

# Local Business

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Donna Mulholland is seen this month in the West Palm Beach offices of the Quantum Foundation, which she now chairs. Mulholland, 65, is an attorney who served as president and CEO of a hospital. RICHARD GRABULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST

## Quantum chief aiming to boost county health

Onetime hospital CEO touts foundation's programs, \$125M in grants awarded.

By Jennifer Sorentrud  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Palm Beach philanthropist Donna Mulholland, a retired hospital executive and lawyer who spent more than two decades working in the health care industry, is the first female to chair the board of trustees for the nonprofit Quantum Foundation.

Since it was formed in 1997, the West Palm Beach-based foundation has awarded more than \$125 million in grants to local nonprofits and governmental agencies that improve the health of residents in the county.

Mulholland was named to the position in January and will serve a two-year term. She has served on the foundation's board since 2008.

**Name:** Donna Mulholland  
**Age:** 65  
**Hometown:** Lehigh Valley, Pa.  
**Where you live now:** Palm Beach and Pennsylvania

**About your organization:** Quantum Foundation is a private, nonprofit, West Palm Beach-based health foundation that was formed with the net proceeds from the sale of JFK Medical Center in Atlanta. The organization's mission is philanthropic — one of our goals is to improve the health of Palm Beach County residents. Since its founding in 1997, we've awarded over \$125 million to more than 450 grantees in the county. The Foundation's current assets total approximately \$140 million.

**First paying job and what you**

### MONDAY MEETING

A Q&A WITH ...

**DONNA MULHOLLAND**  
Chair of Quantum Foundation

**learned from it:** My first paying job was with the state of Ohio's Department of Health's Legal Affairs Section. I do think that your first job can be extremely important, not only because you start to experience the pride and self-satisfaction of earning your first paycheck but because you are able to test if this job represents a path you really want to pursue for the rest of your career.

**First break in the business:** After spending two years after graduating from law school working with the Department of Health, I became a hospital's in-house legal counsel for about 10 years. I was then approached by my boss to consider the hospital's chief operating officer position. After two years in this position, I became the hospital's president and CEO. I knew that the continued delivery of quality medical care, effective people management skills, and positive financial results would be the keys to my success. After almost 24 years, I retired from the hospital as its president and CEO, and as president and CEO of the hospital's parent organization.

**Best business book you ever read:** I loved Jack Welch's book "Straight from the Gut" for its business insights,

but as far as an inspiring personal and career story, I also loved Lee Iacocca's autobiography.

**Best piece of work advice you ever received:** This actually came from Dan, my late husband, who was a college athlete and a great proponent of teamwork. He reminded me repeatedly that you are always part of a team, even if you are the president and CEO, and you're only as good as the other members of your team. The organization's successes are the team's successes and not just yours.

**What do you tell young people about your current organization's work?** Quantum Foundation is committed to recruiting and retaining a strong health care workforce for Palm Beach County. We fund programs throughout the educational pipeline, from middle schools to graduate schools and medical schools, to help support people choosing health care careers. I see opportunities today and in the future working in the health care/medical sector, not only for young people who are starting out but also for those thinking about a possible career change. As the baby boomers age, health care opportunities will only continue to grow. Florida is at the epicenter of this need.

**What do you see ahead for the health of Palm Beach County?** Years ago, Quantum Foundation embarked on a massive financial undertaking to help create new, and aid existing, primary care clinics in the county that provide quality care for people regardless of their ability to pay. Foundcare, Genesis, the Community Health Center of West Palm Beach, Caridad and Jupiter's

Monday continued on D3

## ADVERTISMENT NEWSMAKERS & SHAKERS

### DODGER ARP

The Law Offices of Dodger Arp handle a number of different family law cases for clients throughout West Palm Beach and the surrounding areas. Mr. Arp received his Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Florida Atlantic University and his Juris Doctorate from Nova Southeastern University. While a student, Mr. Arp served in the U.S. Marine Reserves. He joined the Florida State Attorney General's Office, where he successfully litigated hundreds of cases with a variety of complex family law issues. He is active in the Palm Beach County Bar Association and currently serves as a Trustee of the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches.



