

Doyle Award for Nonprofit Excellence

Spotlighting the work of Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation



James DeAnda, left, Clinton Cimring and Ashley Duarte, 8

In 2004, Sandra Muvdi started Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation (JJCCF) in memory of her only child. In celebrating 10 years of saving children, JJCCF is committed to providing emergency financial assistance to cover the basic needs of families impacted by pediatric cancer and advocating on their behalf.

The funding JJCCF provides helps prevent homelessness, car repossessions, loss of electricity and hunger. The direct and temporary financial support is vital to the survival of these children while they receive treatment and allows parents to focus on the child's cancer. With the assistance, families are able to get out of poverty and be self-sufficient after the child finishes treatment.

JJCCF has provided emergency financial assistance, hope, compassion and love to 2,270 children and family members fighting childhood cancer. The foundation is primarily focused on serving patients of all seven hospitals treating pediatric oncology in the South Florida tri-county area and is virtually alone assisting this underserved population and underfunded cause.

"After nearly 30 years of serving and working in the charitable sector, I have never seen a better run, or more efficient charity than the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation. Sandra Muvdi, the foundation's founder and

president, is an incredibly dynamic, ethical and dedicated leader. She has devoted her entire adult life to serving the children and families of South Florida who have been impacted by childhood cancer," said Gregg Sjoquist, CEO of The Wasie Foundation, and also chairperson and secretary of JJCCF board of directors.

"With Jessica June, there is no wondering where your funding is going. JJCCF has only two employees, the founder and a former volunteer. Its office space is donated by Broward Health Medical Center, having minimal overhead expenses. I am confident it is one of the most deserving charities in Florida, if not the entire country, and I am proud to be a part of it," said Clinton Cimring, member of JJCCF's board of directors.

"As a childhood cancer survivor, I am passionate in supporting our mission of providing compassion and financial support to our local children and families in crisis," said James DeAnda, JJCCF's director of operations.

"The Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation is honored to receive the Doyle Award for Nonprofit Excellence and greatly appreciates the opportunity," said Sandra Muvdi, JJCCF president and founder.

For more information, visit www.JJCCF.org.



Ashley Duarte, front, Andria Nolan and Gregg Sjoquist



Board members Andria Nolan, front left, and Sandra Muvdi; Clinton Cimring, back left, and Gregg Sjoquist



Ashley Duarte, left, and Sandra Muvdi

PHOTOS BY KARA STARZYK

The Nonprofit Spotlight, established by The Dennis M. and Lois A. Doyle Family Foundation in partnership with Sun Sentinel Charities, spotlights local nonprofits and the people behind them that make South Florida a great place to live. The award, is provided to one nonprofit in Broward County and one in Palm Beach County.

"This award pays tribute to the many charitable organizations that quietly but effectively serve our community," said Doyle Family Foundation Founder, Denny Doyle. "The Doyle Award wants to recognize these organizations and the people who without fanfare carry out their mission."

For the past 20 years, the Doyle Family Foundation has endowed more than 100 scholarships and events in the name of outstanding individuals, institutions and nonprofit organizations that have had a significant impact on their communities.