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Gulf Coast JFCS and the Heart Gallery to Award Dr. Biddleman with “Diane Granito Heart of Gold Award” Feb 13

Gulf Coast JFCS and the Heart Gallery will honor Dr. Marcie Biddleman with the “Diane Granito Heart of Gold Award” at their annual Heartstrings Luncheon February 13, 2020 at Feather Sound Country Club. Diane Granito established the first Heart Gallery in 2001 to raise awareness about adoption and to find homes for older children and sibling groups in protective custody. She developed the idea from photographer (and adoptive mother) Cathy Maier, to have talented photographers create inspiring portraits of children awaiting adoption. The community’s energy and generosity created an impetus which resulted in Heart Galleries opening nationwide.

The “Diane Granito Heart of Gold Award” recognizes an outstanding community leader who strengthens the lives of children and families. Gulf Coast JFCS Chief Operating Officer, Terri Balliet shares, “Dr. Biddleman is an icon in this community as she has touched the lives of so many children, families, and social workers... The Gulf Coast JFCS Heart Gallery connects children to forever families and Dr. Biddleman is a great advocate.”

Community leaders agree that Dr. Biddleman’s ability to collaborate and bring diverse groups together has benefit children and families. Judge Patricia Moore attributes Dr. Biddleman’s success to the joy Dr. Biddleman received from her family and upbringing. Moore shares, “Dr. Biddleman bridges the gap between providers and Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) members. She brings excellence to all she does, and the ‘Heart of Gold’ fits her.”

The Heartstrings Luncheon will also provide a chance for attendees to learn about the latest developments with the Heart Gallery. It will showcase a new digital Heart Gallery of local children who are looking for a forever family. Raffle items include a stay at a Colorado Condo with airline travel, Tampa Bay Rays Suite, a 2-night weekend stay at the Hilton – Carillon St. Pete, and a day of golf at the Feather Sound Country Club. Event details including sponsorship and tickets are available online at:

<https://gulfcoastjewishfamilyandcommunityservices.org/heartstrings/>

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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