

We are proud to introduce you to OUR 2025 Golden Heart Nominees!

ADVOCACY:

For the individual who advocates for seniors in our community through their work making sure senior voices are heard and choices respected.

Jody Armstrong of Disability Achievement Center

Jody is a trusted leader in connecting resources to those most in need, always approaching her work with kindness and generosity. She is a fierce advocate for access to mobility aids, medical equipment, ramps, incontinence supplies, and other essentials. Her advocacy is not just about meeting needs—it's about improving quality of life and showing genuine care. A dedicated Better Living for Seniors Board member, she also volunteers at events that support older adults. Above all, Jody's compassion, commitment, and humanity shine through in every interaction, making her a treasured champion for seniors in the community.

Roberta Baer of Weinberg Village & BLS Hillsborough

Roberta's advocacy blends professional care with deeply personal care, ensuring seniors are treated with dignity, autonomy, and respect. She goes far beyond expectations—listening, guiding, and honoring individual needs—leaving families feeling heard and empowered. From helping a family navigate a memory care transition to uniting providers and community leaders countywide, her leadership expands resources, equity, and quality in senior living. Her compassion, attention to detail, and commitment to meaningful change have redefined how families experience aging in Tampa Bay. Roberta's golden heart and lasting impact make her an inspiring example of advocacy in action.

Maria Carlberg of Home Instead

Maria is a devoted advocate for seniors, ensuring their needs are met with love, kindness, and compassion. She works closely with caregivers to guarantee they provide exceptional, respectful care. Maria never gives up on anyone, going above and beyond to help, no matter the circumstance. Her dedication is unwavering, and her compassion touches everyone she serves. Known for her generous heart and relentless commitment to improving lives, Maria is more than an advocate—she is a source of comfort, dignity, and hope for countless seniors, embodying the spirit of true service and care.

Patricia Henderson of Senior Connection Center

Patricia is a trusted community advocate ensuring seniors' voices are heard and their needs are met. She champions health and wellness education, delivering 46 workshops in 2024 fostering independence and connection. Last year, Patricia and her team reached nearly 1,500 individuals and their presence at 204 events provided information on available services to more than 2,000. Her training of 400 professionals on abuse, neglect, and exploitation prevention shows her commitment to safety and dignity. Known for blending hands-on support with strategic advocacy, Patricia strengthens the well-being and dignity of our most vulnerable citizens.

Bill Humphrey of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Bill has dedicated over 24 years to tax counseling for seniors through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. Each year he leads programs to train 95+ volunteers, equipping them with the necessary skills to provide assistance to the elderly and instilling in trainees a deep commitment to service and ethical responsibility. He has personally helped hundreds of individuals each season, ensuring seniors receive their rightful benefits.

His expertise extends to complex cases, partnerships, and multi-state filings, easing financial stress for thousands. Bill's patient explanations empower seniors to manage their finances with confidence, stability, and dignity.

Lisa & Tom Moore of Moore Insurance Options

Lisa & Tom are dedicated advocates who seem to be ever-present, consistently supporting senior and veteran causes through sponsorship, volunteerism, and direct assistance. They donate generously to events like the St. Petersburg Senior Hall of Fame and personally help seniors with Medicare guidance and understanding of Medicaid reinstatement paperwork. Tom's leadership on the Mayor's Commission on Aging brings important issues to local government and they consistently advocate for better and sustainable Health Insurance Benefits for seniors and our veterans. By combining community involvement, government engagement, and hands-on assistance, this couple's dedication improves countless lives.

Pam Morreal of Medicaid 4 You

Pam is a passionate senior advocate who combines expertise with personal dedication. She listens deeply, responds quickly, and educates families to protect assets while securing the best care. Beyond professional duties, she assists with transportation, shopping, facility coordination, and emotional support, often going above and beyond to meet personal needs. She builds trust through integrity, transparency, and heartfelt service, inspiring her team and earning glowing praise from clients. By safeguarding seniors' dignity, financial security, and quality of life, Pam has become an indispensable ally and a shining example of compassionate, hands-on advocacy in the community.

Frank Pascoe of Senior Home Transitions

Frank has spent 50 years in healthcare, starting at the age of 19. The last 15 years he has dedicated himself to helping seniors and families navigate the complex process of finding the right senior living community. Through his free senior living placement service, he has guided over 500 seniors into environments that fit their needs and preferences, and have their best interests at heart. His efforts ease the stress for families and safeguard seniors' well-being. Frank's deep experience, compassion and commitment reflect a lifetime dedicated to improving quality of life for older adults in Tampa Bay.