### WHO'S WHO IN LOCAL BUSINESS

#### NEWSMAKERS



Powers

#### LEGAL

Haile Shaw & Pfaffenberger, P.A. announced that attorney Jennifer Powers has joined the law firm in North Palm Beach. Powers has a strong background in real estate and finance transactions. Before joining Haile Shaw & Pfaffenberger, P.A., Powers owned her own law practice with offices in Tampa and Fort Pierce handling financing and real estate transactions. She is a member of the Florida Bar Association, the Hillsborough County Bar Association and the St. Lucie County Bar Association. Powers was admitted to practice law before the Florida Supreme Court and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.



Davli

#### MEDICAL

Arif Davli will now serve as the medical director of the Memory Disorder Center at St. Mary's Medical Center, one of 15 state-designated centers in Florida offering comprehensive evaluation of patients with memory loss. Davli will lead the diagnostic testing, treatment and referral for individuals experiencing changes in their memory. Davli specializes in adult neurology and all movement disorders. He also currently serves as the medical director of the Comprehensive Movement Disorder Center for the Palm Beach Neuroscience Institute.



Patipa

#### REAL ESTATE

Reichel Realty & Investments Inc. announced a new health care real estate brokerage and business advisory division headed by Benjamin Patipa, who joined the Palm Beach Gardens firm as vice president. The new division provides services and guidance for health care clients in business growth or transition planning, and related real estate matters. Patipa, a physician, business leader and serial health care entrepreneur, brings more than 30 years of leadership experience as CEO, chief operating officer and president of public and private companies in health care, real estate investment, technology, brand development and financial services.

FOR MORE LOCAL NEWSMAKERS, D2

#### TECHNOLOGY

## Maker of price-configuring software sees market growing

Internet-driven culture change leads buyers to want pricing control.

By Evan Ramstad  
Star Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS — FFX, a pioneering Minnesota software company that survived three decades of industry change, is accelerating its product development

with an infusion of capital from a new owner.

The company has long provided software that lets businesses configure, price and quote their products — a souped-up version of the experience consumers get when they go to a car website and build and price a model.

The market for such software is getting bigger. For many years, companies used such programs, known as configuration engines

or CPQ systems, chiefly to arm their sales forces with a tool that could price out a deal.

These days, more buyers of sophisticated products — from industrial tools to military helicopters and big data systems — want the capability to price the goods themselves. They have been shaped by the experience of making, as consumers, those build-to-order choices for cars and other items like PCs.

"The internet has spoiled all of us," said Chris Lords, head of product development. "No longer do we have to call a salesperson and try to figure out what we want and have them come back with a quote. We can educate ourselves. We can figure out everything we want."

In addition, businesses are seeing a big change in their sales forces. As older workers retire, companies are losing people who

knew shortcuts and hurdles in putting deals together.

"The people that were used to working in Excel spreadsheets are retiring," Lords said. "It's a new, younger generation coming in that has different expectations. Because that generation doesn't understand all the configuration rules and all the complexities that the people who have been doing

FFX continued on D3

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**BUSINESS**

CLLOUD COMPUTING

# Amazon's cloud computing miscue a wake-up call

Companies must weigh dependence on single provider.

Nick Wingfield  
© 2017 New York Times

SEATTLE — There have been many opportunities to consider how crucial Amazon has become to the smooth operation of the internet over the past few years.

The most recent involved a case of fat fingers. That event occurred late last month when an Amazon employee entered an incorrect set of commands on a computer, unintentionally knocking out a large set of servers in an Amazon data center in Northern Virginia and, with it, an array of online services from other companies.

Among the many consequences of the shutdown: Users of the business messaging service Slack couldn't upload files. Photos on the technology news site The Verge didn't display. Quora, a popular question-and-answer site, couldn't be reached. It was a rare fumble for Amazon in cloud computing, in which companies pay to run their online applications in data centers operated by big providers.

While would-be competitors mimicked the Google, Amazon Next conference, a jamboree for the search giant is a very

the past decade, becoming the dominant force in cloud computing. Its computing business, Amazon Web Services, hauled in \$12.2 billion in revenue last year from customers ranging from Netflix to the CIA.

Amazon's leading position has come with side effects. Its two biggest rivals — Microsoft and Google — are afraid of no more. They are other technology companies that have preached the benefits of working with multiple cloud providers — the kind of marketing message one would expect from underdogs in a category that could one day engulf the huge market for business software and hardware.

Amazon's service interruption, though not nearly bad enough to spark a panic among customers who need it, was viewed by some as a moment for reflection.

