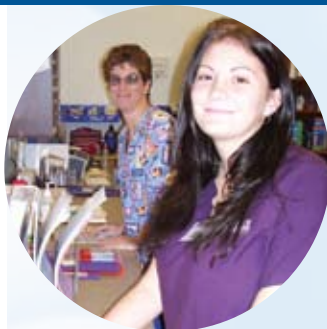




SAPPHIREAward
THE BLUE FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY FLORIDA



2007 Profiles



Recognizing Community Health Excellence

The Blue Foundation
FOR A HEALTHY FLORIDA



The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida and its Parent, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, are Independent Licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

The Sapphire Award

Recognizing Community Health Excellence

THE BLUE FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY FLORIDA SAPPHIRE AWARD

The mission of The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida is to enhance access to quality health-related services for Floridians through strategic grantmaking to Florida's nonprofits that serve the state's uninsured and underserved. The Sapphire Award is the result of our desire to recognize programs that create a significant positive impact on health-related outcomes for the state's at-risk people and communities.

The 2007 Sapphire Award honorees represent programs that demonstrate excellence and achievements through processes that can be replicated in other communities and programs. The characteristics that these honorees possess are many. In addition to a creative and passionate approach to serving unmet needs in their communities, these programs demonstrate continuous improvement. As learning organizations, they constantly seek expert advice, updated information on their clients' needs and the latest developments in best practices. As a group they overcome obstacles to serve their clients, and they network with other service providers to ensure a complete continuum of care. Some programs depend on volunteers, but all of them share a passion to serve their communities. Their work is improving the health of thousands of Floridians who might otherwise go without care.

The Sapphire Award Winner

(\$100,000)

Shands Vista PALS (Partners in Adolescent Lifestyle Support) Program

Award of Distinction

(\$75,000 each)

Epilepsy Foundation of Florida, Inc.

HUG-Me, a program at the Howard Phillips Center for Children & Families

Lakeland Volunteers In Medicine

Honorable Mention

(\$25,000)

Big Bend Cares Inc.

The following pages present brief profiles of the organizations and illustrate how they deliver excellence in community health programming in their own ways.

We hope their stories will inspire you as they do us.



2007 SAPPHIRE AWARD WINNER

ShandsVista PALS Program

Shands Vista PALS Program

PARTNERS IN ADOLESCENT LIFESTYLE SUPPORT

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Shands Vista PALS (Partners in Adolescent Lifestyle Support) Program was conceptualized and developed by Jessica Marrero when she was a 15-year-old student at Buchholz High School in Alachua County. Prompted by the Colombine school shootings, and confronting the threat of violence, substance abuse, suicide, low self-esteem and other behavioral issues faced by peers, Jessica organized a group of students who developed a plan and approached community leaders asking for participation and help. Shands Vista, an inpatient psychiatric and substance abuse facility in Gainesville and a division of Shands Teaching Hospital and Clinics (Shands), agreed to run and administer the program.

PALS provides free mental health services by means of lifestyle support, therapeutic treatment, behavioral services related to health issues, as well as substance abuse, suicide, and violence prevention/therapy to teens in a school environment. Each participating school is individually assessed to tailor the program to fit the needs of their population. Adolescent leaders in the community are paired with teens suffering from emotional and social impairment, substance abuse and behavior difficulties. PALS implements education programs in schools for violence and substance abuse prevention as well as improving the milieu of the school by emphasizing inclusion and altruism. PALS students operate on the motto that "No one sits alone." When PALS students see others by themselves, they always invite them to join them.

The University of Florida, Shands and Alachua County school system have worked together in a consortium with professionals donating significant blocks of their time to PALS. Clinical support is provided free of charge by three University of Florida Departments -- Counseling Psychology, School Psychology and Counselor Education. PALS' services are enabled by the Alachua County school system, which also supplies support to track and report program results.

PALS is currently in four schools in Gainesville: Ft. Clarke Middle School, A. Quinn Jones School, Eastside High School and Buchholz High School. Professional intervention is accessible to the students several times a week at each school at no cost. All member schools have the basic PALS program including peer mentoring, drug free education programs and mental health services. Each school has closed circuit TVs in classrooms, which PALS is permitted to use for video announcements. The philosophy of PALS also permits tailoring of the program to a specified need at the school, and inclusion of students in developing the program for their particular school. Collaboration between PALS staff and the Child Psychiatric Unit at Shands Hospital allows for stabilization of youths requiring admission, and immediate follow-up in the schools after discharge. The PALS program also provides a therapist to assist in transitioning the child back into the community.