Ron Regan of Suncoast Jazz Festival & St. Pete Jazz Festival

Ron is a passionate supporter and connector in Pinellas County's arts community, advocating for jazz, theater, and nonprofit collaboration to multiply the entertaining events available to us. He attends and promotes numerous musical concerts and social events that provide entertainment to seniors and all ages. His outgoing personality fosters cooperation among festivals like Clearwater Jazz Holiday, Suncoast Jazz Festival, and St. Petersburg Jazz Festival. Ron seems to be everywhere, strengthening cultural engagement and community connection for all of us. He is an influential advocate whose dedication enriches both the arts and the many lives they touch.

Sean Scott of Scott Law Offices

Sean is a lifelong advocate for seniors, blending legal expertise with compassion to protect their rights, assets, and well-being. He guides families through Medicaid planning, guardianship, elder abuse cases, and more—always with clarity and respect. His groundbreaking podcast educates seniors on resources, technology, and legal issues, empowering them to make informed decisions. Whether through one-on-one counsel or public education, Sean's work relieves emotional stress and eases

financial burdens while preserving dignity. His ethical commitment, innovation, and decades of service make him an exceptional voice for seniors and a trusted champion for their needs.

Debbie Yones of Voices of Hope for Aphasia

Debbie is a powerful advocate for people living with aphasia, ALS, and dementia, many of whom are seniors. Through Voices of Hope for Aphasia, she delivers programs that restore confidence, reduce isolation, and foster purpose. Her work extends to teaching future clinicians and serving in national leadership roles, influencing care on a broad scale. Debbie's impact is seen in the lives she transforms—helping individuals feel like themselves again and empowering caregivers. Her dedication, compassion, and vision have reshaped support for those with communication challenges, making her a powerful voice for dignity and inclusion.

Our 2025 Recipient of the Golden Heart for Advocacy is a TIE:

Congratulations to Roberta Baer & Debbie Yones

We would also like to recognize Lisa & Tom Moore for being nominated multiple years in different categories – we have a little something special for you to acknowledge your Golden Hearts!

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

For the activities coordinator who motivates and encourages seniors to feel valued and connected in their community.

Kevin Archibald of Aging Well Center

Kevin energizes seniors daily at the Aging Well Center and in the On Top of the World community with music-filled fitness classes at varying levels and the enthusiastic mantra of “HAVE FUN.” The classes promote physical activity, strength and stability through movement. Beyond physical health, he fosters friendships through monthly lunches to promote socialization, fun-filled outings, holiday dinners, and trips, all combating isolation and loneliness. His dedication strengthens both bodies and community bonds.

Barbara Ann Berger of Roberts Recreation Center

Barbara is a healer, teacher, author, and friend who uplifts everyone she meets with her positive influence. She leads stretch classes, especially for the elderly, to prevent stiffness and promote flexibility. She provides healing Reiki sessions and leads book study groups with guided discussions. Her community-led projects show her warmth and compassion for all. From cooking and writing to creative upcycling, she brings beauty, peace, and connection, enriching the lives of seniors and friends alike. Barbara helps us to focus on what is food in life!

Kelly Christenson of Largo Recreation Center

Kelly is a physical fitness instructor who has spent over 20 years leading senior fitness classes at the Largo Community Center and other localities. She ensures exercises are done safely and correctly to prevent injury to her students. Her caring approach, attention to detail, and making the classes fun, results in engaging classes have helped hundreds—possibly thousands—of seniors to stay active, healthy, independent and possibly, even longer lives.

Marte Clark of Drumedin

Marte leads an Intergenerational Drum Circle with that clever name of Drumedin to combine what the group does on a weekly basis with where they do it. Due to its popularity, she is leading a new drum circle at a nearby community and may expand to other locations within the area. She provides instruments, encouragement, and a welcoming space where participants make music and meaningful connections. Her joyful spirit and inclusive approach foster community, creativity, and support among seniors and all who join.

Larry Lucas, YMCA Child's Park & Gulfport Senior Center

Larry is such an amazing man, he's taught chair volleyball to seniors for over 50 years. At 88 years old, he uses his positive energy to elevate others whether it's a fun game, dance lessons, or a full-blown senior prom – he makes sure that everyone around him is having a blast! He's so helpful and generous, whenever there's a holiday, he invites all the people he's taught to come over, prepares all this food and it's amazing. He's even had a cookbook from 1980's that everyone wants but only had so many made. No one else I've met has ever reached out to embrace everyone he meets with such inclusion and joy. When it comes to connecting a community of his peers, Larry is the best!

