

SOCIETY

Scene

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Photos by Kara Starzyk

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'Get Smart... Get Connected' 2-1-1 Broward

Maxwell Smart may have been a bumbling secret agent in the hit series *Get Smart*, but there's no doubt this year's "Agents of Change" are far from that. On May 20, 2-1-1 Broward will host its annual awards luncheon "Get Smart... Get Connected" at the Sheraton Airport Hotel at 11:30 a.m. The organization will honor three extraordinary community partners who are committed to making change happen. Scott W. Rothstein, chairman/CEO, Rothstein Rosenfeldt Adler, Broward County Commissioner Lois Wexler and United Way of Broward County. Also, current 2-1-1 Broward Board chairman, John Benz will be presented with the 2009 Board Ambassador Award. Benz's efforts have been instrumental in driving this agency to new heights.

Rothstein has supported the organization both through Rothstein Rosenfeldt Adler and the Rothstein Family Foundation. Rothstein Rosenfeldt Adler has sponsored 2-1-1 Broward's golf tournament in the past and the Rothstein Family Foundation recently made a generous donation that will be used to revamp the Teen Program. Commissioner Lois Wexler selected 2-1-1 Broward as one of the recipients of the Mayor's Gala last year and United Way of Broward County has donated more than \$4 million since 1995.

With an increase in calls of 43 percent since 2007, 2-1-1 Broward is being called upon now more than ever. It is the county's only help line that offers 24/7 crisis intervention/assistance, provides residents with the information and referrals they need to stabilize their situations. 2-1-1 Broward trained help line counselors not only help callers work through problems, but provide support that is life changing and in some cases, life-saving.

The largest portion of calls, 49 percent, of the calls is for basic needs, such as housing, food, utility/rent assistance. There are substantial increases in needs among seniors and families with children and every month, 160 new families needing shelter and maintains a waiting list of at least 189 families. In the first quarter of 2009 compared to first quarter 2008, there was a 21 percent increase in calls.

Sheila Smith, president, CEO, 2-1-1 Broward said "we will continue to build partnerships with health and human service providers, funders, and the entire community to offer quality access to information and services. We will also provide community-wide data that can be used for planning purposes."

For more information about "Get Smart... Get Connected" or 211-Broward, contact Laurie Sallarulo at 954-390-0493. ■



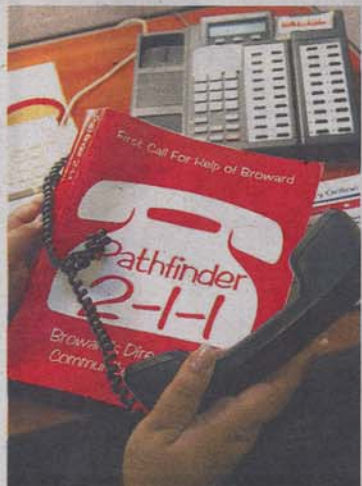
Tony Segreto, master of ceremonies, left, Jennifer O'Fannery Anderson, event co-chairwoman, Scott Rothstein, event co-chairman, Lynne Wines, vice chairman of 2-1-1-Broward Board and John Benz, chairman of 2-1-1-Broward board



2-1-1-Broward executive associate to the Board of Directors, Christina Mendez



2-1-1-Broward Board Members: Dan Schevis, left, Lynne Wines, Kim Gorsuch, Brett Friedman and Paul Eichner



John T. Deonan, 2-1-1-Broward treasurer, left, Lynne Wines, 2-1-1-Broward board