



News Release

Broward County Mayor Lois Wexler to Receive 2008 Edith S. Lederberg Wisdom in Action Award

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Broward County Mayor Lois Wexler will receive the 2008 Edith S. Lederberg Wisdom in Action award at the 43rd Annual Senior Volunteer Services Recognition luncheon on Wednesday, April 9, at the Signature Grand in Davie.

The annual luncheon recognizes the outstanding services of more than 1,000 older adults who provide more than 300,000 volunteer hours to meet the critical needs of Broward County residents. Registration begins at 11:10 a.m. with the luncheon and program beginning at noon.

The U.S. Labor Department estimates that every one hour of volunteer service is worth approximately \$18.77. If you multiply that by the 300,000 hours of volunteer services performed by senior citizens in Broward County, the estimated value is nearly \$6 million. The services they provide are priceless.

The senior volunteers:

- Provide support and companionship to the frail and elderly and those adults living with disabilities.
- Tutor and mentor children.
- Recruit volunteers for other non-profit and public agencies.
- Provide executive consulting services to non-profit organizations in need of specific skills and experience.

"Mayor Lois Wexler exemplifies the finest traits of leadership and commitment toward serving the multiple needs of humanity," said Edith Schaffer Lederberg, for whom the prestigious award is named. The Wisdom in Action award is presented to individuals who are committed to lifelong community service, leadership in advocacy on behalf of seniors, and enhancing the quality of life for others.

Throughout her public service career, Mayor Wexler has championed a number of programs and services that safeguard the health and welfare of senior citizens in Broward County.

Her accomplishments include the 2007 Elder Services Summit. Comments and discussions that took place during the Summit were incorporated into the 2007 Updated Elder Analysis Report/Business Plan for Broward County.

Mayor Wexler also supported a prescription drug discount card, now available to all Broward County residents who have no health insurance or are underinsured for prescription drugs.

Partnering with the Florida Health Care Coalition, Mayor Wexler promoted the Paul O'Neill Pledge or "POP" program in Broward County. The "POP" program warned consumers about the dangers of illegible drug prescriptions written by doctors and misinterpreted when filled by pharmacists. It encouraged consumers to accept only prescriptions that they could read.

Mayor Wexler's involvement currently includes membership on the Children's Services Board, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the School Oversight Committee and the South Florida Regional Planning Council. Mayor Wexler also serves on the Broward Aging Alliance.

She has received numerous community awards including the 2008 Humanitarian of the Year award from the Soref

Jewish Community Center. the Florida Health Care Coalition 2007 Community Service Award, the National Association of Social Workers 2007 Elected Official of the Year, 2007 Champions of Children Award, 2006 Museum Service Award, and the Emergency Assistance Service Effort Foundation 2006 Humanitarian of the Year. The American Jewish Congress also paid tribute to her by bestowing its Distinguished Civic Achievement Award.

Senior Volunteer Services is the premier volunteer service organization in Broward County for older adults who want to remain active, healthy, and involved in their communities by contributing time to improve the lives of others. The organization provides opportunities for senior citizens to share their skills, knowledge and experience with others in the community. Senior volunteer programs assist business owners, children, caregivers and much more.

For additional information and tickets please contact Nicole Vaughn at Senior Volunteer Services at 954-484-7117, extension 107.

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