HIGHLIGHTS

- No suicides or school shootings in the PALS schools.
- Cooperation of the consortium agencies has helped eliminate a number of obstacles. For example, the school system helped disseminate information by sending materials to every parent. In addition, the schools added the PALS director to their parent advisory boards so that planning could be done together. To collect and analyze data, the school system worked with graduate students from the University of Florida and Shands Vista PALS staff.
- Data analyzed by the University of Florida showed a statistically significant (.01 level of significance) positive change in pro-social behavior in all schools after the completion of the PALS program. Total behavior infractions for all schools dropped 33 percent. Fighting infractions for all schools dropped 31 percent. The largest decrease in total discipline infractions came at Buchholz High School with a 51 percent decrease, and at Ft. Clarke with a 50 percent decrease. The largest decrease in violence as measured by infractions for fighting came from Ft. Clarke and A. Quinn Jones (each dropped 30 percent). These two schools, one a middle school and the other grades K-12, concerned about bullying for their adolescent population, implemented programs directed toward violence reduction. The students at Ft. Clarke wrote and produced their own video on bullying and pro-social means to avoid violence. Homeland Security is showcasing this video, "Trouble at the Dance," at a national conference.
- At A. Quinn Jones, a middle specialty school for emotionally disturbed students who have not been successful in the other public schools, PALS instituted a behavioral awards program to help students learn techniques to control behavior, reduce anti-social behavior and gain self-esteem. Based on a behavioral point system grounded in psychological and behavioral theory, each student is evaluated and has the opportunity to earn an award in a weekly breakfast sponsored by PALS. The number of students who have qualified for behavioral awards at this school has increased 300 percent since PALS instituted their program.
- Total drug infractions for all PALS schools decreased by 61 percent (statistically significant at the .01 level). Eastside High School, which had the highest rate of poverty, multicultural population and rate of teen pregnancy of all schools in Alachua County, also had the highest incidence of drug infractions before the PALS program. Eastside High demonstrated a 92 percent decrease in drug infractions. By year-end, there were also 700 fewer discipline infractions at Eastside High.
- Twelve diabetic students at Eastside High School were selected to participate in a diabetes support group after at least half of the students had missed more than 50 percent of the prior year's school days for their disease. In the 2006-2007 school year, there were no dropouts from this group and not one of the students missed a single day of school.
- Of the pregnant students in the teen pregnancy group at Eastside High School, 100 percent remained in school.
- Kim White, M.D., medical director of the Child Psychiatric Unit at Shands Vista, emphasizes that what she feels makes this program so exceptional is the manner in which it looks at illness as a total composite of the individual, the environment and the social setting, and then works with all these aspects. In addition, this program brings together not only several community agencies and resources, but also a diversity of students. "In order to treat students who are mentally ill in the schools, you must also change the attitudes of those around them who isolate them. The attitude is not that the healthy students are reaching out to help someone else, but that this new acceptance is assisting them in becoming better leaders and adapting healthier attitudes."
- PALS is expanding programming to P. K. Yonge, a junior and senior high school in central downtown Gainesville, in 2007.



Epilepsy Foundation of Florida, Inc.

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The Epilepsy Foundation of Florida oversees the operations of four regional providers throughout 15 counties in the state. It is a lead agency for all epilepsy programs as designated by the Florida Department of Health. They serve as an advocate for the rights and needs of people with epilepsy and seizure disorders at local, county and state levels. They provide a comprehensive case management program that includes ongoing medical, social, and psychological services, prevention and education and partnerships with hospitals and universities to provide services and research.

Services include advocacy; prevention and education programs; information, referral and support, case management, medical and neuropsychological services and medication procurement; refugee services; employment counseling; and a resource center.

Since head injuries often precipitate epilepsy, the Epilepsy Foundation has been designated by the Florida Department of Transportation as the agency for bicycle helmet distribution. They will distribute 42,000 properly fitted bicycle helmets plus bike safety information to children and teens statewide in 2007-2008.

