

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Extraordinary Senior Volunteers Honored at 20th Annual Prime Time Awards Event

Palm Beach Gardens, FL – A record 115 senior volunteers were celebrated at the Area Agency on Aging’s 20th Annual Prime Time Awards Breakfast on May 12th at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott. With 320 guests in attendance, awards were presented in nine categories.

Nominations for outstanding senior volunteers were received from organizations and individuals throughout Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties. The nine award categories included: the Florida Association of Mortgage Professionals Foster Grandparent Award; Florida Power & Light Community Service Award; the FRI Investors RSVP Volunteer Award; the Humana Good Neighbor Award; the Mangrove Bay Service to Seniors Award; Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office Law Enforcement Volunteer Award; Shalloway & Shalloway Elder Advocate Award; The Palm Beach Post School Volunteer Award; and, the WellMed SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) Volunteer Award.

Presented by association President Ramona Barbagallo, the **Florida Association of Mortgage Professionals Foster Grandparent Award** was awarded to Reina Padron. This special “Grandma” is described by her nominator, Donna Cericola, Volunteer Coordinator at Berkshire Elementary, as “a treasure chest of ideas when it comes to reaching each child where they are.”

The **Florida Power & Light Company Community Service Award** was presented to **Mr. Leonard Segal** by Dianne Verner, East Area Manager, Special Consumer Services. Nominated by Roland Boucher with Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County, Leonard likes to be called “Grumpy” although he is constantly telling jokes and keeping other volunteers’ spirits up! To quote Roland, “It doesn’t matter if he is hammering a nail, walking a dog, or serving a meal...giving is what he does and we hope that he’ll be helping us to assist families for a very long time.”

Serving Seniors in Palm Beach • Martin • St. Lucie • Indian River • Okeechobee Counties

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The **FRI Investors RSVP Volunteer Award** was presented by FRI President Jonathan Cameron Hayes to **Mr. Sol Levine**, a retired NASA engineer, who works tirelessly 7 days a week at the Science Museum helping students and guests with the many different activities, special events and programs that are offered. Nominator Lila Klix says, "Sol has been our most dedicated volunteer for more than 10 years now. He inspires all of us to be more helpful and dedicated to what we do."

The **Humana Good Neighbor Award** was presented by Sales Manager Mr. Ken Szilagyi to **Dr. James Lea** who has volunteered at the Palm Beach County Medical Society with the Project Access program since September of 2008. Dr. Lea always goes above and beyond to find care for the patients. He has recruited 5 hematology oncologists and three radiation oncologists to participate in the Project Access Program. He definitely plays a huge role in "helping to save a life."

The **Mangrove Bay Service to Seniors Award** was presented by **Mr. Ryan Smallwood** to **Mr. Jorge Ching**. Nominator Kris Riedell, Vice President of Human Resources and Volunteer Services with Alzheimer's Community Care, describes Jorge as "77 years young". He volunteers as a Senior Companion for Alzheimer's Community Care where he has given 8,275 service hours since 2005 which is valued at \$162, 852.00!

The **Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Volunteer Award** was presented by Major Dan Smith to **Volunteer Captain Gesten**. Nominator Fernando Alvarez says, "He is an inspiration to all the volunteers and officers in Unit 98." Jack, who recently celebrated his 91st birthday, has donated an amazing 15,000 volunteer hours with the Sheriff's Department.

The **Shalloway & Shalloway Elder Advocate Award** was presented by Legal Aid Society Executive Director Bob Bertisch, Esq. to **Ms. Edith C. Bush**. When there are issues affecting seniors and seniors need to have a presence and a voice, Edith is there. Ms. Bush has long been active in the West Palm Beach community working tirelessly to make a difference for people of color and seniors who have traditionally been marginalized and underserved. Ms. Bush has been an advocate for these groups and has worked to ensure they have a voice that is heard by those in local and state government as well as by community organizations that need to hear the message.

