools Adopt-A-School Program, The Ronald McDonald House, YMCA of Florida’s First Coast, I. M. Sulzbacher Center, Baptist Health System Foundation, St. Vincent’s Foundation, Dreams Come True, American Heart Association and to our favorite charity, Community Connections.
Mary Ellen Smith may best be described as a “Renaissance Woman.” Humanist and humanitarian, she is known throughout Jacksonville as a tireless volunteer and a fundraiser without peer.

Mary Ellen has spent the last decade helping transform Jacksonville into a world-class city. She is proud of her service on the Jacksonville Community Council’s Board of Directors, and most recently could be found working tirelessly for John Peyton’s mayoral campaign.

Known for her acute business sense and her ability to “get things done,” Mary Ellen has often been asked to lead, as well as serve. A board member at the Jacksonville Symphony Association, she was called upon during crucial periods to serve as Chairman of the Board (1997-1998), Interim Executive Director and as Director of Development (2000-2002). Currently, she is a member of the Deerwood Country Club Board of Directors, and served as both a member of their Acquisition Committee and as Board Secretary.

Mary Ellen’s immense empathy for others brought her to Community Connections, where she has shared her considerable talents with the Board of Directors for five years. A member of the Executive Committee, she also chaired the Tribute event in 2001-2002.

When time permits, Mary Ellen enjoys playing “A” Team Tennis. Not surprisingly, she is also a past chairman of the Bausch and Lomb Tennis Tournament!

While Mary Ellen is devoted to her adopted home of Jacksonville, she is also proud to be a transplanted “Yankee.” Prior to giving her heart to the First Coast, she lent her considerable talents to New York, Ohio and Connecticut, by serving for seven years as a high school teacher. Mary Ellen is married to Edward Smith, a local physician, and has two daughters: Kara (who lives in Atlanta and serves as Director of the Nature Conservancy Georgia) and Kristina (now living in Nashville and working for Vanderbilt University).

Gracious and fun, smart and savvy, Mary Ellen Smith admits to only one regret: that she never learned to play the piano.

"Mary Ellen is an outstanding volunteer with a strong commitment to our community. She has devoted her time and energy to many causes to improve our quality of life in Jacksonville, including the board of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and Jacksonville Community Council, Inc., among others. Community Connections of Jacksonville is fortunate to be the beneficiary of her leadership as the current president of the board."

-Kathy Weedon
Associate Editor/Director of Community Relations
Jacksonville Magazine
Kay Mitchell is a woman with a mission – a mission of service to her patients, to her colleagues and to her community.

Dr. Mitchell joined Mayo Clinic in 1992 as an Internal Medicine physician and was appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine in 1996. In 1994, Dr. Mitchell received board certification in Geriatrics and since then has assisted in the development of the geriatric curriculum for the Internal Medicine Residency Program, the Ambulatory Geriatrics Program and the Multi-disciplinary Geriatric Program. She has been recognized as one of the Top Doctors in Jacksonville in 2001 and 2002 and as the 2001 Florida internist of the year by the American College of Physicians. Currently, she serves as President of the Duval County Medical Society and is Governor-Elect of the Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians. Since joining Mayo Clinic, Mitchell has served as an Internal Medicine Advisor, member of the Diversity Committee and Continuing Medical Education Subcommittee. She currently serves on the Public Relations Committee and Personnel Committee.

Kay received both a B.S. in Biology and Medical Technology from Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL and a M.S. in Microbiology from Georgia State University. She received her Medical Degree from Medical College of Georgia in Augusta and completed an Internal Medicine Residency at University of Florida, Jacksonville campus.

Mayo Clinic Jacksonville/St. Luke’s Hospital

Mayo Clinic Jacksonville provides medical diagnosis, treatment and surgery using a team of specialists. Opened in 1986, the Jacksonville facility was the first extension of Mayo Clinic beyond Rochester, Minnesota. Programs in medical education and research strengthen Mayo’s patient-centered activities.

Mayo patients who need hospitalization are admitted to nearby St. Luke’s Hospital, where they are cared for by Mayo physicians. St. Luke’s, the first private hospital in Florida, offers state-of-the-art equipment, 289 private rooms and an excellent nursing staff. St. Luke’s became a Mayo hospital in 1987. Clinic and hospital operations are handled by one administration.

