

Lifetime Achievement

Jim and Jan Moran: 'We want everyone to have the opportunities to succeed in life'



Jan and the late Jim Moran

One of the late Jim Moran's favorite sayings was, "The future belongs to those who prepare for it." The many philanthropic works of Jim and his wife Jan in their 40 years in Broward County reflect that philosophy. For those works address not only the recipient's immediate needs, but also on how to help them – and the community as a whole – acquire the tools for a better future. One of Jim Moran's pride and joys – the Youth Automotive Training Center (YATC) is a good example. The training center in Deerfield Beach is supported entirely by community donors.

Founded by Jim Moran in 1984, the program offers GED academic preparation, basic automotive repair training, and life-skills preparation to at-risk teens. There is no tuition, fees or

cost to the students, and the skills learned will enable them to enjoy fulfilled lives and successful careers. "Jim felt strongly that everyone deserves a second chance and wanted this program to become the family that many of these young people have missed in their lives," Jan Moran said. "For some of these students, YATC is their only family." Jim and Jan Moran's philanthropic benevolence is as legendary as their entrepreneurship. In their many years in Broward County, the Morans have supported more than 100 charitable organizations, large and small. "Jim and Jan weren't afraid to help organizations that nobody heard of, that were 'under the radar screen.'

If they could help that organization get to the next level, Jim and Jan were there,"

said Linda Carter, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Broward. "When you look at the Morans' philanthropy, it is everywhere. It is children, it is the elderly, it is health and it is cultural. Their philanthropy isn't singularly focused, but it isn't scattershot, either. It is strategic." In recognition of their many contributions to South Florida, Jim and Jan Moran have been named by the Broward chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals as recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award. This marks only the sixth time in 20 years that this award has been given. "It's a very special award," Carter said. "They were a great team. That's why the honor goes to both of them. We wanted to reach out to Jan and let her know how much we think of her and how much we thought of Jim. "When you see a couple being honored together for their philanthropy, you know it is part of the fabric of who they are as a couple." "Special" is a word heard frequently when the conversation turns to the Morans, their business, their impact on the community and their philanthropic contributions. Jim Moran was a "Horatio Alger" story. He started selling soda at sandlot baseball games in Chicago at age 7. He was hailed as an innovator in business.

In 1961, he was the first automobile dealer to be featured on the cover of Time magazine. Five years later, he would move to Florida, and would go on to build JM Family Enterprises into the 18th-largest privately held company in the United States, according to Forbes maga-

zine. He also built Southeast Toyota into the world's largest private Toyota distributorship.

In 2005, he was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame. Yet through a legendary career that spanned six decades, Jim, along with Jan, always remained loyal to their longstanding values of helping others, giving back to the community and treating everyone with respect. "We both moved to South Florida in the 1960s," Jan Moran said, "and this has been our only home ever since. We have seen many changes in South Florida and want everyone in our community to have the necessary opportunities to succeed in life in every way possible."

That helping hand from the Morans could be as large as a community-wide challenge campaign to build a Boys & Girls Club, or something as small as a birthday cake for a struggling mom. Carter cited Jack & Jill Children's Center, the Fort Lauderdale organization that provides educational childcare for low income working families. It is among the many to be helped by the Morans.

"Jim and Jan realized that not only do you need to help the children, but the parents struggle, too," she said. "It can be little things, like putting a

smile on a mother's face by giving her a cake on her birthday. "The Morans understood it takes a lot of things to make us whole."

Jim and Jan Moran

Award:

Lifetime Achievement Award

Organizations supported:

Among the many charitable organizations and programs that the Morans support are Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward, Holy Cross Hospital, Women In Distress, Northwest Federated Women's Club Senior Center, Urban Leagues and Kids In Distress.

Philosophy on philanthropy:

"Since we both remember growing up in challenging circumstances, Jim and I always wanted to try to make a meaningful difference in the lives of mothers, children and families in the community we love so much."



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