



THE AIDS INSTITUTE

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National Office - Washington, DC: 202-835-8373

Administrative Office - Tampa, FL: 813-258-5929

Media Contact: Michael Ruppal, (813) 258-5929, MRuppal@theaidsinstitute.org

THE AIDS INSTITUTE RECOGNIZES LEADERS DURING ANNUAL RED RIBBON AWARDS CEREMONY

Orlando, FL – The AIDS Institute and Florida Department of Health are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2008 Red Ribbon Excellence Awards, as revealed during the annual luncheon held Wednesday, March 26 at the 2008 Florida Ryan White Meeting in Orlando, Florida. The annual gathering of HIV/AIDS advocates, clients, healthcare providers and healthcare administrators saw another record attendance of over 320 participants.

According to Dr. Gene Copello, executive director of The AIDS Institute, “There are so many people who work tirelessly in the battle against HIV/AIDS. We are very proud to join the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, in hosting this 7th annual ceremony for the Red Ribbon Excellence Awards. We congratulate the individuals and organizations that so deservedly are honored.”

This year’s candidates were nominated from both the public and private sectors and included physicians, nurses, outreach workers, case managers, health educators, counselors, researchers, laboratorians, program managers and coordinators, pharmacists, community-based organizations, clinics, public officials and other leaders in the field of HIV/AIDS from across the state of Florida.

Broken down into categories, the awards were presented to the following individuals/organizations:

The **Highest Achievement Award** is presented to an individual or organization that has consistently provided outstanding services in the field of HIV/AIDS. This year’s recipient is **Hazel Hoylman** of St. Lucie County.

The **Make the Change Award** is presented each year to an individual or organization for their extraordinary efforts in prevention/education services. This year’s recipient is **Linda Warren** from Palm Beach County.

The **Guiding Light Award** is presented to an individual or organization that shows tremendous leadership in the battle against HIV/AIDS. This year’s recipient was **BASIC NWFL, Inc.** an organization that serves six counties in the panhandle area and headed by executive director, Valerie Mincey.

The **Unsung Hero Award** is presented to an individual or organization for their outstanding work in advocating for equitable HIV/AIDS policies. This year’s recipient was **Jim Roth** from Hillsborough County.

The **Healing Hearts/Helping Hands Award** is presented to an individual or organization for providing exceptional care and treatment for persons living with HIV/AIDS. This year’s recipient is **James Sammuels** from Orlando.

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For more information and to become involved in AIDS advocacy work, please contact
The AIDS Institute at: (202) 835-8373, or by email at: Info@theaidsinstitute.org or www.TheAIDSInstitute.org

The AIDS Institute is a national nonprofit agency that promotes action for social change
through public policy research, advocacy and education.