



Boca Raton Forum

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015

VOL. 26 NO. 41

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ON THE SPOT



As chairman of the Boca West Foundation board, why are you receiving the top honor from Florence Fuller Child Development Centers this year?

Florence Fuller is one of our children's charities. We underwrite the cost of a health supervisor on their West Boca campus who sits with parents and tells them how keep their children healthy, what signs to look for, when to go an emergency room and when there's no need for it.

What else are you doing for Florence Fuller?

They're having a build at the west campus for desperately needed space, and we made a contribution of a \$50,000 grant, and my family foundation based in New York made a \$50,000 contribution.

Talk about Men With Caring Hearts.

This is truly the biggest honor I've received in South Florida, and I'm very proud it came from Florence Fuller. Their 14th annual luncheon is here at Boca West Country Club on April 24. Nonprofits are given the chance to recognize male volunteers they nominate. Board members Terry Fedele and Neil Meany are co-chairs, and Neil is the emcee. Tickets are \$100 at ffcdc.org/special-events/men-with-caring-hearts/ and the contact is Karissa Thomann at kthomann@ffcdc.org or 561-391-7274, ext. 123.

What else are you doing with Florence Fuller children?

On March 3, we brought 30 volunteers and 60 4-year-olds from the east campus to Boca West. We read them a story, and they drew the characters they visualized, and Budsies creates a personalized stuffed animal we'll bring back to them. We want these kids to know how special they are.

Boca West Foundation doesn't just write checks, it funds projects. Explain how that works.

For Sweet Dreams program The Giving Tree we buy beds for kids sleeping on the floor. JAF-CO has an abuse shelter, and we supplied the funds so they could stay open on weekends.

How many children's charities does the foundation help?

We started out with seven and \$100,000 in grants in 2011, and now we're up to 19 charities and will give out over \$800,000 annually.

How did the Jay Leno event for the charities go on March 31?

Jay Leno is my new hero. He worked for 90 minutes, and the crowd never stopped laughing he was so good. We had 1,400 people. Tickets were \$150, and each charity was given 50 tickets to sell and kept 100 percent of the proceeds. The golf tournament the day before distributed another \$150,000, depending on how their team did. [President and general manager Jay DiPietro runs the tournament and was the Men With Caring Hearts' honoree last year].

What else do you want people to know about you?

I'm married to Shelly Adler for 51 years in June. We have two grown children, and they're far more philanthropic than I am.

ARTHUR ADLER
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, MEN WITH CARING HEARTS

