

Cover Story

National Philanthropy Day is part of international event

By Sydney Liebman
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Helping to fund United Way with generous employee donations, sponsoring toy and food drives, collecting school supplies, supporting education, mentoring to children, fighting homelessness, breaking records and paying it forward – these are just a few of the accomplishments of this year’s recipients of the National Philanthropy Day awards, presented this past Friday.

Bank of America and QVC of St. Lucie were the recipients of the Corporate Philanthropist award.

The culture within Bank of America fosters volunteerism, leadership and financial support. As a result, their unending philanthropy helps a myriad of local agencies make a difference.

QVC has been a leader in corporate philanthropy since establishing a presence on the Treasure Coast in 1999. This generous corporate entity and its employees have gifted as much as \$88,352 in a single year. Managers and other staff populate the boards of directors for many nonprofits.

The Volunteer Fundraiser award was presented to Scott Baratta, whose leadership and fundraising skills are cornerstones to the Elliott Museum’s capital campaign. As director of the capital campaign, he has secured nearly \$15 million of the needed \$18 million.

Edwin and Iris Arnowitz received recognition for their commitment to the community with the Individual Philanthropist award. Whether it’s through education, library books, humane care for pets, literacy for jailed prisoners or hurricane relief, this couple stands ready to serve.

The Unsung Hero award was presented to Kathy “Max” Adair, an advocate and ambassador for the Boys &

Girls Clubs of Martin County. Instrumental in bringing the “Youth of the Year” program to Martin County, Ms Adair also implemented a cultural exchange program with children in Bermuda.

Harbour Ridge Yacht & Country Club, the recipient of the Group Supporting Philanthropy award, was recognized for its continued support and partnership with United Way of St. Lucie and Martin counties. The residents of Harbour Ridge are passionate and hard-working and inspire hope for a better tomorrow.

The Small Business Philanthropist award was presented to Scott VanDuzer and The VanDuzer Foundation. Although the foundation has only been in existence for 15 months, more than \$121,000 has been raised to aid families in crisis in St. Lucie County. The Foundation events are always creative and offer many opportunities for others to get involved.

National Philanthropy Day is a day set aside to recognize the great contributions of philanthropy and those people active in the philanthropic community. Friday’s luncheon, held at Harbour Ridge Yacht & Country Club, was coordinated by the Association of Fundraising Professionals - Treasure Coast Chapter. The presenting sponsor was Comerica Bank.

“This was more than an event,” said Judy Cruz, event co-chair, “it was an opportunity to recognize all of the wonderful philanthropists in this community. All of the people nominated for awards are the driving force in this community and we need them now more than ever.”

For more information about the Association of Fundraising Professionals, visit www.afpnet.org.



Judy Cruz and Renee Booth

Cover photos submitted: Edwin and Iris Arnowitz; Harbour Ridge Yacht & Country Club -- Bob Bysse, Douglass Stewart, Bill Dahl and Patricia Stewart; Scott VanDuzer; Diana Livingston; Scott Baratta; Kathy “Max” Adair; Ted Brown.

SCRIPPS
 Treasure Coast Newspapers

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How to Submit: *Luminaries* is published each Monday by Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, distributed throughout the Treasure Coast and is available online at luminariesweb.com. Press releases and photographs about upcoming events and follow-up stories about past events are welcome. All subjects in photographs must be properly identified from left to right. Deadline for advance releases is one month prior to date of event. Submit all press releases, calendar entries, photos and video to luminariesweb.com.