



Area Agency on Aging
of Broward County

**Dr. Nan S. Hutchison Broward Senior Hall of Fame
2024 Inductees**

Odessa Striggles Bennett

Age 77

[REDACTED]
Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33311

Elizabeth Robinson Massey

Age 68

[REDACTED]
Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Lori Green

Age 60

[REDACTED]
Cooper City, FL 33026

Betty Miller

Age 84

[REDACTED]
Pompano Beach, FL 33069

Carolyn Hardy

Age 73

[REDACTED]
West Park, FL 33023

John Raite

Age 73

[REDACTED]
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308

Dr. Jorge Lopez

Age 63

[REDACTED]
Weston, FL 33326

Joy Rodenberg

Age 88

[REDACTED]
Weston, FL 33326

Rosena Lott

Age 81

[REDACTED]
Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33309

Paul Sallarulo

Age 67

[REDACTED]
Lighthouse Point, FL 33064

2024 Honoree Bios

Odessa Striggles Bennett, Age 77, Lauderdale Lakes

I am honored to nominate Odessa S. Bennett for the Broward Senior Hall of Fame. Odessa has dedicated herself to various volunteer organizations for over five decades, including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Old Dillard Museum, and Mount Bethel Baptist Church. She has facilitated scholarship programs for high school students and participated in endeavors focused on historical conservation, enriching the lives of numerous individuals. Her altruistic endeavors epitomize the essence of volunteerism, leaving an imprint on the community. Her steadfast resolve and heartfelt empathy underscore the transformative influence that a single individual can wield within their community.

Odessa's commitment to selflessly give back to her community serves as a beacon of inspiration for others to follow. Her dedication to making a positive impact, one small act of kindness at a time, showcases the profound effect that individual efforts can have on the collective well-being of society. Through her unwavering compassion and unwavering determination, Odessa embodies the true spirit of volunteerism, proving that even the smallest gestures of goodwill can spark meaningful change and leave a lasting legacy of generosity and kindness.

Lori Green, Age 60, Cooper City

It is with great pleasure and admiration that I submit this nomination for Lori Green to be inducted into the Broward Senior Hall of Fame. Lori's life has been marked by an unwavering commitment to service, leadership, compassion, making her an exemplary candidate for this esteemed recognition.

Beyond her professional career, Lori has been an integral part of numerous organizations, demonstrating her passion for community involvement, including many volunteer roles at the David Posnack JCC, beginning in 1993 and continuing to this day. Her first role as PTO co-president, then Board member, volunteering on many committees, to Secretary (1998/00), to Board President (2000/2022). Her biggest role; known as M.O.M., Mother-of-Maccabi, a worldwide Jewish-teens sporting-game. Roles include Maccabi Delegation Head, and Co-Chair for the Maccabi Games & ArtsFest® that the DPJCC hosted in 2015 and Maccabi Games/Access®, 2023, further demonstrates her commitment to fostering youth development and promoting cultural exchange.

Lori has played a pivotal role in shaping the educational landscape for many young learners. As a representative on the Steering Committee, the DPJCC invited the David Posnack Hebrew Day School to the campus. Her contributions to the DPHDS and her involvement with other boards such as the Jewish Federation of Broward County and the Central Agency for Jewish Education underscore her commitment to advancing education and communal well-being. Furthermore, Lori's dedication to public service extends to her involvement in local government, where she served on the City of Cooper City Charter Review Board in 2016 and 2019-2022, and appointed to the Cooper City Public Safety Advisory Board, 2018-2020. Her volunteer leadership and insights have undoubtedly contributed to enhancing the quality of life and safety within her community. During the challenging times brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, Lori's leadership shone brightly volunteering as the COO of the Broward Medical Reserves, coordinating hundreds of medical and non-medical volunteers to administer Covid vaccines and providing crucial support during public health emergencies showcased her resilience and organizational prowess.

In addition to her community volunteer and professional endeavors, Lori's compassionate spirit is evident in her dedication to causes such as Friendship Cafe and Israel Heart to Heart. Her involvement in rescuing and adopting out kittens/cats, as well as her support for organizations like Rak Pak, and her long-standing volunteer work with the Democratic Party, exemplifies her commitment to making a positive impact on both humans and animals alike. In summary, Lori Green's multifaceted contributions to her community, her selfless service, and her unwavering dedication to making the world a better place make her an exceptional candidate for induction into the Broward Senior Hall of Fame. Her legacy of kindness, leadership, and compassion will undoubtedly continue to inspire future generations.