Wendy Swertfeger of Women with Purpose & Royal Neighbors

Wendy's life is a testament to resilience and service—from overcoming a near-fatal accident to dedicating her career to teaching special needs children. Active in the Central Pinellas Chamber and as a representative of Legal Shield, she has helped many people through their services. Wendy is also a valuable member of Women with Purpose and Royal Neighbors. Her career was devoted to teaching special needs children. Now she is a dedicated volunteer at her church.

Karen Wood of Mt. Moriah AME Church

Karen's tireless volunteerism at Mt. Moriah AME Church and beyond serves the homeless, unsheltered, and seniors with compassion. She organizes food and clothing giveaways that are respectful and fair to all in need, feeds the homeless three times weekly, and ensures dignity in every act of service. She is a quiet hero whose actions speak volumes – from picking up trash to connecting with our most vulnerable seniors. Her humility, leadership, and kindness inspire all who know her.

Our 2025 Golden Heart for Community Connection is a 3-way TIE:

Congratulations to...

Kevin Archibald

Larry Lucas

Karen Wood

DIRECT CARE:

For the healthcare provider who offers hands-on services to seniors and goes above and beyond to ensure they feel cared for and respected.

Dr. John Huy of Tarpon Total Health

Dr. Huy delivers thoughtful, professional, and comprehensive care that restores mobility, relieves suffering, and improves the quality of life for his patients of all ages. He combines multiple therapies, remembers personal details, and fosters a friendly, welcoming environment. His staff reflects his commitment to teamwork and excellence, and his warm, humorous approach makes every patient's visit uplifting. He is even known for occasionally breaking out into song for his patients.

Dr. Ginger Le of Ginger Health

Dr. Le is an outstanding direct care provider who gives compassionate care along with clinical excellence to improve the health and quality of life for seniors. She advocates for her patients, educates families, and supports holistic well-being, going above and beyond her clinical duties. Her dedication to senior health is both meaningful, inspiring, and has a lasting impact within the lives of seniors and also the families who love them.

Dr. Bob Lind of Acupuncture & Herbal Remedies

Dr. Bob volunteers his services at the Sunshine Senior Center by providing expert acupuncture and Chinese medicine care to seniors who need help. His decades of experience and knowledge bridge Eastern and Western approaches to healing, for maximization and enhancement of the health and well-being of his many who are mostly older adults who come to the senior center and greatly appreciate his help. His smiling face is always welcoming and warm, his presence brings comfort, laughter, and reassurance to share with all the people he serves.

Dr. Bond Thomas of Dynamic Wellness

Dr. Bond is a St. Petersburg chiropractor who provides expert, compassionate care to seniors both in his private practice and as a volunteer serving at St. Petersburg Free Clinic. Known for his active listening and genuine concern while addressing the individual patient's physical, mental, and lifestyle factors, he fosters lasting patient relationships. A community-minded Rotarian and marathon runner, he models good health and wellness while inspires healthy living in others.

Phyllis Smith of ClareMedica of Anona

As an administrator at the clinic, Phyllis embodies compassionate leadership and advocacy for older adults. She provides personalized, dignified care while connecting deeply with patients and families. She fosters a culture of kindness for all in her clinic. Beyond her role at the clinic, she volunteers in the community, mentors healthcare professionals, and selflessly supports family and neighbors. Phyllis inspires her team, leads by example, and creates a trusted, caring environment.

Kelli Wright of Avail Home Care

Kelli exemplifies the definition of exceptional home care by consistently going above and beyond for the benefit of all of her clients. She invests her energy as she advocates tirelessly on their behalf, navigates complex family dynamics, and ensures every individual receives care marked by dignity, respect, and compassion. She consistently delivers more than what's expected. Her dedication transforms her work into a mission of meaningful service, one client at a time.

Iris Yasso of Empath Hospice

Iris is a hospice caregiver who demonstrates extraordinary compassion and respect in her direct care for seniors. She skillfully encourages cooperation while preserving dignity and providing calm, personalized support to her patient. Beyond providing that level of care, she

communicates attentively with families, ensuring peace of mind. Her natural ability to connect and comfort makes her an exceptional presence in her patients' final days, both for them and their family.

Our 2025 recipient of the Golden Heart for Direct Care is: Iris Yasso!