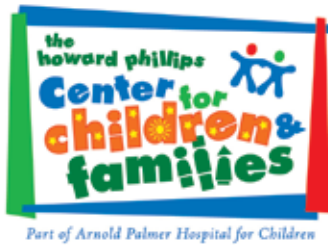
HIGHLIGHTS

- Sole licensee of the National Epilepsy Foundation in Florida.
- Provide direct services to 4,727 Floridians statewide, regardless of their ability to pay.
- Provide direct case management services for 1,966 individuals and their family members.
- Monitor the management of 2,761 cases by statewide sub-contracted providers.
- Of 387 clients surveyed, 90 percent reported a reduction in seizures after one year.
- Up to 60 percent of consumers receiving case management find their seizures much better or completely controlled within the first six months to two years of treatment.
- Over the past three years, clients reported emergency room visits dropped from 2.5 visits annually to 0.5 visits annually.
- Recognized by the Center for Disease Control in 2004 as the most comprehensive and effective epilepsy program in the nation.
- 221 teachers received epilepsy education in a new teacher orientation; pre- and post-testing showed that 85 percent had improved knowledge about epilepsy.

- Revised referral and intake process decreased wait list time and access to services.
- Boys and Girls Teen Groups have been in existence and thriving for over 10 years. Statistical data using standardized tools of the Adolescent Anger Rating Scale, a brief self-report scale that assesses the intensity and frequency of anger expression in adolescents; the Beck Depression Inventory, a data collection instrument used to measure mood and feelings; and the Social Skills Rating System, a nationally standardized evaluation on the social behavior of adolescents; reveal among the adolescent and pre-adolescent group participants with epilepsy:
 - 82 percent demonstrated improved social skills.
 - 65 percent exhibited improvement in impulse control.
 - 75 percent decreased the number of violent outbursts as compared to baseline.
 - 75 percent remained in school or are working.
 - 82 percent maintained at least one friendship from the group
- The Refugee Epilepsy Case Management Program targets recently arrived Cuban and Haitian refugees who have epilepsy and their families. In 2005 there were 125 refugees served, and in 2006, 110.
- Created Promotion of Good Health Maintenance, an all-inclusive managed care service delivery system that provides quality care for clients in need of medical services not provided by the Epilepsy Foundation; negotiated greatly reduced fees with primary care physicians, pediatricians and dentists.
- Sends families of children who have epilepsy to a family weekend at Camp Boggy Creek.
- Involved in medical research including: an osteoporosis study for men over age 40 who take anticonvulsant medications (University of Miami and Nova Southeastern University), and a genetic study of families who have three or more members suffering from epilepsy (Miami Children's Hospital and Emory University).



AWARD OF DISTINCTION



HUG-Me (Help Understand and Guide Me)

A PROGRAM OF HOWARD PHILLIPS CENTER FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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HUG-Me (Help Understand and Guide Me) is a program at the Howard Phillips Center for Children & Families, part of the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and Orlando Regional Healthcare System. HUG-Me was founded in 1994 in collaboration with AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) and infected/affected family members of Central Florida through the receipt of a Ryan White Title IV Planning grant. This program is a one-stop center for primary healthcare, nutritional counseling, mental health services, psycho-social support, outreach and prevention, case management and substance abuse treatment (through on-site collaborative partners) for patients infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS. They provide confidential HIV screening; HIV and other subspecialty care, including therapy options for preventing HIV transmission from mother to baby; peer support to help clients adhere to treatment regimens; family support/advocacy services; a Consumer Advisory Board; community outreach and education; participation in community planning; and linkage to research opportunities.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Serves clients from Orange, Osceola, Lake, Brevard, Seminole and St. Lucie counties, with satellite clinic sites in Lake and Osceola counties, and a monthly pediatric satellite HIV clinic in Cape Canaveral.
- Served 767 unduplicated clients in 2000-2001 and 5,625 in 2005-2006.
- 1,942 were enrolled in ongoing program services, and 3,683 were high-risk women receiving counseling and testing.
- Conducts the Targeted Outreach for Pregnant Women Act (TOPWA) initiative, providing peer based, non-judgmental outreach assistance to women and babies at risk for prenatal drug exposure or HIV.
- Provided over 46,000 services in 2005-2006.
- Provides specialty medical care to 98 percent of the HIV infected pediatric consumers and to 95 percent of the HIV infected pregnant women in its expanding service area.
- 98 percent of children and 85 percent of adults in the program receive combination therapy consistent with Public Health Standards of Care.
- Zero percent transmission of HIV from mother to baby for the past nine years (of 481 pregnant HIV-positive women treated 1998-2006) as a result of implementation of the CDC's and Public Health Service's Protocol 076. Prior to the adoption of this protocol, the transmission rate from HIV-positive mother to newborn was 25 percent.
- Links clients to the Title I pharmacy that provides pharmaceuticals at no cost.
- Health advocates are assigned to reconnect clients who have dropped out using the CDC's Antiretroviral Treatment Access Study (ARTAS) protocol.
- Implemented rapid HIV testing in 2006 to expedite linkage to care.
- Successfully advocated for widespread testing in the community and availability of rapid testing at hospitals for pregnant women unaware of their status.

