

Community News

JI Service League has awarded \$1 million the last two years

Christina Tascon
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VERO BEACH -- The John's Island Community Service League may be the best kept philanthropic secret in Vero. The organization has handed out more than \$1 million in grants the last two years. Since 1980, the JICSL has supported dozens of non-profits with more \$13 million in donations. When you consider many of these members are part-time residents, their generosity is all the more impressive.

"What you are seeing is the culmination of all the hard work that so many people in the league did," said strategic grant committee chair Anne Melanson at the recent award celebration luncheon. "It isn't just about the checks that they are writing, but the people in this community have really become involved with an amazing generosity of spirit."

President Hope Woodhouse announced a pilot program will be offered to full-time, year-round staff for scholarships at Indian River State College. This is in addition to the existing scholarships JICSL already offers for the employee's children.

"This is my first year as president, but I have been a part of the JICSL for eight years," said Woodhouse. "It always makes me feel proud when I see all the agencies which the Service League has assisted in their mission to help others. The applause after we announced our new employee scholarship program at IRSC made all of us on the board happy. "I am looking forward to next year, which will be the Service League's 40th anniversary."

A special grant of \$20,000 was also awarded to Senior Resource Association and the Public Guardianship Program as they merge to allow for training more guardians.

"What a surprise," said Senior Resource Association executive director Karen Deigel. "We are now acquiring Indian River Public Guardianship so we will be able to serve anyone over 18 years



Thirty-eight Indian River County agencies were represented at the Award Celebration Luncheon. PHOTOS BY DIANE JACOBS



Betsy Fox with JISCL president Hope Woodhouse.



Karen Deigl, Senior Resources Association with Morgan Libby, Public Guardianship Program.

Community Service League visit www.JIserviceleague.com or contact 772-234-8810.

More photos from the event are on the next page

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VNA Answer Nurse

A monthly column to help answer your home care and hospice questions

I want to learn more about hospice, but I'm not sick or ready for hospice. I'm doing my advance directive and taking the time now to speak with my physician about my end-of-life care wishes. Is it silly for me learn more about hospice now?

It's never too early to learn about hospice. Far too often, families say they regret not electing hospice sooner for their loved ones. Because hospice focuses on treating the person and not the disease, it requires time for hospice staff to work with the patient and families to better understand the patient's goals.

To truly receive all the benefits hospice has to offer, it's important to allow for time for patients and families to explore hospice services. Music therapists, chaplain services, counselors and social workers can address the emotional, spiritual and even physical needs of a patient. Programs like pet therapy, Reiki and veteran recognition uplift patients and celebrates them.

Understanding hospice

Hospice is different than tradition healthcare. It is the only form of care that focuses on the

patient and not the disease. It also includes providing support for family members and loved ones in the plan of care. By adding these elements, hospice truly focuses on increasing quality of life and ensuring that the patient's life is filled with dignity and respect.

Hospice isn't for just the last few days of life

There is a common misconception that hospice is only for those individuals who have just a few days left to live. In truth, those who elect hospice early will be able to receive all of the benefits that hospice can offer patients and families, which reinforces the philosophy that hospice is about living, not dying.

Making your wishes known

Advance care planning is a vital part of ensuring that your end-of-life care wishes are met. Having the discussion of what's important to you if you are faced with a life-limiting illness will help your doctor and family members better understand how best to care for you when it is time.

Questions or Comments?
For more information about home care or hospice, call us at 772.202.8570 or visit www.vnatc.com

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Terry Nolan and Pat Thompson DIANE JACOBS



Susan Lovett and Anne Obrecht PAT THOMPSON



John's Island Community Service League chairs, officers and members who attended the Awards Celebration Luncheon. DIANE JACOBS



Anne Melanson, Sarah Jane Moore and Cathy Cruice DIANE JACOBS



Joann Phillips, Kathie Pierce and Jean Ueltschi DIANE JACOBS

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