"It really is a wake-up call to enterprises," said Craig McLuckie, a former Google technologist who is now chief executive of Hepto, a startup that makes software tools for more easily moving applications between clouds. "They certainly need to understand to what level of dependency they have on a single provider."

Amazon's error was still fresh in people's minds last week at the Google Cloud Next conference, a jamboree for the search giant is a very

important part of doing that." Snap, the social networking company that popularized disappearing messages through its Snapchat service, recently revealed in filings for its initial public offering that it has committed to spending \$2 billion over five years to use cloud computing services from Google. But Snap also revealed that it would spread the wealth around, committing \$1 billion over five years to Amazon's cloud service.

One fear among businesses is that Amazon's dominance could lead to a new form of "lock-in," giving it huge leverage over customers because of the costs of switching providers. In the 1980s and 1990s, those costs helped Microsoft gain a seemingly unshakable grip on personal computing. Microsoft is betting that won't happen this time.

"This won't be a winner-take-all scenario," said Lydia Althoff, executive vice president of Microsoft's worldwide commercial business. She said it was highly unusual for companies to run the same application in more than one cloud because it introduced new complexities and costs.

To avoid being knocked offline, companies can set up their applications to run in multiple regions, across the company's network of data centers. All of the big cloud

providers offer volume discounts, the full benefits of which customers don't get to enjoy if they divide their use of cloud services among multiple providers.

Still, there are some compelling reasons to use multiple providers, Leong said. Often companies rely mostly on Amazon for cloud service, while a specific development team inside the company familiar with Microsoft technologies will use Microsoft's Azure cloud service.

A few years ago, Hearst, the media company, was exclusively using Amazon for cloud computing, but later added services from Microsoft and Google, said Philip R. Wiser, Hearst's chief technology officer. He said some of the company's internal online services had been affected by Amazon's interruption, but nothing the public would have noticed.

Because it's relatively early in the emergence of cloud computing, Wiser said he believed it was important to spread one's bets around.

"Being multi-cloud as a company and having the skill and understanding of how to move between investments — that is an asset," he said. "We have that as a stated mission for all of our infrastructure team."

Daisuke Wakabayashi contributed to this story from San Francisco.



Chris Loris is head of product development for Minneapolis-based FPX, a maker of price configuration software. Founded in the 1980s, FPX has remade itself several times. DAVID JOLES / MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE

**FPX**

continued from D1

for decades know, there's a need to drive that into the technology."

The market evolution is giving new life to FPX, a company that started in the southern Minnesota city of Mankato in the 1980s as Clear With Computers, one of the first makers of sales force automation software. It became known as Firepond Software in the 1990s. Firepond went public in 2000, faded after the dot-com bubble burst a year later and was acquired. Over the next decade, it changed hands and names several times, but survived because it had working capital and a base of steady, large corporate customers.

David Batt, who became the company's chief executive in 2013, said it has retained some customers, such as Daimler Trucks, from its start 30 years ago. It took "a little bit of luck" to last so long in an industry as volatile as software, Batt said. "The company invented a product that became a category," he said.

As demand for CPQ software morphed and the market grew, Batt drove the company to make its products available on more platforms. For years, Firepond worked chiefly with the products of Salesforce Inc., a San Francisco-based maker of customer relationship management software. As FPX, its products now work across SAP, Oracle and Microsoft CRM platforms.

With FPX software, companies sharply cut the length of time it takes to put together a price quote or an order for a customer. For one manufacturer of computer servers and related hardware used in data centers, FPX's software can configure a quote

in less than 30 minutes, a process that used to take that company four weeks. In addition to the time savings, Batt said, "that eliminated million of dollars in discretionary discounts they had to offer to make errors right with their customers."

Last month, FPX was rated a "strong performer" in a report on CPQ products by market research firm Forrester, which gave the software firm its highest possible score on 15 criteria, including user experience. That accolade came just weeks after FPX was mentioned favorably by another influential market researcher, Gartner, in its survey of CPQ suppliers.

Both market-research firms estimate speedy growth for such software vendors as more business-to-business transactions occur online. Gartner estimates 20 percent annual growth for CPQ software in the U.S. through 2020. FPX, after several years of flat sales, is growing strongly again, Batt said, and is nearing \$100 million in annual revenue.

With the industry changing so fast, mentions by analysts can affect not just the sales of FPX products but the company's market value and strategic prospects. The company was purchased in April by HGGC, a Palo Alto, Calif.-based private equity firm that provided more working capital and amped up its research and development budget.