"Kay Mitchell has been a vital part of the Mayo staff and leads the organization as a liaison to the community. Kay is a caring, compassionate physician respected by her colleagues. We are pleased to have her as a member of our team."

-Madeline Scales-Taylor
Community Relations
Administration
Mayo Clinic/St. Luke’s Hospital
Elizabeth Mander is the Director of Respiratory Service, EKG CG/Sono at Memorial Hospital Jacksonville where she has been employed for more than 5 years. She is a graduate of the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

After graduating from college, Elizabeth became Respiratory Care Practitioner/Staff Therapist in Arlington Heights, Illinois. She then began her career with HCA in El Paso, Texas moving up the ranks to Coordinator of the Respiratory Care Department - Hyperbaric Unit, Sleep Disorder Center and Neurodiagnostic departments. She was also called upon to manage the Physical Therapy and Housekeeping departments as well.

She has been instrumental in updating and revising Memorial’s Policies and Procedures and is currently serving as Interim Director of Radiology. Elizabeth and her staff created Memorial’s Pulmonary Rehab program in 1999. She also was instrumental in helping develop the hospital-wide Meditech system, creating a seamless communication between physician and employee computers. She recently was a master trainer and facilitator for Memorial’s DDI (Development Dimensions International) program.

Elizabeth takes her profession to heart. She has given countless hours participating in community charitable annual events including the Asthma Walk, Asthma U and the American HeartWalk. She has served as the Chairperson of the River City Symposium for four years providing continuing education for healthcare professionals in the community. She has been a member of several Committees including the UHMS (Undersea & Hyperbaric Medical Society), the Cross Country Transport Team, and the Planning Committee for the Chamber Women in Action.

Elizabeth and her husband Christopher live in the Fort Caroline area. She is an avid reader and enjoys golfing and fishing.

Memorial Hospital Jacksonville
Memorial Hospital Jacksonville has always created a tradition of caring for its patients and the community. That is why we have assembled a team of the area’s finest physicians, nurses and support staff who exemplify our motto of “Caring for the Community.” Memorial Hospital Jacksonville was founded in 1969 as a full-service, acute care hospital. With a dedicated staff of more than 1,700 employees and 805 physicians, Memorial is committed to providing patients with a comprehensive range of medical and surgical services. The facility has recently completed several expansion projects including a new parking garage, Emergency Department expansion, lobby renovations, new equipment including MRI, second nuclear medicine camera, two new ultrasound units and the implementation of the first robot bar-coded drug dispensing system in the Jacksonville area. Additionally, as part of our dedication to improve customer satisfaction, Memorial has implemented a complimentary valet service. This has proven to be a great success!

“As Memorial Hospital’s Director of Respiratory Services, Elizabeth Mander consistently demonstrates excellence in leadership and truly exemplifies our organization’s Mission, Vision and Values in the community. She demonstrates Memorial’s “Tradition of Caring” by supporting her profession outside the four walls of our hospital.”

-H. Rex Etheredge
President and CEO
Memorial Hospital Jacksonville
Laurie Teppert always knew she wanted to be in healthcare and thought she might even like to be a doctor. The problem is, she says, she's not very good at the “scientific stuff.” Then, a 7th grade Social Studies teacher with a talent for connecting history to real-life human events sparked an interest in the legal system that opened a new door: healthcare law.

“I wanted to find a way to combine the two aspects,” she says, adding that she holds a joint degree in Law and Health Care Administration. After working as a law clerk in one of the largest academic teaching hospitals in Chicago’s legal department and practicing health care law in two large law firms, Laurie moved into a job at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital in Illinois, where she was the Vice President and General Counsel from 1986 until moving to Jacksonville in 2000. That’s when she moved to Jacksonville and became the Senior Vice President and General Counsel for St. Vincent’s Health System, just as it was emerging from a five-year merger with Baptist Health System.

“I thought initially that I wanted to practice in a large, academic hospital,” she says, “but here, you get to interact more directly with the people who treat patients.”

