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Gulf Coast JFCS to Award Dynamic Duo with Lifetime Achievement Award.

Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services (Gulf Coast JFCS) will present the “Lifetime Achievement Award” to Brent and Debbie Sembler in honor of their service and philanthropy. The Award will be presented at the agency’s annual signature fundraising event, FACES, on November 5, 2019 at the Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park. Described by Ambassador Mel and Mrs. Betty Sembler as, “a dynamic duo that you can count on,” Brent and Debbie Sembler bring a compassionate outlook to the projects they support.

Brent and Debbie Sembler are advocates for numerous causes. Education and the support of Holocaust survivors are a common theme. Their support for University of South Florida (USF) is evident in the naming of the Debbie Nye Sembler Student Success Center in St. Petersburg, Florida. They also fund the Debbie and Brent Sembler Florida Holocaust Museum Lecture Series, which provides an annual lecture through a partnership between USF and the Florida Holocaust Museum. The partnership between the museum and the University allows them to alternate between lectures and events focused specifically on the Holocaust, and events that deal with broader issues of tolerance, respect, and human rights.

Brent Sembler shares, “Gulf Coast JFCS provides a direct benefit to the community.” Brent’s involvement with Gulf Coast JFCS began with an interest in its Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program (NCPEP) in 1994. He saw the program through his business lens and appreciated that with every dollar spent on NCPEP, the state receives an average of \$3 back in the form of child support payments. The return on investment equates to more than \$4 million per year.

Debbie Sembler enjoys supporting the Holocaust Survivor Program at Gulf Coast JFCS. She has provided for the survivors in a variety of ways from hosting celebratory luncheons, to funding the ability for survivors to receive television programming in their native language. Debbie believes it is important for survivors to have the ability to, “stay connected to the world.”

Tickets to attend and support FACES are available at www.gcjfcs.org.

Gulf Coast JFCS is a non-religious social services agency. The agency’s significant portfolio of programs support children, families, and individuals in the areas of child welfare, behavioral and mental health, Jewish Family Services and Holocaust survivors, refugee resettlement & support for survivors of torture, elder services and employment services. Gulf Coast JFCS supports more than 30,000 Floridians annually, from all backgrounds, across its 40-county service area.

Learn more about Gulf Coast JFCS at <https://gulfcoastjewishfamilyandcommunityservices.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/GulfCoastJFCS/>

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