FPX has since hired more developers in the Twin Cities area and Mankato, where it maintains strong ties with Minnesota State University-Mankato. It recently relocated its biggest office to a different tower in suburban Minneapolis and moved another office in suburban Dallas where Batt works. The company has a direct sales force that is deployed around

the country and two European cities but also relies on IT services firms like Accenture to sell its software.

FPX contends with several direct competitors, including comparably sized firms such as Apttus and larger ones like Salesforce and Oracle. But, in many companies, the biggest obstacle for FPX is the existing pricing system that was usually developed internally.

"Probably our biggest competitor is still an IT department," Lords said. "It's not really as much competing against other CPQ vendors as it is someone going back and forth between build vs. buy."

As a result, the decision to hire FPX often rises all the way to a company's chief executive. "You have to have buy-in all the way up because it's driving return on investment," Lords said. In addition to pushing its software onto a greater variety of enterprise systems, FPX in recent years has been focused on adapting its products to be used on mobile devices.

Now, FPX is working on two innovations that should speed up the time it takes for a user to put together a quote request. One is natural language capability, which would let a customer say what they want in a product or system rather than clicking through multiple menus. The second is a predictive capability that would fill in menus and options as the system sees what a customer is doing.

"This is a system that completes configurations based on past behavior," Lords said. "The secret sauce is the algorithms that learn this behavior."

Both capabilities exist in consumer e-commerce, but they require more sophistication for complex product businesses tend to buy.

**Monday**

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MyClinic are all important examples of these primary care clinics. These clinics are thriving and serving tens of thousands of patients in our county each year. Our support of education programs will also help meet the health care needs of an ever-growing population. Where can we find you when you are not work-

ing? Usually in my kitchen! I love to cook and bake. I also spend considerable time working on fundraising activities for some of the nonprofits I'm involved with: Girl Scouts of South-east Florida, Foundcare, the Center for Family Services, Rotary and the Cancer Alliance of Help and Hope (an agency where I have recently become involved because I am a cancer survivor and, unfortunately, recently lost my husband to cancer).

Favorite smartphone app? I just bought myself a new flip-phone, so I'm not an app user. Obviously, my technology skills are very limited.

What are the most important traits you look for when choosing to work with an organization? Integrity. Reputation. Results ... and a mission I embrace.

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PHOTO: JESSICA

DONNA MULHOLLAND & QUANTUM FOUNDATION *are...*

# Worth Knowing

## WHAT DO PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT QUANTUM FOUNDATION?

Quantum Foundation is a West Palm Beach-based health foundation that was formed with the net proceeds from the sale of JFK Medical Center in Atlanta, Florida. Since its founding in 1997, the organization has awarded over \$125 million to more than 450 grantees in Palm Beach County. The Foundation's assets total approximately \$140 million. I was invited to serve on the Grants Committee in 2007 and became a full Trustee in 2008. Now, and for the next two years, I'll be privileged to serve as the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

## DO YOU HAVE A BACKGROUND IN HEALTHCARE?

I started out my career as an attorney. Early on, I was an attorney for the Ohio Department of Health. Then I moved with my husband to Pennsylvania and worked in a hospital as in-house legal counsel. I eventually became that hospital's CEO and the parent organization's CEO. I stayed connected to that past career through my work with Quantum Foundation, which helps the medically underserved in Palm Beach County. I believe it's a sad waste when you retire and all of your hard-earned skills aren't put to good use anymore. I needed to stay active, engaged and involved. It was great to perpetuate my career in a way that was beneficial to others.

## HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH PHILANTHROPY?

My entire married life! My late husband Dan and I always felt we needed to give back and be involved in the communities we lived in. We both had a heart for service, but we each had our own issues we were passionate about. Dan always worked for the welfare of children. Because of my career history, I was always interested in healthcare and ensuring people had access to health-related services regardless of their ability to pay. I've also been strongly involved with the Girl Scouts, Rotary and FoundCare.