Laurie holds a law degree and master in health administration and planning from Washington University School of Law and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Colorado. She and her husband, Rob, have two children ages 14 and 11.

St. Vincent’s
St. Vincent’s Health System includes St. Vincent’s Medical Center, St. Catherine Labouré Manor, Consolidated Laboratories, Mobile Mammography, St. Vincent’s Foundation, St. Vincent’s Primary Care and outpatient healthcare services. St. Vincent’s was founded by the Daughters of Charity in 1916 to provide health services to the sick and the poor of North Florida. Today, St. Vincent’s serves more than 23,000 inpatients each year, about 40,000 outpatient surgeries, and more than 65,000 people in its Emergency Room. St. Vincent’s is a member of Ascension Health, the largest Catholic health system in the U.S. and the successor organization to the Daughters of Charity National Health System.

“Laurie is a talented, experienced healthcare attorney and a welcome addition to St. Vincent’s Senior Management Team. Her intelligence and knowledge have been of immeasurable value in the negotiations for purchase of St. Luke’s Hospital. We look to Laurie for her guidance in all matters, not just those of law. Congratulations, Laurie, on your recognition for the leadership you have shown to St. Vincent’s in your three years.”

-John Maher
CEO/President
St. Vincent’s
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2003 • CELEBRATION OF LEADERSHIP • A TRIBUTE TO EXCELLENCE 29
For an astounding 92 years, Community Connections (CCJ) has served the citizens of the Jacksonville area! The tradition continues of developing imaginative, resourceful strategies and community partnerships to meet the ever-changing, multi-faceted needs of families in the region. Programs are designed to help families become self-sufficient and independent of public assistance, thereby enabling them to reach their full potential. The staff and volunteers of Community Connections are dedicated individuals who coordinate extensive residential and support services at nine Jacksonville locations.

Our hallmark location is the Florence N. Davis Center located in downtown Jacksonville. As Jacksonville's first transitional housing program, Community Connections' Florence N. Davis Center specifically addresses the housing and critical needs of 150 homeless women and children. In the continuum of care at the Davis Center, women and their children are offered safe shelter and a variety of services, including job search assistance, counseling, and a state-of-the-art child development center focusing on the needs of each child. The Dottie Dorion Healthy Connections Workout Room provides residents a place to exercise and learn about proper nutrition.

The A. L. Lewis Northside Center for Family Care provides comprehensive services for area residents.

Community Connections offers after-school enrichment programs, homework assistance, tutoring in math and science, and summer camp as well as GED, parenting, job readiness and SAT preparation classes. Organized sports and games, family literacy services, youth counseling and regular mobile medical unit visits also help participants improve their lives.

Magnolia Point, on the southside, is a 211-unit apartment complex owned and managed by Bank of America Community Development Corporation. Here, Community Connections provides on-site comprehensive social services and youth activities.

The program, started in 1989, is the model for all other Community Connections partnerships in Jacksonville.

At Nia Terrace on the westside, CCJ provides a transitional housing program with a range of support services for 50 homeless families with children who wish to progress towards independent living and self-sufficiency. This program strives to eliminate homelessness by providing families with much-needed services such as lifeskills training, permanent housing placement and employment/educational enhancement tools to maintain independence. CCJ also provides after-school and summer camp activities for the entire complex of 237 apartments.

In 1995, Community Connections also joined with several other local organizations to provide services for newborn babies through Healthy Families Jacksonville (HFJ). HFJ is a FREE, voluntary family support...
initiative designed to ease the transition to parenthood. Families served are considered high risk for child neglect and abuse due to factors such as teen pregnancy, lack of high school education and inadequate income. This program encourages pregnant women and their families living in zip codes 32208, 32218, 32219 and 32226 to seek early prenatal care. Parenting, wellness and parent/child health education are also offered. In January 2003, CCJ expanded the Healthy Families program to include services to families residing in zip codes 32204, 32205, 32209 and 32254.

Sable Palms (formerly Emerson Arms) is a federally subsidized housing program managed by DEMCO Management, Inc., on the southside. Community Connections coordinates job search assistance as well as education and social services for the very low-income residents to help them become economically self-sufficient. After-school and summer programs, including homework assistance and tutoring, provide a variety of activities for the area’s youth.

