



SAPPHIRE

A W A R D S

May 4, 2022

The Sapphire Awards

The Sapphire Awards honor, through a competitive external review process, outstanding programs, organizations, and individuals whose services are distinguished by exemplary leadership, innovation, and documented impacts in Health Equity.

Since 2005, a total of 123 Sapphire Awards totaling more than \$5.9 million have been presented to programs, organizations and individuals across Florida.

2022 Sapphire Awards Finalists

(listed in alphabetical order)

PROGRAMS



ICU Baby – Transportation Assistance Program

Miami, Miami-Dade County

ICU Baby is the largest volunteer-based, nonprofit organization in Florida that supports families with a baby in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), providing families with informational, emotional, and financial support while their critically ill or premature newborn is in intensive care. The guiding vision for the Transportation Assistance Program is that no parent should be unable to be with their medically fragile, newborn baby because they don't have a ride or gas money.



University of Florida – Mobile Outreach Clinic (MOC)

Gainesville, Alachua County

The MOC has 11 years of providing best practice medical care and social service care coordination at no cost to low-income citizens without health insurance in North Central Florida. In 2021, the program increased access to telehealth, built a "street medicine program" to provide care for the unsheltered homeless, increased the number of community health workers, and continued its daily clinic care.

ORGANIZATIONS



Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center (CDTC)

Fort Lauderdale, Broward County

CDTC works to mitigate disparities experienced by the families of children and youth with special needs and helps improve health-related outcomes through high quality, accessible care and supportive services. Their family-centered wraparound services include: Early Steps for babies and toddlers; a primary medical and dental clinic for children and youth; and a comprehensive family AIDS program. All services are provided regardless of ability to pay. More than 11,000 children and youth with special health care needs are served annually.



IDignity

Orlando, Orange County

IDignity addresses a root cause of poverty and the ability to achieve economic self-sufficiency by compassionately assisting Central Florida's poor and disadvantaged in navigating the complex process of obtaining various forms of legal identification. Through collaborations with government agencies, churches, businesses, nonprofits, and the community, they have assisted over 24,000 unique individuals at no cost to the individual.



Pathlight HOME (Grand Avenue Economic Community Development)

Orlando, Orange County

Grand Avenue Economic Community Development Corporation, doing business as Pathlight HOME, has been creating new solutions for health and social problems affecting Central Florida's most vulnerable residents. For nearly 30 years, they have provided affordable, supportive housing, a culinary skills training program, case management, behavioral counseling, and an employment center on site. They pioneered the transformation of former motel properties into affordable efficiency units of supportive housing. They have assisted more than 7,000 people who have experienced homelessness.

INDIVIDUALS



Mia Jones

CEO, Agape Community Health Center

Jacksonville, Duval County

Mia Jones, CEO of Agape Community Health Center, is a proven community champion dedicated to ending health inequities in her community and beyond. A former Jacksonville City Council member and Florida State Representative, her life work has been focused on improving health equity to ensure access and opportunity for disadvantaged populations. Throughout her career, she has advocated for more services in community health centers and in public schools. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jones convinced the city and state to allow Agape to manage additional COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites, including mobile centers on buses, to ensure that access was available for those who may not have had access.



Sonjia Kenya, EdD, MS, MA

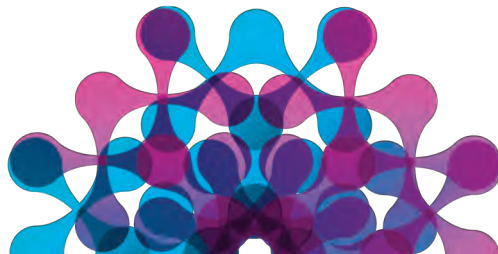
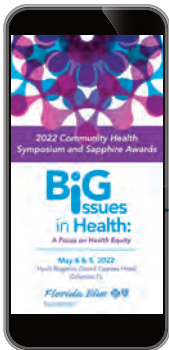
**Associate Professor of General Medicine and Public Health Sciences
University of Miami**

Miami, Miami-Dade County

Driven by her belief that achieving health equity requires ongoing, meaningful input from populations suffering the greatest health problems, Dr. Kenya partners with community members to develop culturally-acceptable health care delivery models. She leverages her role as an associate professor of medicine to amplify the perspective of vulnerable populations by engaging community stakeholders in training graduate health students and clinicians about strategies to deliver effective care and reduce HIV disparities among high-risk Floridians.



The hand-blown glass sculptures used for the Sapphire Award Trophy are created by Nathan Nardi, a glass artist and sculptor based in Decatur, Georgia. When originally commissioned in 2005, Nardi was a glassblowing instructor at Jacksonville University.



Let's get social!
#Sapphire2022

For more information on the Finalists and the Community Health Symposium, use the QR code.



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this event!**

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Florida Blue 
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