

Our Honorees



Barbara Cox Gerlock, Ph.D **Jane Robinson Child Advocacy Award**

Barbara Cox Gerlock, Ph.D. completed her bachelor's in social studies and secondary education, master's in counseling psychology and doctorate in organizational development.

Her passion is developing programs and services for youth across education, behavioral health and juvenile justice systems. This passion results from her own lived experiences and the impact of caring adults on her life.

Dr. Gerlock's background reflects this passion.

Starting as a teacher with junior high school youth almost 60 years ago she continued her education and training to serve as a school counselor and administrator developing a specialty as a program innovator for at risk youth, marginalized youth and those experiencing behavioral health and substance use disorder behaviors.

Barbara has served and is currently serving as the Chair of Palm Beach County Citizens' Advisory Committee for Health and Human Services, the Past Chair of the 15th Circuit Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, the Chair of the Behavioral Health Committee for the Re-entry Project, the Vice-Chair of the Youth Re-entry Project and the Chair, Detention Center Advisory Board.



Julie Fisher Cummings **Child Protector Award**

Julie Fisher Cummings is the co-founder of the Lovelight Fund, which empowers women and their children through programs that promote social change. She has supported organizations such as the Pace Center for Girls, Figure Skating in Detroit, and the Fresh Air Fund.

She established the Fisher Cummings Washington Fellows Program at the Columbia School of Social Work, offering enriching experiences for Policy Practice students aiming to become leaders in social policy. Nearly 40 students have interned with legislators and other significant placements.

As the Executive Producer of the documentary "**I Am Jane Doe**," Julie has highlighted the stories of families impacted by sex trafficking on Backpage.com, driving legislative action and investigative inquiries into the platform. Julie has also participated as a mentor through Palm Beach Philanthropy Tank, empowering young leaders in the community, including Caitlen Macias Hentze, CFCC's new Director of Stewardship and Strategy.



Justice Barbara Pariente Judge Ron Alvarez Resiliency Award

In 1997, Justice Pariente was appointed as the 77th Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, becoming only the second woman to be appointed. While on the court she authored hundreds of opinions but was a passionate advocate for improving how our courts handle cases involving children and families. She served as the Supreme Court's representative to the statewide Children's Cabinet. She was relentless in promoting the need for early childhood education and forging a partnership between schools and the courts. In her support of children and families, Justice Pariente is always finding ways to be that agent of change.

When focused on a goal, Justice Pariente attacks it with passion and persistence. She believes **“if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.”**

From the presidential election of 2000 to the Terry Schiavo case to her own personal battle with breast cancer, she confronted personal and professional challenges as she does with most problems — aggressively armed with intellect, dignity, and determination.

Our Emcee



Eddie Stephens Event Emcee

Eddie Stephens is a Board Certified Marital and Family Attorney, author, lecturer, and community leader who supports a number of local civic and charitable organizations including serving as the Vice Chair on our Board of Directors.

Eddie has developed a successful family law practice focused on highly disputed divorces. As an attorney and leader, is making a difference in Palm Beach County, supporting our mission and work for over six years. He is a popular and engaging motivational speaker, including presenting at our

Lead the Fight event. His personal motto is **“Do Something that Matters,”** and in that spirit, he brings a passion for inspiring others along with his own personal childhood experiences overcoming adversity to his work at the organization. His hobbies include cooking, yoga, camping and spending time with his family. Eddie is happily married to Jacquie and has two children, Christopher and Matthew, and they all call Palm Beach, Florida home.

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