In 2001, Kendall Court, on the northside, was added to Community Connections programs. At this 360-unit apartment complex, owned and managed by Vestcor, Community Connections provides after-school enrichment programs, homework assistance, tutoring, and summer and holiday camps for school-age children.

Also in 2001, the Saint Clair Evans Academy #124 Team Up Program began. At this northside location, after-school programs are offered that provide children with fun, smart things to do, including learning life skills and developing leadership qualities. Tutoring and homework assistance provided by certified teachers complement the program.

Courtney Manor, another Vestcor-owned property on the far westside, was added in 2002. After-school enrichment programs, tutoring, summer and holiday camps are also provided for the school-age children at this 360-apartment community.

Exciting changes for Community Connections in 2003 will include expansion to two new sites and a move into new, more spacious administrative offices located next door to our Davis Center. The move will afford opportunities to better coordinate services and partnerships, to update technologies, and to expand programs in education and advocacy for our families.

Community Connections is proud to present the following Rising Stars . . .
Sponsored By: Arlington Toyota

Wendell and Laquita Murray joined the Community Connections' Transitional Housing Program at Nia Terrace in June 2002. The Murrays, former residents of the I. M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, were expecting their second child and realized their young family's need for more stability. Since entering the program at Nia Terrace, the couple has proven themselves to be true “Rising Stars.” They have completed all required classes, and the birth of their second child has not deterred them from their goal of self-sufficiency. Wendell is now employed full-time and Laquita is enrolled in GED classes and plans to begin coursework at FCCJ for a medical career. Arlington Toyota proudly salutes the Murray family for their vision of a brighter future!

Sponsored By: Board Members – Tami Jones, Janet Mallot and Janet McCoy

Taking care of others seems to come naturally to Doris Johnson. When Doris first enrolled in Community Connections’ Healthy Families Jacksonville, she was caregiver to her mother, who was terminally ill with cancer. Only a few months after her mother’s passing, Doris gave birth and began her new role as a single parent. In spite of her challenging circumstances, Doris has triumphed. She is presently working full time, completing school and doing a wonderful job raising her beautiful daughter. Congratulations, Doris, Tami Jones, Janet Mallot and Janet McCoy are proud to sponsor you as a Rising Star!

Sponsored By: Board Members - Anne Bridgers, Jennifer Lee, Beverly Rossiter and Mary Ellen Smith

Toawanna Bennett, a student at Andrew Jackson High School, was greatly disappointed when she failed her graduation exams. Toawanna heard about the Community Connections’ GED program at the A. L. Lewis Center and immediately enrolled. She knew she had to get her diploma and was willing to put in whatever time was needed to accomplish that goal. Hard work is not a problem for Toawanna. She currently works a full-time job at Baptist Hospital and a part-time job at Krystal. And, she is already looking ahead. After she earns her GED, she plans to enroll in mortician’s school at Florida Community College at Jacksonville. One other goal she has set for herself is to save enough money to get a new car. She recognizes that reliable transportation will be needed in order to keep two jobs plus attend college. Congratulations, Toawanna, Anne Bridgers, Jennifer Lee, Beverly Rossiter and Mary Ellen Smith are proud to acknowledge your determination — you are truly a Rising Star!
Sponsored By: Body Shop of America

Denetrice Brown was not fortunate enough to grow up in a household that provided close supervision. Without guidance, she left school – supposedly for good – after only the 8th grade. Denetrice joined the Community Connections’ Healthy Families Jacksonville program in November 2002, and a Family Social Worker helped Denetrice re-evaluate her goals for herself and her baby. Denetrice decided to return to school. When she was unable to meet the age requirement for one continuing education program, she was not dissuaded, but sought out a more appropriate program for her age (17). Today, Denetrice is an active student at the North Shore Elementary GED program. The Body Shop of America is proud to sponsor Denetrice as a Rising Star for the way she sets an example for all to follow.