- Negotiated with Ryan White Title I to ensure that the entire six-week supply of newborn medication (including syringes marked for dispensing the correct dosage to their newborn infant) was provided to each HIV-positive mother before she left the hospital.
- Perinatal transmission prevention program has been a catalyst for change in the standard of care for pregnant women. Involvement of HUG-Me staff in statewide workgroups prompted changes in state law requiring that all pregnant women receive mandatory HIV counseling and opt-out testing twice during the pregnancy.
- Program coordinator invited to be part of an advisory panel at the Department of Health, and was part of a team that provided capacity building training to prevent maternal transmission of HIV in Colombia, South America.
- Received the Ernest Amory Codman Award from the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations in the Hospital category for “excellence in the use of outcomes measurement to achieve improvements in the quality and safety of health care” for its success in achieving a perinatal transmission rate of zero.
- In a sample of adult mental health clients following three months of therapy: 70 percent showed improvement in general functioning (as measured by the Functional Assessment Rating Scale) and reduced anxiety (as measured by the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory); 91 percent showed a reduction in depression (Beck Depression Inventory).
- On a 5-point client satisfaction scale, 215 clients rated HUG-Me 4.47, and 97 percent of clients would recommend HUG-Me to others.
- Is the only AIDS service organization in the area with a TTY device for hearing impaired clients.
- Provides interpreters for hearing impaired and non-English speaking clients.
- Educational materials are available in English, Spanish, Creole, and large print; assessment tools are available in Spanish.
- On-site case managers assist clients with special needs related to housing, food, employment or other issues.
- Empowers consumers through Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) that review program issues and provide input into program planning, implementation and evaluation of outcomes, while advocating for clients/consumers and through hiring HIV-infected individuals.
- Provides organized family outings, and sponsors pediatric clients to attend Camp Boggy Creek summer camp.





Lakeland Volunteers In Medicine, Inc.

HEALTH CARE FOR THE WORKING UNINSURED

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Lakeland Volunteers In Medicine (LVIM) is a long-term, multi-specialty medical clinic and delivery network that provides free, quality medical care to the working poor of Polk County. A full-time paid staff of six provides direction for 102 volunteer physicians, 62 nurses and several laboratory technicians, x-ray technicians and pharmacists. There are 90 volunteers who undertake administrative tasks at the clinic. The organization provides services at a central medical clinic and in volunteer physicians' offices. They provide medical, dental and mental health services to 13,000 qualified clients, accounting for approximately 25,000 patient-visits annually. Since its founding in 2001, there have been 130,000 patient visits. Patients with more complicated chronic conditions are referred to six specialty clinics in diabetes, hypertension, lipid disorders, asthma, pediatrics and women's health. In addition, educational programs are available to supplement management of chronic diseases.

LVIM also has other specialty volunteers at the clinic providing orthopedic services, physical therapy and general surgery. Minor surgeries are performed on-site and the local pathology group and lab, Micropath, performs specimen studies for free. Radiology and Imaging Specialist, Watson Clinic and Lakeland Open MRI assist with high-end diagnostics. MRI and CT studies are conducted free of charge by these ancillary providers. Additionally, Radiology and Imaging Specialist reads the x-rays taken at the clinic without charge.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Success in leveraging community resources is evident in the three local radiology groups that provide 180-200 MRI and CT scans annually. Last year Radiology and Imaging Specialist also read about 360 x-rays, and Micropath studied 900 pathology specimens from LVIM.
- The Diabetic Clinic follows guidelines set by the American Diabetes Association (ADA). They see 450-500 patients per year.
- An audit performed by the Nursing Program Specialist and Quality Improvement Nurse for the Polk County Health Department found that the LVIM Diabetic Clinic outperformed recommended guidelines established by the ADA in 10 of 11 benchmarks. Every patient at the Diabetic Clinic received a complete lipid profile in 2006. Annually, patients also visit a volunteer podiatrist and ophthalmologist. Those patients who require daily blood testing are assisted with the application process to obtain a glucometer and test strips through the Abbot Pharmaceutical Assistance Program.
- Following guidelines for course content set by the ADA, a volunteer Registered Nurse teaches a 12-hour series of diabetic education classes. This program has been broken down into 54 15-minute teaching modules called "Little Windows" to accommodate working clientele.