Carolyn Hardy, Age 73, West Park

Mrs. Carolyn Hardy has served her community by being the Treasure of the Carver Ranches Friend group. Mrs. Hardy has served as the Treasure of the Carver Ranches Group for over a decade. She continues to demonstrate compassion and concern for her local community by contributing greatly to the local library located in the city of West Park, with new ideas and programming. She is also an active member of several local boards in Broward County, and attends all the meetings promptly and consistently. As a mentor for the local program precision, she serves as a great role model for young girls and her fellow mentors. In addition, Mrs. Hardy not only attends the senior program, but she also shares a wealth of information and uses her community contacts to bring opportunities to West Park seniors and residents.

Her positive outlook and can-do attitude helped establish a new look for seniors 60 years and older, who enjoy getting involved. Mrs. Hardy has a wonderful spirit of giving her time, talents, and ideas when it comes to the community and the seniors of West Park. Mrs. Hardy is an active volunteer for the City of West Park food distribution held every 4th Saturday at Mctyre park located in West Park, as well as attends City commission meetings held every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at City Hall. As a retired Broward County employee, Mrs. Hardy has been a great help to the community and the West Part senior program.

Jorge Lopez, Age 63, Weston

Dr. Jorge Lopez's tireless dedication to The Ostomy and Feeding Supply Bank in Weston is truly commendable. His selfless efforts in collecting, distributing, and educating individuals about medical supplies have had a profound impact on the community.

His commitment to traveling across the county and beyond to gather much needed supplies from various sources, including the deceased or those who no longer require them, reflects his unwavering compassion and determination to assist the uninsured, homeless, and destitute populations, especially during emergency situations.

Moreover, Dr. Lopez's hands-on approach in personally selecting the most suitable products for their needs and providing thorough instructions on their usage demonstrates his genuine care and concern for their well-being.

His contributions extend beyond the supply bank as he ensures that emergency medical shelters in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties receive essential ostomy supplies, benefiting a wider population in times of crisis.

Furthermore, his active involvement in The South Florida Ostomy and Tube Feeding/HPN Support Group reflects his commitment to offering ongoing support and guidance to individuals with ostomies and medical feeding equipment, thereby enhancing their quality of life and fostering a sense of community.

Dr. Jorge Lopez's positive attitude, enthusiasm, and boundless energy serve as an inspiration to others, and his invaluable contributions have undoubtedly made a significant difference in the lives of countless individuals in Broward County and beyond.

Rosena Lott, Age 81, Lauderdale Lakes

Rosena is a native of Florida. She was born in Broward County, and her family later moved to Daytona Beach where she grew up. She graduated from Campbell Street High School in 1961. Rosena came back to Fort Lauderdale and attended Broward Junior College to pursue a degree in Nursing. In addition to that she studied and became a licensed Barber and Cosmetologist.

Rosena is the proud mother of two children. Her daughter is a Registered Nurse with a master's degree in nursing education and her son is a Major serving in the United States Army. She instilled in her children at an early age that getting a good education is the key to success. She is also the grandmother of two teenagers. Rosena has been a faithful member of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Pompano Beach for the past 50 years. She has the honor of serving as Mother of the Church. During the pandemic she would sit hours in line at different Food Banks to pick up food to share with other members and her neighbors that were incapacitated.

Rosena is compassionate when it comes to helping those in need. For over 15 years she maintained a Group Home for three women that were mentally challenged. When a friend was displaced due to a fire in her home, Rosena opened her doors to house her. For many years, Rosena has been active in the community. She is a member of the Northwest Federated Woman's Club of Broward County, Inc., Eastern Stars #44, Elisha Court #6, and the Elks Temple #395.

What many people do not realize is that Rosena is an amputee who embodies resilience and determination, demonstrating incredible strength and selflessness by giving back to her community despite facing physical challenges. Her willingness to help others despite her own obstacles is truly inspiring and showcases her unwavering dedication to making a positive impact.

Rosena has a love for travel. She has been to South Africa, Hawaii, and been on several cruises throughout the Caribbean Islands. She has led a full and exciting life, and her motto is "Keep on Living."