Sponsored By: Body Shop of America

To know Brandi Larae Rosie is to know a true STAR. Brandi is an 11-year-old “Straight A” student at Martin Luther King FAME Academy and attends the after-school program at Community Connections’ A. L. Lewis Center. Brandi maintains high standards in her academics as well as her extra-curricular activities, effectively balancing her time as an academic scholar, majorette and patrol officer. Brandi is also a champion for community service, participating with the Neighborhood Beautification Program. When asked what she wants to do when she grows up, Brandi says with a smile, “I want to be a lawyer.” When asked what discipline, she responded, “Just the one that helps people the most!” The Body Shop of America salutes Brandi – keep up the good work!

Sponsored By: Jim and Mary Burt – Volunteers In Medicine, Jacksonville

A 32-year-old mother of two, Patsy Streeter enrolled in Community Connections’ GED program at Sable Palms last year and received her high school diploma in December. Since then, she has found gainful employment and is working hard to provide for her family. Her dedication has even inspired her son, Alonzo, to work diligently as well, and he earned straight A’s in his schoolwork this semester. Patsy’s entire family is learning that education is a valuable and necessary tool to be successful in life. Jim and Mary Burt salute Patsy and her family – they are all Rising Stars!
Sponsored By: Coggin Automotive Group
At six years of age, Kahara Carroll, is one of Magnolia Point’s bright shining stars. Kahara received excellent ratings on her first two report cards this school year. According to her teacher, she takes great pride in her academic work, is very sociable and cooperative. At the Community Connections’ Magnolia Point “Make A Difference” Center, Kahara is a terrific community citizen. She acts as the teacher’s assistant by passing out materials and participating in clean up each day. Coggin Automotive Group is proud to recognize Kahara Carroll as their “Shining Star.”

Sponsored By: DuBow Family Foundation, Inc.
The eldest of three children, Keia Kashay Houston is a bright, 12-year old sixth grader at Twin Lakes Middle School. Keia and her siblings were uprooted due to difficulties in their home life, including violence. The family currently resides at the Community Connections’ Davis Center. An active member of the after-school program and Teen Group, Keia works daily to improve her grades and has completed all ten sessions for “Project Tag,” a program promoting the abstinence of sex and drugs. She also volunteers some of her time to help other youth at the Center, including her two younger siblings. The DuBow Family Foundation, Inc., proudly salutes Keia Kashay Houston.

Sponsored By: DWC Rotary
Ashanti Taylor is an 8th grade student at Matthew Gilbert Middle School. She is an active participant in the Community Connections’ after-school programs at the Florence N. Davis Center. Ashanti will be attending high school at A. Phillip Randolph Academy in the fall, participating in the criminal justice program. Her numerous accolades include receiving a citizenship award from the 100 Black Men Society and being a member of the National Honor Society. Ashanti is also a track and field athlete and she also sits on the Mayor’s Teen Panel on Politics. The members of the DWC Rotary are so proud of Ashanti’s accomplishments and are delighted to recognize her as a 2003 Rising Star!
Sponsored By: First Alliance Bank
During her senior year in high school, Minika McMillian became a single mother. She enrolled in Community Connections’ Healthy Families Jacksonville in May 2002, graduated from Robert E. Lee High School, then enlisted in the Army in June 2002. Because of Minika’s desire to stay with the program to insure the health of her child, Minika’s maternal grandmother has agreed to continue the Healthy Families Jacksonville home visits while her granddaughter is serving in the United States Army. First Alliance Bank salutes Minika as a Rising Star for providing a positive opportunity for good health for her child while she is stationed in Hawaii serving her country.

Sponsored By: John, Linda and Laura Franklin
Joseph Andrews is a real life, 9-year-old “Come Back Kid!” Joseph came to the A. L. Lewis Center after the loss of the main star in his life – his grandfather. His grades plummeted from the desired A’s and B’s to unwanted D’s. Since joining the Community Connections’ A. L. Lewis Center, Joseph’s grades have returned to star status. When asked, “How has the Lewis Center helped you?” he replied, “(it)...helped me concentrate on my work more, stay on task and improve my grades.” Joseph unselfishly gives back to the Lewis Center through peer tutoring and the Neighborhood Beautification Program. Joseph is also an avid sports fan who enjoys a quick pick-up game of football, basketball, kickball or tennis. John, Linda and Laura Franklin salute Joseph, a true Rising Star, for his love of a good challenge.

