

CELEBRATION 2023

TO BENEFIT YOUTH LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

Honorees include:

Kevin Gay, Retired Founder and CEO of Operation New Hope. Kevin founded Operation New Hope to create a new model for community development, which was later selected by the White House to develop the first national model for Prisoner Re entry called Ready4Work. He is a founding member of Reconcile Jacksonville and has served on numerous community boards including HabiJax, Gateway Community Services and the Florida Alliance of Community Development Corporations. Kevin currently serves as Chairman of the Kids Hope Alliance.

Melanie Patz, President and CEO of United Way of Northeast Florida. Melanie previously served as Vice President of Community Investment and Impact at Baptist Health. She implemented a school health center in Ribault High School, created JaxCareConnect, and led the Blue Zones Project Jacksonville initiative. Melanie serves on the Boards of the System of Care Initiative and the Early Learning Coalition of Duval, and she is a founding Board member of 904WARD. Melanie was recognized as a 2013 JBJ's Woman of Influence, a 2019 Community Health Hero by Agape, a 2020 Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction, and a OneJax Humanitarian award winner in 2020.

Lynn Sherman, Director of Social Responsibility Community Health of Baptist Health. Under her leadership, Tipping the Scale Adolescent Advocacy Mentoring Program has touched the lives of more than 2,100 teens and received national recognition. She serves as Board chair for 904WARD, a leader on the Mayor's Crime-Based Reduction Committee and Population Health Consortium for Addressing Health Equity, a board member for the Northside Community Involvement, Inc., immediate past chair for the Guardian ad Litem Foundation and the Friends of Dallas Graham Library. She was named one of the Jacksonville Business Journal's Health Care Heroes and selected by the JBJ as an elite African American leader.