

FAMILY PROMISE OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Thank you, Janine. Good Evening everyone. It's great to see all of you here tonight to share in these special community award presentations. It's an honor to present the 2019 Non-Profit of the Year.

With the increasing homeless population in our Greater Brandon Area, this group is needed more than ever. Homelessness can strike anyone at anytime, but it is especially hard for families with children, who for one reason or another, find themselves in this situation. That's where this non-profit steps in.

They connect the dots . . . they work with local houses of worship to connect people in need with people who want to help. They are funded by community donations from churches and individuals.

Working for 9 years now, through their Extended Care Program, an educational/resource program, they have helped 720 people get back on their feet. Their small staff of 2, along with 400 volunteers help make this happen for families with children. They are committed to empower homeless families to obtain safe and sustainable housing, help them find employment which gives them lasting independence. But, they don't stop there . . . They have assisted in giving 6 cars to families. They have a support program that continues to serve these families for up to at least a year. Area restaurants like Outback, Pizza Hut, and Manna Ministries partner with them to feed over 100 people weekly. One of the ministries supported by this partnership is Portamento of Hope Café.

This non-profit has received several awards for their accomplishments. To name just a few:

- 1) In Jan.2018, they received the Lightning Heroes Award.
- 2) In 2018 & 2019, they were finalist for the *WEDU Be More Award* as a small non-profit. Along with their Board President as a finalist for the Mason Dixon Award for Volunteerism.
- 3) Finalist for the Greater Brandon Chamber Business of the Year in 2018.

This non-profit serves homeless families with children in our community with love, compassion and stability, while the adults work to regain their respect as well as resources that will assist them in getting to that place of self sustainability. They strongly believe that "Every child deserves a home".

With that, it is my pleasure to present the Community Roundtable 2019 Non-Profit of the Year to---FAMILY PROMISE of Hillsborough County. Edwina Reddick, Executive Director please join us on the stage.