



SAPPHIREAward
THE BLUE FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY FLORIDA



2006 Profiles

Recognizing Community Health Excellence

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The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida Sapphire Award

The purpose of The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida is to enhance access to quality health-related services through grants to nonprofit organizations that serve the state's uninsured and underserved citizens. 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 citizens and communities.

The 2006 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 winners 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 at all.

Originally, we envisioned recognizing three organizations. However, the nominations inspired the Selection Committee of medical, public health and health communications experts from across the country. The Selection Committee decided to recognize five organizations in all. Each of the three winners of The Sapphire Award will receive \$100,000; the one Honorable Mention honoree will receive \$25,000; and the remaining Finalist will receive \$5,000.

We invite you to take a closer look at the 2006 Sapphire Award honorees. 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.

For additional information, please contact us:

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Toll free 1-800-477-3736 ext. 63215, option 2

The Sapphire Award

2006 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

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

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Henderson Mental Health Center operates mental health facilities throughout Broward County. The Cottages in the Pines COURT (Community Opportunities Utilizing Recovery) Project is a 24-bed transitional residential health treatment facility. In conjunction with Broward County's Mental Health Court, the first misdemeanor Mental Health Court in the nation, the COURT Project sets out to identify and support individuals 18 years or older with mental illness, with or without co-occurring substance abuse, who are homeless, and in need of comprehensive treatment and services. COURT serves clients arrested on non-violent misdemeanor offenses and diverts them out of the jail system into structured, community-based mental health treatment. Follow-up treatment services and housing or linkage to alternative housing options off-site are provided for up to 35 additional individuals at any given time.

Residential learning modules involve client participation in and learning "activities of daily living," with progression through the modules allowing clients to gain more privileges and freedoms in the home and community. Each client is assigned an individual intensive case manager who works with the client throughout their residential stay and for 6-12 months after they leave the residential facility. Individualized treatment plans which include personal life goals are developed and continue to evolve as an individual progresses. The treatment model employed is the Role Recovery Model pioneered out of the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation at Boston University. This model helps clients examine lost roles (family, relationship, work, student, etc.) and retrieve them through a supportive environment, including counseling, therapy and medication. Psychopharmacology algorithms are employed, prescribing psychiatric medication based on diagnosis and symptoms.

The COURT Project is a novel strategy that works toward breaking the cycle of persons with mental illness revolving between jail, the street, homeless shelters and hospital emergency rooms.

The Project works within the community with support from the criminal justice system, the State Attorney's Office, Broward County Sheriff's Office, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and community providers including AA, NA, DUI School, the local library, and community education programs.

Since it began in 1998, the COURT Project has served over 750 unduplicated individuals. Last fiscal year, 158 unduplicated individuals were served. All had no income or income that fell below the Federal Poverty Level.



During fiscal year 2004-2005:

- During monthly program monitoring of COURT residents receiving case management services, 98% had not been re-arrested.
- Of the 85 persons surveyed receiving intensive case management from the COURT Project, 94% reported this service had a positive impact on their quality of life.
- A total of 87% of the 33 individuals discharged from COURT successfully obtained and maintained independent housing.
- Among approximately 75% of persons who participated in the post-discharge follow-up survey from COURT, 97% reported that they had not been hospitalized or incarcerated since discharge. Also, 97% reported satisfaction with services provided.

The COURT Project is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) consistently at the highest level (requiring renewal every three years, as opposed to one or two years with lower accreditation scores).