Sponsored By: Marianne Hillegass
There is no doubt that Patricia Hilton is a Rising Star. Two years ago, homeless and deeply in debt after a difficult divorce, she entered the Community Connections’ Nia Terrace Transitional Housing Program, hoping to become a homeowner and truly self-sufficient regardless of the obstacles. Classes in home ownership, budgeting and credit repair helped resolve her financial difficulties. She also attended counseling that addressed relationship issues and helped her become independent. In February 2002, Patricia not only graduated from the Transitional Housing Program but also closed on her new home. Marianne Hillegass salutes Patricia – her star shines brightly!
Sponsored By: Jacksonville Jaguars

Sonja Clark and her son, Calvin, are both Rising Stars. Life took a difficult turn for them in 1994 when Sonja was forced to face life as a single parent. Sonja continued to work full time at Blue Cross and Blue Shield while pursuing her degree at Florida Community College at Jacksonville. Today, she is training to become a physical therapist, and is in the process of purchasing a home for herself and her 12-year old son. Calvin attends the Community Connections “Make A Difference” Center at Magnolia Point and has been consistently on the “A-B” honor roll. Last semester, he made straight “A’s.” Calvin’s study habits were rewarded last season during a Jacksonville Jaguars’ home game when he was selected to run on the field and pick up the tee used for the second-half kickoff. The Jacksonville Jaguars are proud to sponsor Sonja and Calvin Clark – keep up the good work!

Sponsored By: Carolyn Kraus/Robert Tison & Associates, Inc.

Brionne Brinson attends the Community Connections’ Team-Up Program at Saint Clair Evans Academy #124 for tutoring and moral support. By maintaining honor roll status, 100% effort, and good conduct, Brionne has been designated as an Exceptional Student Education (ESE) scholar that will allow him to become eligible for mainstream status. Achieving this level of success is very rare, but this special 3rd grader has accomplished this goal. Brionne has even surpassed the superintendent’s goal of reading 25 books for the year, having read 30. Brionne has moved from Reading Mastery-1 to Reading Mastery-4. He moved into a regular 3rd grade class at the beginning of the last nine weeks and has adjusted remarkably well. Carolyn Kraus/Robert Tison & Associates, Inc., recognizes Brionne Brinson for his outstanding efforts!

Sponsored By: Kara Land and Kristina Smith

In an effort to help herself and her family, Juana Mustelier, a 33-year old Mexican native, approached the Community Connections’ staff at Sable Palms Apartments for help with her English language skills. Nearby Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church has been providing “English As A Second Language” classes for several years. CCJ staff helped Juana enroll in the classes. After much hard work and dedication to her task, she completed the classes. Now she is able to assist her children with their homework; and the children have earned Honor Roll status. Juana is currently employed as a data entry clerk and plans to move her family into their own home next month. Kara Land and Kristina Smith salute Juana Mustelier on achieving her goals.
Sponsored By: Jim and Susan Main

Etta “Theresa” Taylor’s six daughters have all participated in the Community Connections’ day care program, after-school program, and summer and holiday camps at the Florence N. Davis Center for many years. The girls (Garbrielle, Ashanti, Jasmine, Jubray, Atlantis and Suwana) range in age from 4-18. Theresa is employed full time with the City of Jacksonville’s Parks and Recreation Department. In addition to her full-time job, she serves as troop mother for the Davis Center’s Girl Scout Troop #2818, volunteers to chaperone field trips, participates in all school and Center activities (such as the Honor Rows) with her girls and is actively involved with her church. One of her lifetime dreams was fulfilled when she became a homeowner in August 2002 through the Habijax program. Theresa continues to encourage all of her children to strive to do their best in all that they do. What a wonderful example you are setting for your children, Theresa. **Jim and Susan Main** are proud to sponsor you as a Rising Star.