## CAN YOU EXPLAIN BRIEFLY WHAT A HEALTH FOUNDATION DOES?

Basically, we're a grantmaking organization. We give away about \$6 million each year to ensure better access to resources for health and stronger connections in the health system. Our mission is to really make an impact on the health of Palm Beach County and we work in every corner of the County by funding local nonprofits. At first, Quantum Foundation was instrumental in setting up the 'safety net' of clinics in the County. I fell under the spell of this project when I was volunteering and fundraising for FoundCare, one of our local community clinics. The enthusiasm of the founding members of the Quantum Board was infectious and, of course, we all believe that health is a vital part of any community's strength. Having those 'safety net' clinics in place ensures better care across the board. People who are uninsured or underinsured get appropriate care and they don't use the Emergency Room, which is both costly and increases waiting times for other patients with more urgent needs.

## CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT A RECENT GRANT YOU'RE EXCITED ABOUT?

I get excited about all of them because the Board really focuses on finding grants that will give us the biggest impact

for our investment. We try to keep our focus on the ultimate beneficiary of the services, the everyday individuals and families our grants ultimately help. We hear wonderful stories of how our grantees have helped to change the lives of so many people. Recently, we gave the George Snow Foundation \$200,000 to support young students who need assistance in their pursuit of a healthcare career. We're especially interested in supporting applicants from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in healthcare. The County is going to need physicians and health professionals as the population grows and ages. We believe it's part of our purpose to recruit and retain a skilled, top-quality local healthcare workforce.

## YOU'RE THE FIRST WOMAN CHAIR SINCE THE FOUNDATION'S INCEPTION. DOES THAT BRING A NEW DIMENSION TO THE ROLE?

No. Gender has never been a career issue for me, its never been a platform in my experience, if you keep your focus on doing your work, and doing it well, and if you treat everyone with respect, you'll be respected in return.

## WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE ASPECT OF ALL YOUR CHARITY WORK?

People, people, people. You get to meet nonprofit CEOs and be inspired by their great passion. You get to work alongside other like-minded Board members who motivate and challenge you. Most of all, you get to meet the people in your community who need a little help... and you feel so fortunate to be a part of providing them with that help.

## BACKGROUND:

Quantum Foundation funds initiatives that improve the health of Palm Beach County, Florida. It is a private grantmaking organization which supports the work of approved nonprofits and certain government agencies. The Foundation's goal is for individuals to have better engagement in their health, for communities to have greater access to health resources, and for organizations in the health system to have stronger connections. According to the latest data compiled by the Florida Philanthropic Network (FPN), Quantum Foundation is the largest Palm Beach County-based health funder with 100% of grant dollars used to support local communities.

Donna Mulholland has an undergraduate degree from Carnegie Mellon University and received her law degree from Capital University before being admitted to the bar in Ohio and Pennsylvania. She spent more than 20 years with Easton Hospital and Valley Health Corporation in the Lehigh Valley of Easton, PA. She served as the in-house legal counsel, COO, President and CEO of Easton Hospital, and President and CEO of Valley Health, the parent corporation. Her numerous philanthropic awards include the *Athene Award* from the Two Rivers Area Chamber of Commerce, a *Grassroots Advocacy Award* from the American Hospital Association and the *Community Leader of the Year Award* from the Arthritis Foundation. Her service club recognition includes the *Paul Harris Fellow Award* from the International Rotary Foundation and the *Women of Distinction Award* from the Greater Valley Girl Scouts Council.

For more information call 561.852.7497 or visit [www.quantumfnd.org](http://www.quantumfnd.org).



**IN FOCUS**

# Longtime friends innovate with free mobile shower facility for the homeless

By Linda Haase  
Special to The Palm Beach Post

Longtime friends Chris Bentley and Carlos Miller have found an innovative way to help the homeless.

The duo's nonprofit, Live Fresh Palm Beach County, has launched a mobile shower and personal hygiene facility. The goal: to offer assistance and restore dignity to the county's homeless. The 29.5 foot-long air-conditioned trailer, which has six private shower/bath/changing area combination rooms, makes weekly stops at three locations in the county.

Miller and Bentley, who have been friends since middle school, wanted to make a difference - but in an inventive way. They chose showers for a reason: "For us, that's where dignity and self-respect starts ... with the ability to stay clean and be presentable," explains Bentley. "Cleanliness is a fundamental need. We actually see it as basic human right and because the homeless population can be hard to reach, we knew we would have to come to them and make ourselves available in areas they could easily reach."

