

For the fourth year, *Biz(941)* and *La Guia* magazines are honoring individuals and companies who embrace the talents of all people. There are smart business reasons to value inclusion. Our region, like the rest of the world, is becoming more multicultural, and to neglect the talents and culture diverse populations offer is to turn away from opportunity. Evidence shows that the more diverse your workforce, the more innovative your organization becomes.



The(se) people... have started new foundations to encourage diversity, welcomed immigrants, hired the disabled, encouraged sexual equality and established forums for us to openly discuss prejudice and differences. Their efforts make us all more productive, and in the process, richer in our wallets and souls.

Nonprofit Winner: Brad Jones

In the two years that Brad Jones has been the director of adult services for Community Haven for Adults and Children with Disabilities, the program's enrollment has increased from 70 clients to more than 130. Jones, who was awarded the 2013 Michael Goodman Leadership Award from the Florida Association of Rehab Facilities, says his top priority has been to help Community Haven's adult clients find a sense of purpose in work.



Photography by Barbara Banks

"A lot of programs are more like daycare," he says, "but I wanted to make ours more vocational. We're breaking the boundaries of what people think about disabilities."

Jones has doubled Community Haven's partnerships with local business, from six to 12. Projects include baking, landscaping, assembly work and more. Some of those businesses have multiple contracts, too; Sun Hydraulics has eight contracts, for example, and Jones estimates that Community Haven clients assemble 10,000 pieces a week for the company.

"It's a win-win," he says. "The clients get a meaningful activity and, most importantly, a paycheck. The businesses

get high-quality work and a tax break." Some businesses have Community Haven clients work on-site, alongside full-time employees, and Jones says the clients' "infectious personalities" can be a morale boost; at least 12 of those employees have started volunteering at Community Haven.

Looking ahead, Jones says his biggest concern is finding more space. "We have three buildings occupied, even a classroom in our administrative building," he says. "We have about 12 people on a waiting list, and we don't like saying no." —*Beau Denton*