Sponsored By: Marks Gray

If success were measured by our personal improvement, **Shantwan Freeman** would stand out in the “Who’s Who” of elementary school students. A first grade student at Ortega Elementary School, Shantwan experienced difficulty with his reading skills. Because of his poor performance, he became shy and withdrawn. Ms. Sharonda Marshall, an after-school tutor at Community Connections’ Courtney Manor, began to work with him and other students every day, encouraging them to read aloud and to participate in phonics drills. Shantwan was embarrassed at his low reading skills, and initially tried everything to get out of this activity! However, with Ms. Marshall’s encouragement, a great deal of discipline and lots of hard work, he is now reading on one of the highest levels for his age group. **Marks Gray** salutes Shantwan as a terrific example of a “Rising Star.”

Sponsored By: Kitty and Phil Phillips

Domestic violence, and a need to change her life for the better, led **Essie McRoy** to Hubbard House. She soon made the transition to Community Connections’ Florence N. Davis Center. Determined to gain both emotional and financial independence, Essie took advantage of enrichment classes and inspirational speakers, and soon began to see life in a more positive light. She paid off her outstanding debts and opened a savings account with an eye towards seeking permanent housing. Today, Essie has found peace of mind and her dream of home ownership is coming true. She is completing the needed community service hours and will soon be moving to her own Habijax house. Congratulations, Essie, **Kitty and Phil Phillips** think you are truly a Rising Star with a bright future ahead.
Sponsored By: Sir Speedy Printing-Downtown

Juanita Coakley encountered many obstacles while growing up. Due to her mother's problems with substance abuse, she was raised by her stepmother and eventually dropped out of school in the 9th grade. By the time she was 21, she was a single mother of one son and two daughters. In 2000, she registered with the Community Connections' A. L. Lewis Center GED program, but due to chronic health problems, she had to stop attending classes. She re-registered in the fall of 2002, and graduated last December. She immediately started volunteering two days per week with the Lewis Center's GED program and recently was employed as a Youth Services Assistant there. Juanita plans to further her education by enrolling at Edwards Waters College to major in business administration. Great job, Juanita, Sir Speedy Printing-Downtown is proud to acknowledge you as a Rising Star.

Sponsored By: Mary Ellen Smith

Kimberly Cunningham is a 26-year-old single mother with two children. Kimberly and her children relocated to Jacksonville in 2002 and was soon living at the I. M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless. She was referred to Community Connections' Transitional Housing Program at Nia Terrace. Since moving to Nia Terrace, Kimberly has completely turned her life around. She obtained a job at Cathedral Gerontology as a certified nursing assistant, and, although working full-time, is also pursuing a degree at Concorde to become a Registered Nurse. Full-time employee, student and mom, Kimberly takes care of everything and everyone, but gladly accepts the support of the staff at Community Connections. Mary Ellen Smith salutes Kimberly Cunningham as a Rising Star.

Sponsored By: Surety & Associates/Tom Lobrano

With three children and no job, Dedrian Jackson was determined to make a change for the better. She sought support and guidance for herself and her children at the Community Connections' "Make A Difference" Center at Magnolia Point. It wasn't long before Dedrian found full-time employment and became actively involved in her children's schooling. She also attended parenting classes held at the Center. Today, she is an active volunteer chaperoning field trips and participating in other activities with her children. Her efforts did not go unnoticed by her children. Her eldest child went from a grade point average of .83 at the end of the first quarter to raising his grades enough to qualifying to participate on the track team. For her efforts in making a better life for her family, Surety & Associates/Tom Lobrano salute Dedrian as a Rising Star.
Sponsored By: TAPESOUTH, INC.

Nakeisha Jones is presently a student in the GED program at Community Connection’s A. L. Lewis Center, and is a single mother of one. Nakeisha moved to Jacksonville to live with relatives, but soon realized the situation was not helping her reach the goals she had set. Although health issues forced Nakeisha to drop out of GED classes on two occasions, she has now put her life back on track. She is on target to take her GED test at the end of April. After graduation, Nakeisha plans to major in business administration at Florida Community College of Jacksonville. For never giving up, TAPESOUTH, INC., salutes Nakeisha as a Rising Star!

Sponsored By: TAPESOUTH, INC.

