

Sun-Sentinel

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EDITORIALS

Compassionate South Floridians deserve awards, congratulations

It is a common misconception among many readers that newspapers only publish "bad" news. But stories on two successive days this week illustrated the good that can be accomplished by South Floridians who are determined to make a difference.

Caridad Asensio, a 64-year-old Boca Raton resident who has devoted nearly two decades to helping migrant workers, was named one of 18 national winners of the President's Service Award. On Thursday, she received a golden medalion from President Bill Clinton at the White House.

Asensio's fellow resident of Boca Raton, 17-year-old Eric Perlyn, comes from a very different social and economic background but shares her commitment to improving the lot of less-fortunate people. Also on Thursday, Perlyn received a J.C. Penney



Asensio



Perlyn

Golden Rule Award for his five-year effort to provide shoes to poor children in Broward County.

Asensio was honored for founding the Migrant Association of Southern Florida, which has organized the donation of 132 mobile homes as permanent housing for farmworker families since 1989. Three years ago, she also founded the Caridad Health Clinic west of Boynton Beach.

Perlyn began his charitable campaign five years ago when he bought shoes with money he had received for his bar mitzvah and gave them to children at the Children's Home Society in Broward.

Since then, he has solicited donations from shoe stores and distributed more than 1,500 pairs to poor children.

Asensio and Perlyn have followed different paths to the same worthy objective of a more caring community. Congratulations!