

The Good Hands Florida Volunteer of the Year Awards are presented annually to individuals who have performed outstanding volunteer service in their communities. This year, Allstate Insurance Company and the Florida Commission on Community Service honor nine Floridians who have made a difference in the lives of our youth.



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SERVE

Siblings Eric and Amanda Perlyn are co-coordinators of Stepp'n Up, a program that provides shoes to needy children. In 1992, Eric bought shoes for six needy children with his bar mitzvah money. From this humble beginning, Stepp'n Up has grown to donate more than 9,000 pairs of shoes to Florida children, received numerous state and national volunteerism awards, helped established several other youth-run volunteer organizations, and even inspired a Palm Beach county philanthropist's \$10 million dollar donation to the University of Miami School of Medicine.

Eric is a sophomore at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina and is organizing a Stepp'n Up chapter in his school's community. Amanda, 15, is a sophomore at Spanish River Community School in Fort Lauderdale. In addition to managing the South Florida chapter of Stepp'n Up, Amanda founded and manages To Have and To Hug, a nonprofit corporation that provides stuffed animals to thousands of sick, abused, and disadvantaged Florida children.

Bess Lander "Budd" Bell has spent 30 years in Florida working on issues that concern children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. In 1976, Bell formed the Clearinghouse on Human Service, an advocacy coalition that has grown into a network of 135 organizations dedicated to improving the lives of all Floridians. She has been a tireless volunteer lobbyist, working year-round for laws to protect and provide for Florida's disadvantaged citizens.

Bell lives in Tallahassee, where she is an adjunct professor at The Florida State University School of Social Work. She has received numerous prestigious awards for community service, including honorariums from the Florida Senate and Gov. Lawton Chiles. She has been a board member of many statewide committees and holds a Master's in Social Work from the University of Toronto.

TEACH

Victoria Evelyn Villalba is the founder and manager of Preparing Youth for Industry, a unique, volunteer teaching program at Turner Technical

Arts High School in Miami. Preparing Youth for Industry reduces school drop-out rates while giving students practical knowledge of the business world. By teaching students basic business skills like self-assurance, goal setting, how to develop a résumé, and interview techniques, Preparing Youth for Industry helps encourage students to stay in school, graduate, and become valuable members of the American work force.

Villalba lives in Miramar with her 10-year-old daughter. She is president of Victoria & Associates Personnel Services, an employment agency with offices in Miami and Miramar.

PROTECT

Sisters of Respect provides a safe, protective meeting place for at-risk children in Clearwater. The two-year-old social service program was developed and organized through the creative vision of Cheryl Wade, Rhonda Cole, Psalms Mack, and Debra Dorsett. These four women meet with elementary and middle school females, age 10 to 15, in a weekly roundtable discussion group. The discussion group gives the girls access to a caring adult who will listen to their problems, offer personal advice, and serve as positive role models. Sisters of Respect has generously funded their program from their own personal resources. In just two years, they have helped dozens of Clearwater girls adopt a positive, healthy attitude and lifestyle.

Charles "Uncle Charlie" Deberry has volunteered 20 hours per week for the last 18 years at the Orange County Juvenile Detention Center. He has been a foster grandfather for thousands of young people with no father figure to turn to in time of need. Deberry has often been the only caring adult the youths have ever met, single-handedly combating the risk factors of poverty, a broken family, poor education, and a high-crime environment with a little mentorship, understanding, and sound moral advice.

Deberry was born on December 25, 1900. He lives in Orlando, where he has been a mainstay of the Foster Grandparent organization for nearly two decades. He has received accolades from the Florida Senate and former first lady Barbara Bush for his outstanding commitment to Florida's children.

ERIC PERLYN
Serve



AMANDA PERLYN
Serve



BUDD BELL
Nurture



VICTORIA E. VILLALBA
Teach



CHERYL WADE
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RHONDA COLE
Protect



PSALMS MACK
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DEBRA DORSETT
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CHARLES DEBERRY
Mentor

