

January 2022



NONPROFIT



CHRISTINE FREDERICK

Becoming a South Florida top executive has been both a challenging and humbling experience, especially during these unprecedented times. I have had the privilege of working alongside a team of professionals and community partners who I highly admire and respect, and I am inspired daily by the remarkable young people we are honored to serve. Through the many struggles we have faced individually and as a community, I have thought a great deal about what a “better tomorrow” can look like and have allowed that vision to fuel my leadership decisions. With the belief that anything is possible when doing right by people, I have incorporated innovative approaches to solving problems and to growing our capacity as an organization. We have increased our impact in response to growing needs and have shifted our focus from helping our youth and young adults survive to make sure they thrive.

SOUTH FLORIDA BUSINESS & WEALTH MAGAZINE 2021 APOGEE AWARDS

NONPROFIT



LAINIE SALLANVILJO
President and CEO of Arden
Institution of South Florida

I believe the saying, “Life is not about the destination. It’s about the journey.” No journey is ever without peaks and valleys, ups and downs, and highs and lows. My journey has been filled with them all, but I am grateful it’s been full of opportunities. Some of the opportunities were exciting, some were scary. It took courage to take chances, try new things and leave my comfort zone. With each chance I took, my confidence as a leader grew, I proved myself and moved organizations to higher levels. I attribute this success to four key ingredients. First, I was doing the work I love, fulfilling my passion to help others be their best and achieve success. Second, I never accept the status quo and am committed to doing the best work possible. Third, as my dad said, I go all in.

NONPROFIT



SHERYL A. WOODS
President and CEO of YMCA of
South Florida

With over 30 years of experience in operations and leadership at the YMCA, Sheryl has taken our South Florida YMCA to new heights. Sheryl moved to South Florida in 2005 and became Chief Operating Officer for the YMCA of Broward County. She was then appointed as the new President and CEO in 2007. Under her leadership, the YMCA of Broward County and the YMCA of Greater Miami merged to become the YMCA of South Florida in 2015. She was again appointed President and CEO of the newly formed YMCA, which serves Broward, Miami-Dade and Mecklenburg counties. The merger has been a tremendous success, growing the Y’s footprint from a \$12 million organization to over \$26 million, with an employee base of over 1,200 employees that provide quality programs and services to over 200,000 people a year.

REAL ESTATE/ CONSTRUCTION



ALBERTO “AL” FERNANDEZ
President of A&F Group, Inc.

Growing my family business for the past 40 years has been an incredibly rewarding life experience. I’ve had the pleasure of working alongside inspiring individuals who have guided and helped me achieve a level of success beyond my wildest dreams. The most important thing I’ve learned over the years is that success cannot be achieved alone, but only with a great group of professionals who share your same drive and passion. I give thanks to my parents for giving me the opportunity to start a business at a young age and to my loving wife and children for supporting me in this journey.

REAL ESTATE/ CONSTRUCTION



EZRA KATZ
Owner of the
ZETA Group, Inc.

I moved to Miami in 1979 and met a welcoming community eager to embrace newcomers. I joined Aztec Group, Inc. in 1981 in order to provide a professional alternative to selling and financing real estate transactions and creating a successful business plan based on expertise and service. Aztec’s success allowed me to become an investor as a Principal by adhering to my core beliefs to identify operating partners in diverse property types, including office, hospitality, residential, and retail. This, giving birth to Mayan Properties, LLC in 1995, my vehicle to invest my funds in a diverse portfolio and geographical locations with amazing operating partners. My business philosophies and plans have remained consistently disciplined. I owe my relative success to my business colleagues within Aztec and my operating partners, as well as investment partners within Mayan.