Miller adds: "For me, the catalyst to start Live Fresh Palm Beach County was through my random interactions with the homeless community in places of commerce. To see a human being, living in the United States of all countries, walk inside a store with apprehension over being shunned or offensive to the atmosphere due to their odor or disheveled state grabbed at the core of my heart," Miller writes on



Chris Bentley and Cyndy Ryan of St. George's Episcopal Church. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

participated since the program began March 31, Bentley, Live Fresh's CEO, says. "One man likened it like raindrops from heaven. Some told us they hadn't showered in almost three weeks. It's important for everyone to have the space and privacy to do something as intimate as this. And feeling clean and refreshed is a game changer."

They bring their mobile shower to locations of local faith-based groups and nonprofit organizations that assist the homeless, including providing meals and/or

Each participant gets a packet with personal hygiene essentials including deodorant, towels, soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss.

Recipients will also have a chance to discuss their health concerns: Genesis Community Health Center offers an outreach/visiting clinic with various health screenings, HIV counseling and testing, and referral services, at each stop once a month.

Getting the program off the ground wasn't easy, but

grant from Impact the Palm Beaches and \$7,500 from the Quantum Foundation, among others - had a huge impact.

"We are grateful for all the help we have gotten and appreciative of any monetary contributions, toiletries, anything that help us continue what we are doing," says Bentley.

The Quantum Foundation was happy to offer help.

"We're a health foundation and health and hygiene obviously go hand-in-hand," says Eric M. Kelly, president



Carlos Miller cleans one of the shower cubicles with a power washer between clients.

nerable part of our community- those who are homeless. Taking services right to where people need them is one of the keys to being really effective, and doing it in such an innovative way is definitely fresh."

Although the mobile shower locations are in central and northern Palm Beach County, Miller and Bentley hope to offer more venues in southern Palm Beach County in the future.

"We know what happens when a person feels better about themselves and this is one way to help them restore their dignity and feel more positive about themselves," says Bentley.

To learn more about Live

**IF YOU GO**

**What:** Live Fresh's mobile shower locations. St. George's Center at St. George's Episcopal Church, 21 West 22nd St., Riviera Beach.  
**When:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesdays  
**What:** Extended Hands Community Outreach, Inc.  
**Where:** 528 Cheerful St., West Palm Beach  
**When:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Thursdays  
**What:** Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church.  
**Where:** 801 Eighth St. West Palm Beach  
**When:** 6:30 to 8:30 a.m.,



# NOTEWORTHY NEWS

## Quantum Foundation awards \$750,000 to local grassroots nonprofits

### Quantum in the Community

Quantum Foundation knows that it's impossible for people to lead healthy lives if their basic needs are not being met. So, in addition to their Regular Grants, every year the organization allocate funds for those nonprofits who meet the basic needs of the people of Palm Beach County, such as food, shelter, clothing and transport.

On Friday, Nov. 18, Quantum Foundation hosted a celebratory breakfast at the Riviera Beach Marina to award grants totaling \$750,000 to 80 grassroots organizations in Palm Beach County. In a season of Thanksgiving, the annual Quantum in the Community initiative provides funds for operating support in amounts up to \$25,000 to qualifying nonprofits that help the county's most vulnerable residents. The grantee organizations rep-



Quantum Foundation Staff Eric Kelly, Nate Cousineau, Kerry Jamieson, Shannon Hawkins, Marle Thorpe, Debby Diamond, Randy Scheid and Joe Paskoski

PHOTOS BY TRACEY BENSON PHOTOGRAPHY

resented all four corners of the county, from Tequesta to Boca Raton and from Belle Glade to Riviera Beach.

The atmosphere was spirited and filled with gratitude as these organizations received funds to continue their good work in the community.

"We want to make a real difference in Palm Beach County," said Quantum Foundation President Eric M. Kelly. "We are empowering organizations to provide for people's basic needs. Good nutrition, proper clothing, housing and a healthy community can equip a person to do great things. We're so inspired by what these organizations do on a limited budget and



Quantum Foundation's VP of Programs Randy Scheid and Board Chair Denis Coleman with Omar Portocarrero of Feeding the Hungry, Inc. and Deborah Morgan of Palm Beach Harvest



Ollie Jones with Hope 4 Mobility with Pam and Hector Morales we are proud to be able to continue supporting them."

Applications for Quantum in the Community grants open in the spring every year and funds are awarded each November. To qualify, applicant organizations must be based in Palm Beach County and have annual operating budget of less than \$500,000. The board of Quantum Foundation approved the Quantum in the Community initiative in 2011 when economic surveys showed local nonprofits were to struggling to keep their doors open in the troubled

economy. Since then, the Quantum Foundation has awarded a total of \$4 million to this initiative in addition to the millions it invests each year in other major health-related initiatives.

