

YourNews

Jensen Beach, Stuart, Palm City, Hobe Sound

Character Counts! rewards unsung heroes of the workplace

BY JUSTIN BEARD
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Employees who exceedingly reach beyond of their regular job duties aren't always recognized for their good character, which is why United Way of Martin County's Character Counts! program began its Employee Pillar of Character awards seven years ago.

"Character Counts! established this awards program for employees who consistently set good examples," said Holly Laiben, director of Character Counts!. "Many employees have strong work ethics and go above and beyond their job description on a daily basis without expecting or receiving adequate recognition and these awards help fill that void."

Of this year's 39 nominations, six winners were selected and surprised at their workplaces with an entertainment and dining out gift package provided by The Firefly Group and certificate of appreciation.

Colleagues and employers from



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Chuck Eckhardt is recognized with an Employee Pillar of Character award by, from left, Suzanne Wentley, Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County; Jim Vojcsik, United Way of Martin County; and Jeffery Montpetit, City of Stuart.

the private, public, governmental and nonprofit business community nominated these unsung heroes of the workplace for exemplifying the Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.

2010-11 Employee Pillar of

Character award winners:

- Camron Becraft, TurboCom-bustor Technology Inc.
- Chuck Eckhardt, City of Stuart
- Consuelo Macedo, Indiantown Middle School
- Pat Pierce, Piper's Landing

Yacht and Country Club

- Mary Sawyer, American Red Cross, Martin County Chapter
- Sam Velazquez, Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County

Other nominees included: Peggy Alexander, Carol Ashcroft, David Axton, Laura Bakkedah, Martha Barry, Matt Beck, Jessica Briske, Stacey Brownlow, Dayna Carroll, Amy Clark, Mary Cohen, Kelly Coleman, Jennifer DePietro, Amber Ducote, Elizabeth Fagley, Linda Fitzpatrick, Debra Fowler, Hellen Harvey, Chad Hastings, Alicia Hohsfield, Michele Luriea, Jill Marasa, Pat Markovic, Julie Omer, Karen Ripper, Amy Robertson, Donna Rouselle, David Sanchez, Joan Simplicio, Judi Snyder, Tara Tracey, Maureen Zackey and Melissa Zolla.

Visit www.charactercounts.net or call 772-283-4800, ext. 234 for more information.

This story has been edited for space. For the full story, go to tcpalm.com/YourNews.