

Welcome to OneJax Online!



Top: The 2022 Humanitarians joined with a group of former honorees for a group photo. Back row, left to right: Hugh Greene, Marty Goetz, Ron Elnoff, Michael Korn, Sol Brotman, Richard Sisisky, Pat Geraghty, Jeff Levenson, Malivai Washington, Warren Jones, Marc Mayo, Cleve Warren, David Miller, Alton Yates, David Stein. Front row, left to right: Susan Greene, Carol Thompson, Martha Barrett, Sabeen Perwaiz, Davy Parrish, Audrey Moran, Melanie Patz, Lynn Sherman, Terri Florio, Dottie Dorion, Nina Waters, Pam Paul, Gwen Yates.

Bottom Left: Guests enjoy the outdoor reception.

Bottom Right: The 2022 Honorees are celebrated by the crowd. Emcee Debbie Buckland is at the podium. From left to right: Warren Jones, Marc Mayo, David Miller, Audrey Moran

The 2022 Humanitarian Awards Event

A new format and venue steal the show at our first in-person event since 2019!

Apparently, we were not the only ones looking forward to holding the 2022 Humanitarian Awards Event in person after two years of virtual events. Almost 700 of our friends and supporters turned out to enjoy the evening with us.

Eighty-nine sponsors helped push us past our goal and we're so grateful to be able to share that they helped set a OneJax record, raising \$556,000! Many thanks go to Chair John Peyton and a dynamic event committee that was committed to its task.

Held for the first time at Daily's Place Plaza & Amphitheater, the event featured an expanded reception and cocktail hour with heavy hors d'oeuvres, appetizers and food stations scattered throughout the plaza. The program was presented immediately following in the amphitheater, where the 2022 Honorees were spotlighted and celebrated.

Thanks to everyone that came out join us. And a final "congratulations" to Audrey Moran, Warren Jones, Marc Mayo and David Miller. A very special thank-you goes to the family of Dr. Leon Haley, Jr., who traveled from Pittsburgh to receive the award on Leon's behalf at the event. We were honored to have you with us.

You can see the Humanitarian Awards Event Program [here](#).

THE NANCY BRONER ONEJAX INTERNSHIP
A PAID OPPORTUNITY FOR UNF STUDENTS

ONEJAX
DIFFERENT TOGETHER

HONORING NANCY BRONER

One of the highlights of the Humanitarian Awards event was the announcement by Executive Director, Kyle Reese, of the *Nancy Broner OneJax Internship*—a paid internship for a UNF student interested in social justice and/or nonprofit work. To underwrite the internship, the Nancy Broner Internship Fund was created, and Kyle announced that it had raised \$50,000 dollars thus far—enough to cover the costs of the program each fall and spring semester for the next five years.

Education has been a consistent theme throughout Nancy's career. Combined with her passion for equality and social justice, the Internship is intended to honor Nancy's significant contribution to OneJax during her eight-year tenure as Executive Director. Paying it forward is a core value for Nancy, and this program will continue to honor her legacy for years to come.

We are now accepting applications for the first Broner Intern, planned to begin with the 2022 fall semester. For more information about the Internship or making a donation to the Fund, contact us [here](#).

The Impact of OneJax Youth Programs



For more than 30 years, the OneJax Sandy Miller Metrotown Institute has been having an impact on young people. Even as our culture has shifted and changed, the relevance of understanding, respecting and embracing each other for the people we are has never faltered. Celebrating our differences and rejoicing in our commonalities is probably more important than it's ever been.

So many of you—our donors and funders—support Metrotown and our youth programming. And we can point to many stories that reflect the transformational impact on our youth. We thought you might like to learn a little about where the values and lessons they learned have taken them as they've gone on to live their lives. In other words, where are Metrotown alumni today?

You'd be surprised by how many of the young people who came through the program still keep in touch with us—and vice versa. Many of them have gone on to college and beyond to careers that incorporate and reflect the people we watched them become. Here's just a sample:

Dr. Reuben Brigety II attended one of the first Metrotown sessions while at Sandalwood High School in the early 90's. He is an American diplomat and academic who has served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs of the Executive Branch and was the vice chancellor and president of the University of the South, in Seawee, Tennessee. He is the current nominee to be the next United States Ambassador to South Africa, pending Senate confirmation.

Jasmine Rhey Peterson attended Metrotown while at Episcopal High School more than 15 years ago and was an active LOUD member and OneJax volunteer for many years. Today, Jasmine is a singer/songwriter and recording artist. A skilled linguist who speaks several languages, Jasmine wants to change the world for the better through music, song and the way she lives her life. With a growing enthusiasm for incorporating her love of different languages and cultures into her music, Jasmine has become a multi-lingual international artist expanding from her R&B roots.