Elizabeth Robinson Massey, Age 68, Pompano Beach

I would like to nominate Elizabeth Robinson Massey for the Broward Senior Hall of Fame. A native Broward County resident, Elizabeth has been a dedicated professional and volunteer in this county for over 50 years. She is a 1973 graduate from Pompano Senior High School. Immediately after graduation, she began her life of giving back to her community.

As a young student at Broward Community College, she would volunteer with Mrs. Blanche Ely at Blanche Ely High School, which was at that time in the process of being transitioned from a high school to an adult learning center. Elizabeth would remain a volunteer there until she graduated from Broward Community College and moved to attend Florida Atlantic University. Upon graduation from FAU, she was fortunate enough to be hired by Area Agency on Aging as an Information and Referral Specialist,

where she was mentored by the late Nan Hutchison, Edith Lederberg, and Ruby Felder. These ladies helped her formulate the plan for her professional career in social work that spanned over 40 years in Broward County.

At their encouragement she went to work for the Department of Children and Families and served there for 35 years. She was the first African American Program Administrator and Regional Program Director for the Economic Self-Sufficiency (ACCESS) Programs for the State of Florida in the Southeast Region, having the leadership for the operations of this program in six counties (Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee). In this role, she was instrumental in ensuring that access to vital programs our residents needed was afforded to all our residents. Elizabeth paid particular attention to the needs of our seniors and worked collaboratively with community partners and neighborhood groups to remove all barriers to service.

In addition to her professional career, Elizabeth has always given back to her community with her volunteer work. She has been a volunteer with many schools in the Pompano Beach community for the past 45 years. In addition, she served on the Broward Health Community Health Services Board, the City of Pompano Beach Art in Public Places Committee, Community Development Committee and the Martin Luther King Committee of Pompano Beach as well as the Education Advisory Committee for approximately 20 years.

Elizabeth is a charter member of the Coalition of 100 Black Women of Broward County and the National Council of Negro Women – Broward County Section. Having a desire to bring more programs to serve those in need and be a voice for the voiceless, she also was a charter member of the North Broward County Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She currently is on the Board of the Rock Road Historical Group of Pompano Beach where she works to ensure that the history of her beloved city is preserved. Never being able to truly retire from helping others, she serves as a volunteer Guardian Ad Litem where she continues to ensure the appropriate care and services are received by those in need.

Betty A. Miller, Age 84, Pompano Beach

Betty has been a resident of Broward County since 1995. She retired from a career of Public Health in Washington DC. Betty immediately began to volunteer with Vitas Hospice Care in 1995 after moving to South Florida, Broward County. It was a great way to meet people and help others at the same time. Her volunteer service with Vitas spanned 25 years. Her duties included working in the administrative offices until COVID shut down everything. Even after COVID, she continued to pick up projects from Vitas to complete during the shutdown and it also kept her busy.

At the same time, she was volunteering for VITAS, she decided to join another organization to volunteer. At the time, it was called Broward Grandparents Program. Again, she took on several responsibilities such as answering the phones and greeting visitors in their administrative offices. She was constantly seen smiling and chatting with others and she enjoyed her responsibilities there also.

For the past 10 years, Betty has supported the Lighthouse of Broward in many of their children's special activities. She has been seen hosting a sensory table for the children and serving meals and drinks as needed during the Beeping Egg Hunt or Holiday parties.

Betty has dedicated herself to helping others in her retirement years. Although she enjoys traveling and loves exploring new places, she always finds time to volunteer and support others.

John Raite, Age 73, Fort Lauderdale

It is with great pleasure that I nominate John Raite for the 2023 Broward Senior Hall of Fame. John joined the Area Agency on Aging SHINE program in 2017 and from the beginning, he has been a leader. At his first year milestone, John was nominated to become a SHINE Local Coordinator over 4 more tenured SHINE counselors. John also serves as a mentor, assisting many new volunteers through the SHINE training program and helping each one to build their confidence and prepare them to be amazing counselors.

In addition, John is a certified SHINE presenter, giving SHINE informational presentations wherever we are invited. He is always prepared and professional, ready to handle any topic, question, or situation he comes across.

Lastly, John is a Senior Medicare Patrol Task Member. In this role, he is continuously learning about ways to help clients avoid scams, fraud, and abuse. In one case, John was instrumental in helping assist a client who could not get her doctor's office to reimburse her for services she had paid for and did not receive.