To learn more about the Quantum in the Community initiative and to see the list of grant recipients, visit [quantumfund.org/quantum-in-the-community](http://quantumfund.org/quantum-in-the-community)



Quantum Foundation's Shannon Hawkins with Suits for Seniors founder Jervonte Edmonds

### NOTABLES PREVIEWS

#### BEST BUDDIES INTERNATIONAL

### Holiday gala to feature Sinatra Songbook

**Event:** 2016 Best Buddies Palm Beach Gala  
**When:** Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m. cocktails, 7:30 p.m. dinner

**Where:** Club Colette, Palm Beach

**What:** The 2016 Best Buddies Palm Beach Gala is a black tie holiday event to include cocktails and dinner, exclusive silent and live auctions, followed by a private concert by musician Steven Maglio singing the Sinatra Songbook.

Best Buddies International is dedicated to ending the social, physical, and economic isolation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Programs focus on One-to-One Friendships, Inte-

and Leadership Development and help people with IDD form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, develop self-advocacy and public speaking skills, and feel valued by society.

**Who:** Honorary Chairmen: Michele and Howard Kessler; Chairmen: Mary & Mark Freitas, Sydell Miller, Thomas Quick, Alina and Anthony Kennedy Shriver

**Sponsors:** Presenting Sponsor: Samuel J. & Connie M. Frankino Charitable Foundation

**Proceeds:** Best Buddies Palm Beach County currently has 25 active school friendship programs, with eight additional school programs in 2017, provide



Best Buddies International Founder and Chairman, Anthony Kennedy Shriver

PHOTO COURTESY OF BEST BUDDIES INTERNATIONAL

vocacy training for 20 ambassadors, and begin to place participants in competitive, white collar jobs in businesses and organizations throughout Palm Beach County.

**Tickets:** \$750  
**Info:** (305) 374-2233,

#### JEWISH WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF THE GREATER PALM BEACHES

### Annual luncheon 'imagines the Possibilities'

**Event:** Imagine the Possibilities Luncheon

**When:** Dec. 15, 11:30 a.m.

**Where:** The Colony, Palm Beach

**What:** Jewish Women's Foundation of the Greater Palm Beaches strives for a world where women and girls can be safe and successful. The luncheon will feature guest speaker Martina Vandenberg, founder and president of the Human Trafficking Pro Bono Legal Center, recipient of a two-year, \$20,000-per-year grant, who will speak about her two decades of experience fighting injustice against women. The grant is allocated to support the Sex Trafficking Justice Initiative, a national program that helps trafficking victims by increasing access to pro bono counsel, increasing the number of civil cases filed by victims against traffickers, and increasing the number of expungement filings to clear victims' criminal records.

**Who:** Chair: Paula Lustbader; Co-chairs: Joel Yudenfreund, Vivian Lieberman, Michelle Jacobson

Jewish Women's Foundation of the Greater Palm Beaches advocates for advancing all women and girls and funds projects that have long-term effects for societal change on local, national and international levels by placing an unwavering focus on the root cause of issues. An inclusive organization, JWF welcomes members of all beliefs and genders who believe that when women and girls are empowered, the entire community benefits. Funds raised from the event will allow for continued advocacy and grant making.



Sydelle Sonkin, honoree for the "Imagine the Possibilities" Luncheon

**Tickets:** \$125



## IN FOCUS

# Peer specialists at center of mental health therapy

Grant by Quantum Foundation to fund clinical care teams.

By Linda Haase  
Special to The Palm Beach Post

The Quantum Foundation is doing its part to help prevent and treat mental illness. To that end, the organization's newest cycle of grants includes \$75,000 for the Mental Health Association of Palm Beach County and \$500,000 for the Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative.

"The county has a growing need for mental health services for individuals, young people and families. Mental health is a vital component of 'whole-person health' and we're pleased to be able to work with partners who provide compassionate quality care," Eric M. Kelly, president of Quantum Foundation noted in a press release announcing the grants.

Quantum Foundation has given 20 grants totaling about \$4 million to mental health projects since 2013 - and organizations like the Mental Health Association of Palm Beach County are grateful for the help.