Cameron Frazier attended Metrotown more than 15 years ago from Andrew Jackson High School. Cameron's a long-time educator, recognized for his unique focus on school culture, academics, and social-emotional development that has increased student achievement in reading and propelled him into leadership. Cameron effectively implemented his social-emotional learning and culturally affirming model school-wide as the Dean of Students at KIPP Nashville Collegiate High School. He then helped found and open the KIPP Nashville College Prep Elementary as the Founding Assistant Principal. He is currently launching the Becoming Collegiate Academy, a charter public school serving kindergarten through 5th grade, that will open in the fall of 2022 on Jacksonville's North side, where he grew up. Cameron will serve as Founding Principal.

Taylor Richardson (aka Astronaut Starbright) attended Metrotown in 2017 at age 14 from the Bolles School. By then she had already spent five years working on getting more girls of color interested in STEM disciplines and raising more than \$250,000 to send thousands of BIPOC girls across the country to free viewings of inspirational films, *Hidden Figures*, *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Captain Marvel*. It's no surprise that today, Taylor is an advocate, activist, philanthropist and speaker. She wants to be a physician, scientist and astronaut. It would be impossible to sum up her accomplishments and awards in this space. Suffice it to say that her efforts attracted the help of big-time names like Oprah Winfrey, film/tv producer J.J. Abrams and actor Chis Pine, and Venture Capitalists Arlan Hamilton and Monique Mosley. She has also raised thousands of dollars for other related humanitarian causes.

Legacy Giving Tip

An estate plan is an empowering way to continue supporting the causes that are important to you after your death. While assuring that you protect your family and loved ones, part of that plan should also include your advance directives, end-of-life wishes and powers of attorney, as necessary. This will help assure that your loved ones will be able to manage your personal affairs without any roadblocks. This is also a good place to include detailed plans for your funeral or memorial service if there are specifics you want carried out.

Inflation Presents Another Challenge to Nonprofits

Inflation is impacting all of us. Even if you are a person of means who can absorb price increases on just about everything, it's probably gotten you attention by now because you're spending more and getting less.

Most nonprofits are feeling the squeeze by now, too. And what many donors don't realize is that inflation is devaluing their charitable giving.

For example, if you're a consistent OneJax donor, giving us \$1,200 a year (a recurring donation of \$100 per month), we can't purchase as much now as we could prior to the rise of inflation. Prices have gone up while the value of what those dollars can buy has gone down. Basically, this means that if you haven't changed the level of your giving and you continue to give that same \$1,200 a year, *you are actually giving less without having made the conscious decision to do so.*

This is what economists call "the money illusion," which causes consumers to focus their attention on the higher prices they're paying rather than the diminished value of their money, according to Gregory R. Witkowski, senior lecturer in the nonprofit management program at Columbia University in an opinion piece published recently in the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*.

As you move forward with your giving plans this year—for OneJax as well as other beneficiaries of your generosity—think seriously about your intentions. If you feel strongly about the missions your donations support, you should probably consider increasing your gifts in order for your giving to have the same—or greater—impact.

Unexpected Grant Funds Mental Health Support

It's hard to talk honestly about difficult subjects. Especially when you're a teenager. That's one of the benefits of the OneJax youth programming offered to middle and high school students—it creates a safe and respectful space to talk about hard stuff.

But even that, at times, is not enough and a student needs more personal attention and time to process feelings prompted by Metrotown or MIAD discussions. OneJax has always been prepared to support our young people in those situations, often connecting them with accessible and available counseling for follow up.

Now, thanks to an unexpected grant from Delores Barr Weaver, we have a licensed mental health counselor available on-site during almost all of this year's Metrotown and MIAD programs.

"We have talked about adding a mental health professional to these session for quite a few years," said Deidre Lane, Associate Director of Programming responsible for the OneJax youth programs. "Finding professionals willing to devote chunks of time like this was more difficult than we imagined. And, of course, funding has been an issue. We couldn't be happier about Mrs. Weaver's grant. The ability to fairly compensate a counselor to be present and participate during our teen programs gives us bench strength we never had on a regular basis before. We are very grateful."

Mrs. Weaver became interested in making the grant after reading a story in the 2020-2021 OneJax annual report. Remaining anonymous, she had the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida conduct some due diligence, including talking with Deidre and Executive Director, Kyle Reese. Once she decided to move forward, her identity was revealed.

"Delores Barr Weaver has my utmost respect and appreciation," Kyle said. "She's a class act all the way—from what she does to how she goes about it. We have been fortunate enough to receive larger grants from Mrs. Weaver in the past. But she understands that sometimes, smaller investments deliver bigger returns. I think this is one of those instances."

Upcoming Events

- **May 6, 2022:** UNF Commencement
- **June 11-12, 2022:** Metrotown Middle
- **June 30, 2022:** OneJax Fiscal Year Ends
- **July 22-24, 2022:** Sandy Miller Metrotown Institute – High School
- **November 17, 2022:** Interfaith Thanksgiving Gratitude Service