John is willing to do anything asked of him and jumps in with both feet. He never says no. He treats every person he meets with sincerity, empathy, and compassion. During the COVID pandemic, the SHINE program changed its structure to a virtual environment. John did not hesitate to make the transition and to make himself available online.

In 2022, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs recognized John's accomplishments by awarding him the Harold Barnes Volunteer Leader of the Year award winner. The award criteria includes tenure (# of hours volunteered and # of clients served), effort (examples of dedication to the SHINE program and going above and beyond) and leadership history (examples of taking on volunteer management issues).

John continues to expand his role with the SHINE program and is now a Train the Trainer curriculum – a much needed role as our previous trainer retired.

Joy Rodenberg, Age 88, Weston

Joy Rodenberg has been a Weston resident since 1992, and she is best described as a lifelong volunteer.

Joy volunteered for Conversations with Partners to help develop language skills with non-native English speakers, and she was a volunteer with Take Stock in Children. She served as Weston Brandeis Chapter's Program Chair, where she helped organize "Living in Other Lands" with speakers from foreign countries and "Literature and the Law."

As an active member of Nova Southeastern University's Lifelong Learning program, she has served as the moderator for the Short Story Group, and coordinator of the Great Decisions Series.

Joy served on the Arts Council of Greater Weston for 12 years, and President from 2010-2014. She started "Celebrate the Arts," a major family event devoted to art, music, and performance. She developed first-class programming for the Weston Foreign Film series and helped expand the Student Artists Showcase to Weston's public and private schools.

She also has served as the Secretary for the Weston Philharmonic, a board member of the Weston Music Society, and she coordinates the City of Weston's sponsored events. Her friends lovingly refer

to her as the “ticket witch.” She has a great appreciation of what art and music can do to inspire children and wants to make sure they have every opportunity.

To say she is committed to the arts is an understatement!

Paul Sallarulo, Age 67, Lighthouse Point

Paul Sallarulo currently serves on the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council and is an active supporter of our events.

Paul has an extensive background in community volunteerism. Over the years, he was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to serve as a Commissioner of the North Broward Hospital District for two four-year terms and served as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and Chairman of the Executive Committee. During that time, he also served as Chairman of the Audit Committee, Legal Review Committee, Joint Conference Committee, Broward Health Foundation, Community Relations Committee for Broward General Hospital, and the Community Relations Committee for Imperial Point Medical Center. In January 2006, The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) appointed him to serve on the Medicaid Reform Technical Advisory Panel. The panel was created by the Florida Legislature to advise AHCA on various implementation issues with Medicaid reform. In 2007, Governor Charlie Crist selected Paul to join his transition team to serve on the Citizens Review group for the Office of Financial Regulation.

Paul served on the Board of Directors of Basinate Industries, Board of Directors of Ubii Corporation, Board of Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc., and Board of Renaissance Charter School, Inc. At NSU he has served on the Board of Trustees, International Alumni Association (President), and the Dental Medicine Advisory Board. He also currently serves on the Board of the Ann Storck Center.

Paul is a champion for the Special Olympics, he has dedicated over 45 years to his relationship with Special Olympics, beginning as a volunteer in high school. His commitment deepened with his son Patrick's involvement as an athlete at age 8, spanning over two decades of participation in swimming, bocce ball, bowling, and skiing. Patrick, now an adult, has not only thrived in his athletic pursuits but has also fostered enduring friendships and cherished memories. Paul's passion for fundraising was ignited when he raised over \$130,000 by running a half-marathon for his 50th birthday celebration. This success inspired him to establish Sallarulo's Race for Champions, aimed at supporting athletes like Patrick in Broward County. Under

Paul's guidance, this event has grown substantially in both scale and fundraising capacity, becoming a cornerstone of community involvement and support. Paul's impact transcends the Race for Champions event. Throughout his enduring relationship with Special Olympics Florida, he has dedicated countless hours to volunteering, raised awareness about the organization's mission, and facilitated cash and in-kind donations exceeding \$7 million for Broward County Athletes. Paul's unwavering commitment and leadership have left an indelible mark on the Special Olympics community and other organizations, embodying the spirit of dedication and service worthy of Hall of Fame recognition.