Desiree Kellogg participates in the Community Connections after-school program at the Florence N. Davis Center. Desiree is a 7th grade student currently enrolled in Matthew Gilbert Middle School. She started participating in our programs when her family moved into the I. M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless. Although Desiree wishes for a permanent home for her family, with a room of her own, she is glad that her family is still together. Desiree hasn’t let her circumstances negatively affect her life. She is an honor roll student, serves as class helper in the after-school program, has good attendance at school and is a member of the Girl Scouts. Desiree practices good citizenship at school, home and at the Center. For her achievements, TAPESOUTH, INC., recognizes Desiree as a Rising Star.

Sponsored By: The Vestcor Companies

Community Connections’ Kendall Court after-school program has been blessed with many solid students, according to enthusiastic staff members. However, one young man stands out among the rest — Thomas Williams. Thomas is the oldest of three children and has been in foster care with his sister and brother for a number of years. Throughout all of the obstacles he has had to face, he has continued to be a positive father figure for his little brother and sister. Thomas is also notable for the leadership he offers to the community and to his church. A senior Honor Roll student at First Coast High School and a Boy Scout Troop leader, he helps the younger students with homework assignments and volunteers his time with community events such as Feed The Children and Project PRIDE. The Vestcor Companies salute Thomas Williams as a Rising Star because of his ability to overcome life’s difficulties, and his willingness to share his many talents with others.
Sponsored By: United Parcel Service (UPS)

Meekcho Crockett, 26, enrolled in Community Connections' Healthy Families Jacksonville in October 2002 in order to receive assistance with her four children. At the time, she was a single parent with a pending Department of Children and Families case, now dismissed, and inadequate income to fully care for her family. She has now maintained her own apartment for two years and worked as a customer service representative at K-Mart for six months. Meekcho has kept all her scheduled Healthy Families Jacksonville home visits and doctor appointments while working and managing her busy household. By overcoming difficult obstacles, Meekcho has enhanced the well-being of her family and earned the title, “Rising Star.” United Parcel Service (UPS) salutes Meekcho for her efforts in turning her life around.

Sponsored By: WJXT Channel 4

When Marquis Ross, age 5, first came to Community Connections' Courtney Manor after-school program, he was unable to write his letters and his behavior was disruptive. At any given time, staff could pinpoint his location because of the ruckus he caused. CCJ staff worked with Marquis and soon began to see a change for the better. Marquis spent hours with the tutor, Angela Ragland, and is now very proud to be able to write his letters and complete his daily assignments. Instead of being recognized for disrupting after-school activities, Marquis now receives high marks for his improved behavior! Shining brightly, WJXT Channel 4 recognizes Marquis Ross as a Rising Star!
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Melissa Williams
Kelly Wood
Alton Yates
Saundra Young-Littleton

Members:
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Elaine Brown
Gloria Brown
Marian Bunch
Michael Cavendish
Cathy Disbrow-Courson
Arthur Graham
Tami Jones
Jennifer Lee
Michael Lenahan
Tom Lobrano
Joann Manning
Janet McCoy*
Susan Norman
Karen Nuland
Marsha Oliver
Sallyn Pajcic
Beverly Rossiter
Joe Thompson
Brenda Titus

*Intern

Patricia I. Hannan, Executive Director/CEO
### Marianne Hillegass

Chair

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<th>Janet Mallot</th>
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Special thanks to Community Connections Board of Directors, Advisory Board of Directors, A. L. Lewis Leadership Council, Past Presidents and Staff

**Tribute Program**

Megan Baker, Mary DeWeese, Janet Mallot, Tenecia Wood

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Renewing Families
With Pride And Purpose.

It’s often said that everyone deserves a second chance. But for families in crisis, getting that chance is not always easy. Sometimes you need a connection. And that’s where we help. We’re the connection that gives families that second chance at fulfilling their dreams. Through Community Connections, families receive opportunities they never imagined possible. For many, it’s affordable housing, medical services, job training, counseling, after-school day care, and many more support services. But for all, it’s the much-needed chance of a lifetime. Ours is a connection that fills families with pride and purpose. We invite you to find out more. For information on ways you can help or benefit, call us at 727-6460.