FAMILY CARE:

For the family caregiver who goes out of their way to ensure their loved one lives a life filled with love, purpose, and connectivity.

Ann Dingman of Voices of Hope for Aphasia

After her husband suffered a massive stroke in 2004, AD devoted herself to his care, raising their children and ensuring he receives the best therapies. She became a passionate advocate for aphasia, volunteering with Voices of Hope for Aphasia by organizing events, raising awareness, mentoring families, and providing hands-on support. Beyond her family, Ann extends her caregiving to others in need, supporting individuals with aphasia, dementia, and stroke, while advocating for veterans. Her unwavering compassion, advocacy, and dedication make her an invaluable caregiver.

Letty Mendoza of Sunshine Senior Center

Letty exemplifies caregiving through her selfless support of a fellow Sunshine Center member, treating him like family. She ensures his engagement in activities, assists with medical challenges, and prioritizes his well-being, often setting aside her own needs. Beyond caregiving, Letty enriches the community with her performances, camaraderie, and dedication to the theater program. Her compassion, enthusiasm, and quiet yet profound impact embodies the spirit of care and connection.

It's no surprise that BOTH of these lovely women are receiving a Golden Heart for Family Care this year!

LEADERSHIP:

For the individual who inspires, guides and supports others around them to be their best selves while serving our senior community.

Wallace “Tal” Bratton of Better Living for Seniors Pinellas Silver Santas

Tal stepped up to modernize a wonderful program and major project known as the Silver Santas directed by a BLS committee. He implemented a 21st century digital system that doubled its reach to serve 1,700 seniors annually with a Christmas gift that shows seniors they are not forgotten. His leadership extends to feeding the homeless, securing \$45,000 in grants for school food pantries, and actively supporting the arts. Tal combines technical skill with hands-on community service.

Ada del-Gais of Tarpon Springs Shepherd Center

As Executive Director of Tarpon Springs Shepherd Center, Ada uses her leadership skills to continually expand programs that provide housing, financial aid, employment resources, and veteran support to those in need. Ada’s leadership has transformed the lives of countless individuals with help when and where they needed it most. Her vision, partnerships, and advocacy have transformed lives, especially for seniors facing hardship after recent storms, fostering dignity and lasting change.

William “Bill” Herrmann of AARP Speakers Bureau

A dedicated AARP Florida volunteer, Bill has worn many hats as a leader. Currently he is the lead volunteer at the Speakers Bureau for Pinellas County and he has served as an Instructor in a Driver Safety program. Bill advocates for seniors because he is personally guided by the principle “To serve, not to be served.” His leadership is rooted in a generous heart, an unwavering commitment, and a willingness to lend his time and talents to benefit others.

Bernadette Homan of Arden Courts Largo & Seminole

Bernadette stands out because she makes the difficult seem easy. She is compassionate in her work, well-connected as a leader in the healthcare industry, and also an exceptional host, known for always making every event successful and every engagement run seamlessly. Bernadette is the “go to” person with the answer to whatever it is that you need. Her ability to unite people and create welcoming, productive environments exemplifies strong, people-centered leadership.

Robin Ingles of Seniors in Service

As CEO of Seniors in Service since 2019, Robin has used her skills to not only lead, but to uplift, inspire, transform, and expand the volunteer ranks from 500 to more than 1,900 senior volunteers serving across Tampa Bay. She launched six initiatives tackling senior loneliness, and transformed the organization’s culture. Robin’s bold, compassionate leadership stood out during COVID-19 created enduring programs, positioning senior volunteers as empowered change-makers in our communities.

Belinda Leto of Celebrate Birthdays

Belinda has served our local communities as a nurse for 23 years, but now she cares for others through her home health profession. She also founded the nonprofit organization Celebrate Birthdays to bring joy to over 6,550 children in need. Belinda also uplifts seniors by visiting facilities year-round with treats, activities, and intergenerational connections. Her leadership blends compassion with community engagement, and tireless service to both older adults and youth.

Rachael Page of Lasagna Love

As a volunteer and an extraordinary Chef & Team Leader for LasagnaLove.org serving in the Tampa Bay area, Rachael has personally delivered 66 lasagnas and leads a team of 100 chefs who make the 60 meals weekly, with more than half of them delivered to our older adults. She also hosts fun parties to make lasagna, inspires volunteers to participate, and fosters kindness through the non-profit's organization's mission of feeding families and strengthening communities.