- Following National Institute of Health guidelines, 75 percent of patients at the Hypertension Clinic have achieved control of hypertension through medication and education by their six-month checkup. These patients have maintained blood pressures less than 140/90 mmHg.
- The Lipid Clinic emphasizes diet and exercise to manage cholesterol. Materials provided to patients include a food list, low fat recipes, how to read and understand Nutrition Facts labels and “My Monthly Manager,” a booklet that guides patients month by month and assists them in setting and achieving goals to better manage their lipid profile. This clinic sees 50-60 patients per session.
- The Asthma Clinic, staffed by a retired allergist and asthma specialist, provides one-on-one teaching and monitoring in asthma management, to include guidelines for exercising, instruction on the use of metered dose inhalers and spacers, as well as lifestyle changes. Patients receive free medication through the in-house pharmacy or through the Pharmacy Assistance Program. They see 710 patients a year.
- The Pediatric Clinic has two Board Certified Pediatricians who follow the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics. They see 1,000 patients per year.
- The Women’s Clinic offers routine physicals, pelvic exams, PAP smears, sick visits, breast exams, women’s health education, and management of sexually transmitted diseases, and chronic and acute diseases. The Women’s Clinic emphasizes prevention and early detection with screening and education on numerous topics pertaining to women’s health. One-on-one discussions and supporting education materials are provided. They see 900 patients each year.
- The Dental Program operates three to five days per week. Services most often provided include dental hygiene, extraction and pain management. Restorative work is done on a case-by-case basis as providers are found who will do the work pro bono. In 2006, they provided services to over 700 patients.
- LVIM has one psychiatrist and five mental health counselors who diagnose and treat psychiatric disorders; provide individual and family counseling, assertiveness training, anger management training, and cognitive and behavioral therapy; and teach relaxation techniques. Last year, they helped 900 patients.
- There are 250 patients seen for physical therapy per year.
- The clinic has an in-house pharmacy that fills 20,000 prescriptions annually and helped file 3,600 applications in 2006 to obtain branded medication from pharmaceutical companies. They help patients obtain medications valued in excess of \$1 million annually. Of 500 patients surveyed from January to June 2007, 97 percent received prescription medications from LVIM.
- A patient satisfaction survey of 500 patients conducted between January and June of 2007 revealed that 98-99 percent of patients are pleased with the care that they received at LVIM and would recommend the services to their friends and family.

HONORABLE MENTION



Big Bend Cares, Inc.

HIV CLIENT SERVICES AND PREVENTION EDUCATION

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Big Bend Cares provides education and comprehensive support to people infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS in the rural North Florida counties of Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla. Services include assistance with medical and dental appointments, substance abuse, mental health counseling and housing. The service delivery structure, based upon a case management model, enlists clients as active participants in their care, developing consumer driven treatment plans that address the needs clients identify. The treatment plan is revisited every six months to ensure clients are engaged and receiving the treatment they require. Big Bend Cares has 22 full-time staff with over 250 volunteers contributing more than 5,000 hours of service.

In 2004, while trying to balance the privacy concerns of those infected with the need to educate the general population that the disease can affect anyone, the agency chose to purchase and renovate for office space a vacant fire station located in the center of Tallahassee. A digital marquee announces the location. Although the move placed them squarely in the heart of their consumers' location, it eliminated clients' ability to come to the agency without public knowledge. To protect client privacy, the service delivery model was adapted so that case managers are expected to go to their clients' locations. The move positions the agency to take a lead role in the state capital, receive extensive public recognition and evolve into a state leader.

Big Bend Cares heads and participates in city and county task forces regarding HIV and indigent healthcare throughout the area. The partnerships developed via this increased recognition have allowed the agency to work with Florida State University and Florida A&M University to increase awareness among college age adults and to partner with them for free testing and education.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Founding member of the Red Ribbon Alliance, the local planning consortium that unites all members of the HIV Care and Prevention communities in their area.
- Provided case management services to 602 individuals, including 129 newly diagnosed clients.
- Provided over 9,600 hours of case management services and linkage to healthcare.
- Facilitated 1,720 physician and laboratory appointments, 530 dental appointments and procurement of 3,631 prescription medications.
- Provides a van for transportation and delivery of essentials, such as food bag, because 60 percent of clients do not own automobiles.
- Provided 2,818 food bags and nutritional supplements, and transportation on the van to over 300 appointments.

