

IMPACT THE PALM BEACHES CELEBRATES

FPL Women in Philanthropy

Over 100 guests enjoyed a special evening at Manatee Lagoon as **Impact the Palm Beaches** presented *FPL Women in Philanthropy*. This event recognized and celebrated four dynamic **NextEra Energy/FPL** leaders for their philanthropic work in *Arts & Culture, Environment, Family, and Health and Wellness*.

These categories are related to the areas that Impact the Palm Beaches' nonprofit grants are awarded to.

Pam Rauch, FPL Vice President of External Affairs and Economic Development, shared with guests that at FPL, they believe in the power of giving back and making the communities they serve even better places to live and raise families. As the evening honored four of their own, Pam shared that "part of what makes our team so special is the collective mindset of our people to bring out fresh ideas, collaborate and individually use our special talents and passions both at work and in our personal lives."

The Honorees who continually give their time, talent, and treasure to make a positive impact on the lives of others in the community included:

Natalie Smith, Executive Director (*Arts & Culture*); Natalie was honored for her work with the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science, in Tallahassee; as well as her leadership and continued support for local community organizations such as Edna Runner Tutorial Center among others.

Meredith Rollo, Environmental Services Manager (*Environment*); Meredith spearheaded several sustainability efforts within the company. After several years supporting the company's volunteer and philanthropic efforts, Meredith had the opportunity to join the Environmental Services team to focus on environmental outreach — and today, she has continued to grow and now manages a team that oversees not only their ESG efforts but all of the philanthropic efforts associated with environmental projects. Since 2019, Meredith has directed more than \$5 million in charitable donations to support environmental education, conservation, and research projects.

Atanya Lewis, *NextStep Rotation Program*, Clean Energy Solutions (*Family*); Atanya has been involved with philanthropic work dating back to her childhood and noted that the value of charitable work, volunteerism, and supporting her community was instilled through church activities and then grew to other organizations as she grew older. She was recognized for her work with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Palm Beach County. Atanya has participated in Habitat home builds for several years and, in 2018, served as "team captain" for the FPL Nuclear Division — for which she received a *Pink Hammer Award*.

The fourth and final Honoree was **Jessica Johnson**, Project Director (*Health and Wellness*); Jessica was recognized for her involvement with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), the largest voluntary health organization dedicated to fighting blood cancer worldwide. Throughout her time serving with LLS, she has helped raise millions of dollars to fund blood cancer research and provide education and patient services. As *LLS Woman of the Year*, along with her team, they raised nearly \$300,000 in 10 weeks, netting the team the recognition of Top Fundraiser. From 2018-2020, Jessica served as Co-Chair of the *Man/Woman of the Year* campaign, nominating and mentoring other candidates throughout the community. She has also served on the LLS Board since 2019, supporting annual initiatives and fundraising strategies.

Staying true to its corporate values, FPL is committed to excellence, doing the right thing, and treating people respectfully. Last year alone, it supported over 2,000 nonprofits, and its employees donated over \$3.8 million in payroll giving and special fundraising events. Additionally, FPL employees contributed more than 46,000 hours in their local communities through company-sponsored programs and personal volunteer time.

Impact members each contribute \$1,000 annually and award \$100,000 grants to local nonprofit organizations. Over the last seven years, Impact the Palm Beaches has awarded \$1.1 million in transformational giving to nonprofits in the community.

Impact the Palm Beaches \$100,000 *Impact Grant* awardees have included: **Vita Nova, Inc., Feed the Hungry Pantry of PBC, Clinics Can Help, West Jupiter Community Garden, Center for Trauma Counseling, Center for Child Counseling, Project LIFT, Palm Beach Dramaworks, and LIVE Fresh**. The 2022-2023 *Impact Grant* recipients will be announced at the annual awards event scheduled for April 20th.

For more information email info@impactpalmbeaches.org or visit Impactpalmbeaches.org.



FIRST ROW: Meredith Rollo, Jessica Johnson, Atanya Lewis and Natalie Smith; **SECOND ROW:** Lisa LaFrance, Juliet Roulhac, Pam Rauch, Grace Kurian and Lauren Sterlacci; **THIRD ROW:** Dee Wade, Genevieve George and Melissa Montalvo; **FOURTH ROW:** Lisa Johnson and Barbara James.

PHOTOS: CAPEHART