Barry Rubin

As President & CEO of the Pinellas Beaches Chamber of Commerce, Barry leads impactful community relief efforts through the Chamber's Philanthropic Hand Up Pinellas Committee. In partnership with organizations, such as Daystar Life Center, his committee provided food and gifts to thousands of people impacted by hurricanes. Active on multiple boards, he champions causes from animal welfare to disability services, earning recognition as one of Florida's most influential leaders over 50.

Our 2025 recipient of the Golden Heart Award for Leadership is

Tal Bratton – Congratulations!

SPirit:

For the individual who uses their influence and enthusiasm to encourage others to focus on the positive and enjoy interacting with the senior community.

John Greenburg of the Hale Senior Center

John is known as the “Ambassador” of Dunedin’s Hale Senior Activity Center. He volunteers to welcome visitors, facilitate support for the center and its discussion groups, while he also connects seniors with resources they need. His daily presence at the center, his efforts at community outreach, and warm conversations foster friendship, belonging, and engagement for seniors throughout Dunedin. John’s generosity always brings joy and positivity to our seniors every day.

Denise Jones of Arlington Arbor Apartments

Known as a constant helper at Arlington Arbor Apartments, Denise also assists the community at the food pantry, helps at events like bingo or wherever a hand may be needed. Guided by faith and grace, she uplifts the neighbors around her on a daily basis. Denise embodies a spirit of generosity and kindness in everything she does. She has a heart of gold and goes above and beyond to support others.

Kathryn Larkin of Better Living for Seniors Pinellas

From Big Sister mentor to Meals on Wheels volunteer, Kathryn is passionate about the issues that matter most and brings high energy and dedication to her community service. As Membership Chair for Better Living for Seniors, an organization existing to help seniors, she restored membership back up to-COVID levels, greeting each newcomer with her warmth and humor. Kathryn’s spirit strengthens this senior services network and all the lives it touches.

Kamran Rouhani of Cole Link Foundation

Founder of the nonprofit Cole Link Foundation, Kam responds to disasters by meeting the needs of veterans, our seniors, and the residents of our communities. After hurricanes last year, he mobilized vehicles and

opened facilities to serve as safe spaces and logistical hubs to get essential items to those affected as quickly as possible. His leadership includes year-round acts of service that embody resilience, generosity, and the belief that one committed person can make a lasting difference.

Carmen Ruiz of Seniors in Service

A retired nurse and Senior Companion volunteer, Carmen not only gives her time, but offers her heart to isolated seniors to bring them the dignity, joy, and human connection that we all need to be validated. Known for her gentle spirit and thoughtful gestures, which include artwork like hand-drawn portraits, Carmen is able to transform her visits into moments of hope, proving that presence can be the most powerful gift of all.

Gina Santamaria of Tango House

A dancer, choreographer, and advocate, Gina transforms lives through the healing power of movement. She offers free classes for seniors, including those with Parkinson's disease, arranging transportation and fostering community. Accredited in "Dance for PD," she blends joy, therapy, and social connection, even choreographing inclusive senior productions at the Sunshine Center in St. Petersburg. With warmth and generosity, she turns limitations into laughter, self-doubt into pride, and isolation into belonging.

Rosalyn Savel of West Coast Players

With more than six decades of active involvement in theater, Rosalyn brings her passion, leadership skills, and joy in theater arts to the stage and beyond. As a longtime board member and dedicated volunteer coordinator for West Coast Players, she inspires all ages within our communities, across generations, proving that enthusiasm and creativity have no age limit. Her talent and time are given generously and always with a gracious smile.

Our 2025 recipient of the Golden Heart Award for Spirit is

...you guessed it, A TIE! Congratulations Carmen Ruiz & Gina Santamaria

VOLUNTEERISM:

For the individual who dedicates their time to volunteer specifically with seniors and makes an outstanding difference in their lives.

Kitty Anderson of SIS Operation Veteran Connect

Through 1,200+ volunteer hours with the Operation Veteran Connect program, Kitty has served aging veterans with compassion and advocacy as many are isolated and have to struggle to navigate complex systems to learn about benefits. Her quick action during a veteran's mental health crisis led to a life-saving intervention and a VA policy change, ensuring no veteran in crisis is turned away. She is a beacon of hope and change.

Larry Brooks of Better Living for Seniors Hillsborough

Army veteran and retired Delta Airlines employee, Larry has spent decades fundraising, donating, and volunteering for causes benefiting seniors, cancer patients, students, veterans, and animals. He took on a second career to work as a licensed consultant in reverse mortgages for the purpose of helping seniors remain in their homes. From baking 500 cheesecakes for charity to awarding scholarships and serving on multiple boards, he is a one-man powerhouse for good.