- Partnered with the Medicine Shoppe for free delivery (mail or driver) of medications and home health products.
- Created an Intake and Outreach Coordinator position to link HIV-positive community members to services that expedite case management and access care for new clients.
- Outreach offices are located inside the local health departments and they work closely with the local Workforce Program.
- Assists HIV-positive clients with housing through a government-funded program, Housing Opportunity for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA).
- Received a grant through MAC AIDS Fund and Broadway Cares to assist with emergency housing for the 20 percent of community members living with HIV who are not eligible for HOPWA funding.
- Provided rent and utility assistance to 177 clients.
- Conducted 667 free HIV tests.
- In 2007 began offering free walk-in testing.
- Provided education to 12,000 community members using Center for Disease Control evidence-based prevention programs and a behavior modification model that involves interactive participation at individual and group levels, including:
 - VOICES (Video Opportunities for Innovative Condom Education and Safer Sex), an intervention facilitated by African Americans that speaks to the cultural and socioeconomic issues relevant to the target audience;
 - MPOWERMENT, a peer-to-peer approach to reducing unprotected sex among young gay men ages 18-29; and
 - Healthy Relationships, an education and prevention program for HIV-positive clients designed to assist them in disclosing their status to family, friends and sexual partners and to reduce the rate of risky sexual behaviors.
- Uses a quality management plan that is approved annually by the Florida Bureau of HIV/AIDS.
- Internal tracking and control methods include chart reviews, adherence to treatment, viral load checks, utilization reviews and surveys for medication compliance and client satisfaction.

The Sapphire Award Selection Committee

CHARLES MAHAN, MD, *selection committee chair*

Professor, Community and Family Health/Obstetrics, University of South Florida; Tampa, Fla.

MICHAEL BEACHLER, MPH

Executive Director, Obici Healthcare Foundation; Suffolk, Va.

CYRIL BLAVO, DO, MPH

Director, Master of Public Health Program, Nova Southeastern University; Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

KRISTI KRUEGER

Television News Anchor and Health Reporter, WPLG-TV; Miami, Fla.

ALINA PEREZ-STABLE

Program Manager, College of Medicine, Florida International University; Miami, Fla.

LISA SIMPSON, MB, BCh, MPH, FAAP

Director, Child Policy Research Center, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, and Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Cincinnati; Cincinnati, Ohio

JAMES STOUT, MD, MPH

Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Washington, and Odessa Brown Children's Clinic; Seattle, Wash.

RANDY MEG KAMMER

President, Board of Directors, The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, and Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Public Policy, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida; Jacksonville, Fla.

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Past Honorees



SAPPHIREAward
THE BLUE FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY FLORIDA

2005 Sapphire Award Honorees

THE SAPPHIRE AWARD WINNERS (\$100,000 each)

Camillus Health Concern, Miami

Crisis Center of Tampa Bay

The Rubin Center for Healthy Aging
at Senior Friendship Centers, Sarasota

HONORABLE MENTIONS (\$15,000 each)

Bay Cares, Panama City

Broward Children's Center,
Pompano Beach

The Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers
and Babies at the College of Public Health, University of
South Florida, Tampa

Wayside House, Delray Beach

FINALISTS (\$5,000 each)

Epilepsy Foundation of South Florida, Miami

Neighborhood Health Clinic, Naples

WE CARE Jacksonville

2006 Sapphire Award Honorees

THE SAPPHIRE AWARD WINNERS (\$100,000 each)

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs
(ACORN) Clinic, Brooker

Kristi House, Miami

The Bridge of Northeast Florida, Jacksonville

HONORABLE MENTION (\$25,000)

Neighborhood Health Clinic, Naples

FINALIST (\$5,000)

Henderson Mental Health Center – Cottages in the
Pines COURT Project, Fort Lauderdale

The Sapphire Award trophy (front cover) was created exclusively for The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida by artist Nate Nardi, glassblowing instructor at Jacksonville University.

For more information about The Sapphire Award, please contact us in one of the following ways:

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