

Volunteer Awards

Dave Rowland

Heart of Gold Award

Dave can claim what most of us cannot. This extraordinary volunteer walked in thousands of little people's shoes when he stepped up to help F&CS during our annual Moody's Back-to-School Shoe Drive.

Several times a week, he picked up hundreds of pairs of new children's shoes from 11 different Moody's locations and brought them back to our Central Office for distribution. There he would unload the shoes and sort them by size and gender for our staff to give to their clients.

This daunting task was done with a smile and with kind words, and it wasn't long before staff looked forward to the days that "Dave the Shoe Man" made his deliveries. Dave also enlisted his wife as a shopper to purchase shoes with donated funds. We're not sure how we would have ever implemented this project without him.

Dave exemplifies volunteer excellence and we are honored to present him with the volunteer Heart of Gold Award.

Mary Frances White

Youth Heart of Gold Award

Most teenagers can't wait to get their hands on the trendiest gadgets or coolest fashions during the holiday season. But not Mary Frances White.

This Holland Hall freshman saved 18 months of allowance and asked relatives to send her money instead of presents for Christmas — all to be spent on items for our Holiday Assistance Program. Her generosity brought several large bins of presents to our Santa Shop.

What touched us the most was the altruism behind her gesture. Mary Frances said, "I've had 14 holidays with stuff I don't need, but these kids have never had anything for Christmas."

Mary Frances has learned at a tender young age that fulfillment is most often obtained by helping others. Her generosity of spirit serves as an inspiration for us all. We are privileged to know you and to have been the recipients of your very special heart of gold.

Molly Berger, Carol Mandlebaum, Debbye Zanerhaft:

Women In Recovery Knitters

You Make a Difference Award

Knitting...the new therapy! It's critical to teach women in recovery how to fill time that was once consumed with drug and alcohol usage...and that is just what our recovery knitters are doing. Every Friday, these volunteers pull out their yarn and knitting needles to teach the women how to knit with yarn while the women work hard to knit their lives back together. We are grateful for the unique contributions you make.

Vicky Casey

You Make a Difference Award

Vicky has been a devoted volunteer of Family & Children's Services for many, many years. Whether she's serving on the Brainiac Ball committee, contributing food to our homeless program or adopting families for our Holiday Assistance Program, Vicky is always there to take on anything that's needed. We are honoring Vicky this year for her long time dedication and volunteer service to F&CS.

Dollar Thrifty: Chris Payne & Vicki Vaniman

You Make a Difference Award

DTAG has been a corporate friend of the agency for over a decade. In 2006 Vicki Vaniman, chief counsel for Dollar Thrifty, became a member of our Board of Directors. Since then DTAG and their employees have taken charge of our Annual Sexual Abuse Treatment Program holiday party providing volunteers, funds, gifts, games and their very own Santa. DTAG has also been a long time supporter of our special event Brainiac Ball. For that and more we recognize DTAG for making a difference.

Laura Mantooth

You Make a Difference Award

In the last year alone, Laura has served as Brainiac Ball co-chair, volunteered for Care Card, shopped for our Holiday Assistance Program families and spent countless hours setting up and selling merchandise at the annual Abersons & Friends Warehouse Sale — a sale which can be quite the madhouse. Yes, whenever we need her, Laura is there with a helping hand exemplifying excellence in volunteer service.

Adam Robinson

You Make a Difference Award

All our board members do extraordinary things for the agency and if time permitted we would recognize them all. This year we honor one particular board member — Adam Robinson, an exceptional fundraiser and difference maker. Over seven years ago, Adam became interested in exploring ways to engage younger donors. His ingenuity led to his creating the Ice Ball New Year's Eve special event for F&CS. His idea has stood the test of time, and he has been involved with the event ever since. We thank him for this and for chairing the event this year.

Bryan Tosh, Midtown Martial Arts

You Make a Difference Award

Bryan's goal was to teach his martial arts students the importance of giving, philanthropy and responsibility. He created "Board Break-A-Thon" event in which each student earned pledge money for every board they broke using martial arts skills. All proceeds were used to buy gifts for our Holiday Assistance Program. We honor you today for not only the funds you raised, but for the greater life values of giving back you imparted to your students.

Community Partner Awards

World of Difference Award

Since 1905 The Tulsa World has provided our community with journalism excellence. Not only has the Tulsa World been intricately involved in our community through its print media of the news and issues of the day, but its owners, the Lorton family, have invested their resources into our great City, helping Tulsa to become one of the nation's "Most livable cities," and a place many of us are proud to call home.

For many of our past 85 years the Tulsa World has partnered with Family & Children's Services, being an unwavering partner in our mission to support families, children and individuals suffering from abuse, trauma, lack of knowledge, or mental health issues.

Whether it's donating advertising space so our events are a success, sponsoring a major fundraiser or writing stories about our programs, and other critical issues facing our community, the Tulsa World devotedly promotes our agency and our mission. Even their employees have caught the F&CS spirit, winning two trivia team titles at Brainiac Ball.

Thank you, Tulsa World. You truly make a “World of Difference” to Family & Children's Services and the Tulsa community.

Bikes for Tykes

You Make a Difference Award

Jason Whorton and Tommy Chavez had a mission last holiday season for children in need to wake up to their dream gift. Their non-profit, Bikes for Tykes of Tulsa, donated more than 30 new bicycles and safety gear to our Holiday Assistance Program. This gift not only brought fun into kids’ lives, but it also increased self-confidence. Jason and Tommy also donated several bikes to the Women in Recovery program.