The association will use the money to help pay for its innovative certified clinical peer specialist program. The specialists - who share and use their own experiences with mental health challenges as well as their path to recovery to support others - are trained and certified by the state.

The peer specialists work as part of clinical care teams helping patients in hospitals plan for recovery before they are discharged, and assist with resources after they leave, including the association's West Palm Beach-based Peer Place Support Center.

"We are demonstrating that patients who enter this inten-



Retired psychologist Dr. Gerry Goodman (head of the table) conducts a group session at Peer Place Support Center on 45th St. in West Palm Beach. He has volunteered at Peer Place twice a week, every week, for the past 15 years. Quantum Foundation, a private grant-making organization that funds initiatives to improve the health of Palm Beach County, approved a \$1.2 million grant March 16 to help fund mental health services for the community. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

sive program and work with our certified peer specialists have better health and behavioral health outcomes, lower re-hospitalization rates, and more success in recovery - while freeing up resources in hospitals for others in need of care," said CEO Pam Gionfriddo.

The Peer Place Support Center hosts more than 70 free meetings a week - including mental health support groups, schizophrenia support groups, gatherings to address addic-

tion recovery issues and create wellness plans and help each other achieve their goals. We have people of all demographics come together with a single purpose: recovery."

"People with mental illness or addictions need a place to go where they will be greeted warmly and treated with respect. We have support groups, navigation to services in the community, fun activities, and more," said Gionfriddo. "Our peer specialists on staff know what they are going through because they have been through similar situations on their own road

to recovery. Our clients create wellness plans and help each other achieve their goals. We have people of all demographics come together with a single purpose: recovery."

The program is very successful, she says. "While many clients have very serious mental illness - and some report even feeling suicidal in the last four months - our peer support groups and activities have prevented people from suicide, homelessness, and jail. Our clients feel that Peer



Certified peer specialist Fred Orr (from left), peer mentor Patrick Majors, CEO Pam Gionfriddo and peer services coordinator Brittany Barnes pose at Peer Place Support Center.

Place is like a family that supports them and helps them towards recovery."

The peer specialist program - unlike traditional mental health programs - connects patients with someone who has been in a similar situation. "This approach works because peer specialists are relatable. Peer specialists get it because we've been there. We've felt the stigma. We know what the side effects of medications feel like because we take those very same medications," explains peer specialist Gia Sweeney. "We are peer specialists. I emphasize peer. Peer meaning equal. You teach me, I teach you. You help me, I help you."

Peer specialist Abbe Gianoutsos lets her clients know that they are not alone. "I let clients know that there is light at the end of the tunnel by sharing my story with them. I let clients know there is no shame and to be proud of who they are. I tell them about my life and how I can live a full and fulfilling life and that the stigma of mental health issues does not hold me back."

Adds peer specialist Michael Peterson: "In a survey of people dealing with mental health challenges, number one in

importance was having at least one person who believes in me. Peer specialists ensure that vital role is filled. It's critical to keep hope alive."

That begins in the hospital, he says, where peer specialists establish a connection. "Our emotional tie of respect, trust and empathy is our bridge of stability that we offer to our clients as they return to life in the community. We are committed listeners, cheerleaders and mentors who stand as strong advocates for our clients' wellness whenever they encounter roadblocks," he explains. "There's a huge difference between simple 'empathy' and the kind of deep empathy you get from someone who has actually been in your shoes, sitting where you're sitting. For example, if you found out you had cancer, might you prefer to talk to a doctor who had survived cancer themselves?"

The Mental Health Association of Palm Beach County's programs - which are offered to all ages - are free. Its helpline 561-801-HELP (4357), which offers referrals to services for all ages, is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, visit [www.mhapbc.org](http://www.mhapbc.org).

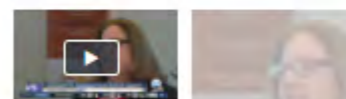
# Grassroots organizations in Palm Beach County receive \$750K grant

BY: WPTV Webteam

POSTED: 6:30 AM, Nov 2, 2017



+SHOW CAPTION



Dozens of grassroots, not-for-profit organizations in Palm Beach County are getting a boost thanks to a \$750,000 grant from the Quantum Foundation.

One of the organizations benefiting is the Holy Ground Shelter, which mentors and cares for young pregnant mothers.

"We are one of the only places in Palm Beach Count that takes parenting young mothers and it's important work. Some of our ladies have been living