

Luminaries

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

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Treasure Coast

SafeSpace announces 2018 volunteer awards

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At the heart of every great nonprofit organization is a group of loyal volunteers, who contribute their time, often with little fanfare, to positively impact the lives of others.

During SafeSpace's annual appreciation luncheon at Santa Lucia River Club at Ballantrae, its volunteers were honored for their efforts in saving and changing the lives of those affected by domestic violence throughout the Treasure Coast.

"Thanks to the help and support of our dedicated volunteers and staff, SafeSpace provided more than 16,000 safe nights of shelter and more than 7,500 hours of outreach services to victims and their children over the past year," said SafeSpace CEO Jill Borowicz.

The luncheon included a presentation of the Chrysalis Award to the Harbour Ridge Community in Palm City. This award is given in recognition of the transformational impact an individual or group has had on the organization.

For more than 10 years, the Harbour Ridge Gala Committee has been supporting the important work of SafeSpace through its annual dinner event. This past year was the largest and most successful event to date with over 300 residents and guests in attendance. In total the Harbour Ridge



The 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award winners, from left, Patricia Eiseman, Shauna Bledsoe, Melissa Zolla, Sharon Beauchamp representing the Harbour Ridge Community, Chelsea Rose and Joyce Page. Photo gallery on TCPalm.com. MITCH KLOORFAIN/FOR LUMINARIES

events have raised over \$725,000 for SafeSpace's domestic violence programs and services.

The Douglass & Patricia Stewart SafeSpace Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Shauna Bledsoe of Port St. Lucie. At every opportunity, Bledsoe quietly lends her time and talents to benefit SafeSpace.

Joyce Page from Water Pointe Realty Group in Stuart was recognized as the Outstanding Board Member of the Year. Her leadership and generosity have made her a valuable addition to the volunteer team and committees on which she serves.

The Martin County Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Melissa Zolla of The Firefly Group. Zolla has a true heart for the domestic violence cause, paying her personal experiences forward to make a difference in the lives of others.

Julianna Walker of the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office was the St. Lucie



Juliana Walker and Capt. Brian Hester.

County Volunteer of the Year. Walker brings greater awareness to SafeSpace's mission by garnering the participation and support of volunteers, sponsors and walkers for the annual Walk A Mile In Her Shoes events.

The Indian River County Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Chelsea Rose of Treasure & Space Coast Radio/93.7 WGYL. For Rose, giving back comes easy, and she encourages others to join her along the way. Her creative energy has led to the success of several fundraising and awareness events and proves how easily she can and will make a difference for SafeSpace and the communities it serves.

Another notable volunteer received recognition as Thrift Shoppe Volunteer of the Year. The SafeSpace Thrift Shoppe, which is a significant source of revenue for the organization and merchandise for the women and children it serves, de-



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