FMS, Inc., John Sowers

You Make a Difference Award

Over the last two years, John Sowers has donated 3,000 pounds of food to our mental health programs. This year, his goal is to increase that number to 5,000 pounds. These donations change the lives of our clients. Without hunger as an obstacle, they are able to focus on their mental health and their recovery.

L-3 Communications, Scott Gillman

You Make a Difference Award

For the last 13 years, we’ve had a constant leading light in our Holiday Assistance program — Scott Gillman. Scott and his company, L-3, have been committed each and every year to identifying a family in need and then engaging his workforce into providing a memorable and joyous holiday for a Tulsa family. Thank you for turning a time of despair into a time of happiness for so many of our clients. Your work really does make a difference.

Petty’s Fine Foods, Scott Petty

You Make a Difference Award

For many years, Petty’s Fine Foods has generously allowed us to promote the Care Card on their shopping bags. This year, they also became one of our 190 Care Card merchants. Scott Petty even went so far as to develop a special bar code for each Care Card so they could be scanned through registers at the checkout. Scott’s unbridled enthusiasm for this project makes him stand out as a champion of our community.

QuikTrip

You Make a Difference Award

For the last two years, nearly 300 families have enjoyed a delicious dinner at our Family Sexual Abuse & Trauma Program’s annual holiday party, thanks to generous donations from QuikTrip. Today, we would like to recognize QuikTrip for consistently supplying us with in-kind products and supporting the printing of F&CS Quick Tips for the last 10 years.

World Travel

You Make a Difference Award

World Travel has been tremendously generous with sponsorships over the last five years, providing airfare and arranging trips for some of our biggest fundraisers. We are grateful for Diane Eaton’s board involvement. Such staunch and loyal support of our agency makes a difference at our fundraisers and to our clients.

Program Partner Awards

Shining Star Award

Mike Brose, Mental Health Association in Tulsa

Mike is a champion for the mentally ill and homeless populations in Tulsa. He continually works to keep the public and legislature informed about mental health issues so that this population can be better understood and better served. F&CS has enjoyed a decade-long dynamic collaboration with Mike and his agency. This partnership has transformed our work serving the homeless mentally ill.

Because of Mike's leadership, Tulsa is one of the few communities in the country that have a full continuum of housing options for the homeless mentally ill.

Mike works fervently with The Building Tulsa Building Lives initiative to eradicate homelessness. MHAT'S vigorous quest to secure adequate residential facilities and supportive housing for this population in and of itself is deserving of our highest admiration.

I shudder to think how our work would be compromised if we could only provide mental health treatment and then had to send many of our consumers back onto the streets. This partnership has given F&CS the chance to provide real recovery opportunities.

MHAT has been successful in obtaining several federal grants working with the homeless population over the years and contracting out the mental health services to us. This combination of effort is what brings about sustaining change for those we serve.

Thank you, Mike for focusing foremost on advancing the good of the community and for partnering with Family & Children's Services for the people we serve.

You have worked against often enormous odds to empower people and give them a place to call home. To seize control of their own destinies. You've done it with energy, humility and passion, serving the community with distinction... You truly are one of Tulsa's shining stars.

Kelly Johnson

You Make a Difference Award

Kelly has had a longstanding relationship with F&CS during her 18-year career with DHS. Under her leadership, Kelly makes certain child abuse and trauma clients receive the best possible services. Her dedication and enthusiasm have also made her the top candidate for our Learning Collaborative and acts as a liaison between our agency and DHS staff. Please join us in thanking Kelly for commitment to a true partnership.

Q2

You Make a Difference Award

Over the years, F&CS has been fortunate to be awarded a significant number of federal grants which require rigorous program research evaluation provided by our partner Q2 consulting. Evaluation is no easy task. It requires a steadfast partnership to work side by side through all stages of federal grant awards. Their professional contributions and adaptability to work across all programs allows us to compete for federal awards and bring evidence based programs to the agency...You truly make a difference.

Kathryn Rawlings

You Make a Difference Award

Kathryn has enthusiastically partnered with us to build a solid bridge between F&CS Mental Health Care and Tulsa Center for Behavioral Health to assist consumers to smoothly transition from inpatient care to F&CS outpatient services. Kathryn's passion for making recovery a reality for the consumer led to a unique service delivery model housing F&CS clinical staff on-site in the hospital to provide successful transition planning. We applaud her for being such a difference maker.

Mark Reynolds

You Make a Difference Award

Dr. Mark Reynolds, data projects manager for the department of mental health and substance abuse, brings DATA to new dimensions. We like to think of Mark as a DATA TAMER! He makes complex INFORMATION easy to digest so agencies like ours can actually use it to drive decisions promoting quality care. His patient and calming temperament, along with a steady supply of professional consultation have helped our staff advance their knowledge and application of statistics. Mark, we appreciate all you have done to support, educate and inspire. You are a DMH treasure and SUCH a pleasure to work with...congratulations.

Laura Schiewe

You Make a Difference Award

As the court liaison for mental health court, Laura serves with compassion as the bridge between the court and mental health providers. Her relentless advocacy for our consumers strengthens their path toward recovery. We are privileged to work with such a consummate professional and are pleased to honor her with this award.