The **Palm Beach Post School Volunteer Award** was presented by Keely Gideon-Taylor Tara Pregnolato to **Mr. Ira Klosk**. Ira was selected for this award because of his extraordinary service, involvement and commitment to the teachers and students of Poinciana Elementary Math, Science and Technology Magnet School. He has been volunteering for 12 years working as the school's Volunteer Coordinator. Since 2002, Mr. Ira, as he is called in school, has brought people from all nationalities and spectrums to experience the wonderful processes that impact education at the school. When he started, there were 3 retired volunteers. The school now boasts more than 125, many of whom are retired educators.

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The **WellMed SHINE Volunteer Award** was presented by Dr. Emmet Kenney to **Ms. Anne Roth** who has been a dedicated volunteer with the SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Elders) since November 2009. A bright, compassionate person, Anne is steadfast in working with a client to provide the correct information, offer a solution or assist them in connecting with other resources such as Medicaid or food stamps offered through Your Aging Resource Center. Anne is committed to seeing a client through the necessary steps to obtain help. The SHINE program is very fortunate to have Anne. She truly makes a difference!

The **12th Annual C. Colburn Hardy Older Advocate Award** was presented by C. Colburn Hardy's daughter, the Honorable Dorcas Hardy, to Joseph Schwartz, a remarkable individual who is dedicated to making the State of Florida a better, safer place for all its citizens. His leadership and advocacy includes the Senior Medicare Patrol, focused on eliminating fraud in the Medicare program, and educating individuals about identity theft, home repair scams and investor fraud.

Platinum Award sponsors of the 2011 Prime Time Awards Breakfast were: Florida Association of Mortgage Professionals; Florida Power & Light Company; FRI Investors; Humana, Inc.; Mangrove Bay in Jupiter; Palm Beach Sheriff's Office; Shalloway & Shalloway, elder & special needs attorneys; WellMed and The Palm Beach Post. **Gold Sponsors include:** Alzheimer's Community Care, Brown & Brown, MDH Printing and Ruth Rales Jewish Family Service. **Silver Sponsors** include: alzheimer's association, Anné Desormier-Cartwright; Cresthaven East,, Heritage Park, Legal Aid Society, Tequesta Terrace, The Cottages, The Volen Center, Vitas Innovative Hospice Care and The Waterford.

For more information about the *Area Agency on Aging Palm Beach/Treasure Coast* programs, services, volunteer opportunities, sponsorships or donor contributions visit www.YourAgingResourceCenter.org or call (561) 684-5885.

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Photos w/captions follow

Photo file names with caption text:

1) File Name: FAMP



Caption: (L to R) Ramona Barbagallo presents the **Florida Association of Mortgage Professionals Foster Grandparent Award to Reina Padron**

2) File Name: FP&L



Caption: (L to R) Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Bernard Godek accepts the **Florida Power & Light Company Community Service Award** on behalf of **Leonard Segal** from Dianne Verner

3) File Name: FRI



Caption: (L to R) **FRI Investors RSVP Volunteer Award** winner **Sol Levine** with FRI President Jonathan Cameron-Hayes

4) File Name: Humana



Caption: (L to R) **Humana Good Neighbor Award** recipient **Dr. James Lea** with Humana Sales Manager **Ken Szilagyi**

5) File Name: Mangrove Bay



Caption: (L to R) **Ryan Smallwood** with **Mangrove Bay Service to Seniors Award** recipient **Jorge Ching**

6) File Name: PBCSO



Caption: (L to R) **Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Volunteer Award** presented by Major **Dan Smith** to **Volunteer Captain Jack Gesten**

7) File Name: Shalloway & Shalloway



Caption: (L to R) **G. Mark Shalloway, Esq., Shalloway & Shalloway Elder Advocate Award** recipient **Edith C. Bush**, **Bob Bertisch**, **Judge C. Michael Shalloway**

8) File Name: The PB Post



Caption: (L to R) **The Palm Beach Post School Volunteer Award** presenter **Tara Pregnotato** with winner **Ira Klosk** (center) and presenter **Keely Gideon - Taylor**

9) File Name: WellMed



Caption: (L to R) **WellMed SHINE Volunteer Award** recipient **Anne Roth** with **Dr. Emmet Kenney**

10) File Name: Colburn Hardy Award



Caption: (L to R) **C. Colburn Hardy Older Advocate Award** recipient **Joseph Schwartz** with **Hon. Dorcas Hardy**