

Luminaries

July 18, 2016

Martin Co., St. Lucie Co., Indian River Co.

LUMINESCENTS

SafeSpace announces 'Volunteers of the Year'

By Tracy Lew

SAFESPACE, THE ONLY CERTIFIED domestic violence center on the Treasure Coast, recently honored its many dedicated volunteers during the organization's annual appreciation luncheon.

As a nonprofit organization, SafeSpace relies heavily on the year-round support of its volunteers to assist with the many programs and services offered to help victims and families affected by domestic violence.

The luncheon included recognition of two local philanthropists and SafeSpace benefactors, Douglass and Patricia Stewart.

The Stewarts were presented with SafeSpace's first-ever Chrysalis Award to honor the strength and protection they have provided to victims of domestic violence through their support.

"We are forever grateful to the Stewarts who have given everlasting strength and protection to victims of domestic violence," said Jill Borowicz, CEO of SafeSpace.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Carissa Grone of Port St. Lucie. Grone has served on the Board of Directors and in leadership roles on annual event committees.

She was instrumental in expanding SafeSpace's awareness and development efforts and in launching SafeSpace's Friends volunteer group in St. Lucie County.

She willingly shared her personal story and contagious enthusiasm with all who come in contact with her, and quickly became a familiar, well-respected face, and voice, for SafeSpace in St. Lucie County and beyond.

Mitch Kloorfain of Port St. Lucie was the St. Lucie County Volunteer of the Year. He was actively involved in the St. Lucie County Walk a Mile event for several years and is a new SafeSpace Board member.

For years, Kloorfain captured the special moments of the organization's milestones and events through his photographic talents and bringing greater awareness about SafeSpace.

In Martin County, the Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Jeff Endriss of Stuart. He is a pioneer volunteer who has supported the organization in a variety of



Mitch Kloorfain, St. Lucie County Volunteer of the Year; Karen Franke, Board Member of the Year; Jill Borowicz, SafeSpace CEO; and Carissa Grone, Volunteer of the Year



Jill Borowicz, SafeSpace CEO, with Douglass & Patricia Stewart



Jeff Endriss, Martin County Volunteer of the Year, and Caren Endriss



Beth Monreal, Thrift Shoppe Manager; Susan Izzo, Thrift Shoppe Volunteer of the Year; and Jill Borowicz, SafeSpace CEO



Hamp Elliott, Miguel Santiesteban, Geoff Moore, Karen Franke, John Anthony, and Chelsea Namovitz from Treasure and Space Coast Radio



Erma Camilleri, Leesa Clements, Maria Crespo, Bonnie Davis, Diane Holbrook, Pat O'Reilly, Joanne Kokoszka

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ways for many years.

When Endriss first started his Molly Maid business, it served as a donation drop-off location when SafeSpace didn't have one. Endriss has donated his personal time and resources and used his business to organize campaigns and bring greater resources and new volunteers to SafeSpace.

He has also served as Co-Chair of the Walk a Mile event and serves as a huge motivational force for the event.

The Indian River County Volunteer of the Year was Norma Einhorn of Vero Beach. Einhorn is a retired Licensed Clinical Therapist and has volunteered at SafeSpace's Indian River County facility for the past three years.

She meets regularly with participants from the Outreach and Supportive Living programs offering them encouragement and hope.

The SafeSpace Thrift Shoppe, which is

a significant source of revenue for the organization, depends on strong, dedicated volunteers to drive its success.

The Thrift Shoppe Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Susan Izzo of Port St. Lucie.

Izzo assists in all areas of the store but is especially helpful in the boutique department by keeping it organized and displayed in a way that enhances the customers' shopping experience.

Her warm and endearing personality creates a welcoming atmosphere for shoppers.

Karen Franke of Vero Beach was recognized as the Outstanding Board Member of the Year for her time and dedication as a Board member.

She was a member of the Board for three years and an Officer of the Board for two.

At every juncture, Franke has generated increased publicity for SafeSpace through her work as Station Manager for Treasure & Space Coast Radio. Her company has provided funding and pro bono services valued at over \$150,000.

"The effort and dedication from our entire group of volunteers has played a vital role in saving and changing the lives of those affected by domestic violence throughout the Treasure Coast. In the past year, SafeSpace served nearly 2,800 victims and their children and provided over 14,000 safe nights of service," said Borowicz.

"We could not accomplish this without the work of our loyal volunteers. I'm proud beyond words to have these award winners as our SafeSpace community advocates."

To learn more about SafeSpace, volunteer and/or donate, please visit SafeSpace-FL.org or call Indian River: 772-569-7233.