June Bucy of Gulfport Community Players *(in memoriam)*

June embodied commitment, dependability, and kindness, always going the extra mile. For over 12 years with the Gulfport Community Players, she stage-managed about 72 productions, from small plays to musicals, and served as a beloved "backstage mom." Retired from her business career, she never retired from giving her time—making coffee at auditions, greeting everyone with warmth, and ensuring the theater was safe and secure. Famous for her hugs, June was often the first to arrive and the last to leave, creating a lasting mark on all who worked alongside her.

Ron Haddad of Greater Tarpon Springs Community Council

Founder of the Greater Tarpon Springs Community Council, Ron connects resources to those in need, from housing to disaster support. This council resulted from his relationship with Habitat for Humanity and his selfless acts of kindness to the homeless, elderly, disabled veterans, and others. Active in multiple civic and faith groups, such as the Martin Luther King Jr Foundation, he champions unity, honors first responders, and builds lasting community bonds through tireless service and compassion.

Bill Hyde of Junior-Seniors at Play

Despite severe dyslexia, Bill performs twice monthly at senior centers, bringing laughter, games, and dancing to Meals-on-Wheels clients. Before and during the show, he sings, tells jokes, and leads “thinking” games. His courage to perform despite a lifelong disability and language challenges inspires joy and admiration, proving volunteerism is about heart, not perfection. Bill is a board member of Hillsborough BLS, Faces of Courage, and a member of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

John Killeen of Gulfport Senior Center & BLS Pinellas

John serves on the board of the Gulfport Senior Center and Co-Chairs both the 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer’s and the Silver Santa’s program with Pinellas BLS. John is also a member of the Pinellas Park Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Tierra Verde, and other professional organizations. He fundraises for senior programs, delivers thousands of holiday gifts to isolated seniors, and often provides pro bono housing guidance. His compassion and dedication improve countless lives daily.

Pierre LaMonde of Daystar Life Center

Pierre lends his voice to St. Mary’s Choir in downtown St Petersburg and gives his time and talent to performances throughout the year, especially during the Christmas Holidays. He organizes Silver Santa Tree Captains to

deliver over 1,700 holiday gift bags to seniors. Several days each week, Pierre makes runs to collect donated bread for the Day Star Life Center Food Pantry. His consistent provision of hands-on service uplifts the most vulnerable in our community.

Sharon Olsen of SIS Operation Veteran Connect

A cancer survivor, Sharon turned to volunteering as a way to heal and also found her calling. She devotes herself to serving isolated seniors and veterans through Operation Veteran Connect and Health Buddies. She spends hours daily helping veterans to navigate benefits, offering companionship to the homebound, and providing hands-on support to those in need. Inspired by her veteran daughter, she turns personal loss into compassionate service that restores dignity and connection.

Kathy Rollock of Church Women United

Through Church Women United, an inclusive ecumenical movement, Kathy supports local missions for the common good and acts to empower women of all ages across Pinellas County. Missions included in their support are the Willa Carson Health & Wellness Center, Hope Villages of America, and Habitat for Humanity, just to name a few. Her own faith-driven service, united with this movement, uplifts neighbors near and far.

Keith Smith of SIS Operation Veteran Connect

Keith, a Vietnam War combat veteran, has channeled his courage into a deeply personal calling to volunteerism as a way to help his fellow veterans through Operation Veteran Connect, in partnership with Seniors in Service. With Keith's help, VA benefits, sourcing of bikes, furnishings for transitional housing, and aid for disaster recovery is secured. A national Service Year Alums Award recipient, Keith has supported nearly 150 veterans in a year, embodying humility, empathy, and tireless dedication to service.

Sheelagh Wallis of St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church

For 35 years, Sheelagh has been joyfully volunteering at St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church. She also volunteers at the Seminole Community Library in the book shop, as a Library board member, and an excellent party planner for Friends of the Seminole Library events. Known for her consistently cheerful disposition, Sheelagh uplifts seniors and youth alike, approaching every task with unmatched work ethic, a smile, and a song in her heart.

Our 2025 Golden Heart Awards for Volunteerism go to:

Sharon Olsen & June Bucy

THANK YOU TO EVERY GOLDEN HEART IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT...

KEEP SHINING BRIGHT!