

Community Champions Awards

Application Deadline: 10/15/2026 3:00 PM

The Children's Trust of Alachua County invites you to help us recognize the individuals, young people, businesses, organizations and community leaders who are making a meaningful difference in the lives of children, youth and families across Alachua County.

The Children's Trust Community Champions Awards, sponsored by South State Bank, celebrate exceptional leadership, service, innovation, advocacy and community impact. Whether through youth leadership, community partnerships, hands-on service or a lifetime of dedication, these honorees represent the people and organizations helping build a stronger future for our community.

Introduction

Date Created	
Date Modified	
Created By	

Your Contact Information (Nominator):

Nominator Full Name

Introduction

Nominator Phone Number	
Organization/Agency	
Nominator Email Address	
Relation to Nominee	Teacher Friend Colleague Mentor Self Other
Modified By	
Grant *	

Nominee Information:

Nominee Name

Children's Trust Awards

Parent or Guardian (if a minor)	
Nominee Phone Number	
Nominee Email	

Award Category

Children's Trust Awards
Award Categories and Descriptions

1. Youth Empowerment Award (2 awards)

Kindergarten - Rising 5th Grade

Recognizes a young person who demonstrates outstanding leadership, advocacy, youth engagement, and a commitment to empowering others. Through acts of kindness, service, perseverance, or community involvement, the recipient inspires peers, contributes positively to their school or neighborhood, and exemplifies the values of responsible citizenship and leadership at an early age.

Rising 6th Grade - Rising 12th Grade

Recognizes a middle or high school student who demonstrates exceptional youth leadership, advocacy, civic engagement, and a commitment to empowering fellow youth. Through volunteerism, mentorship, community service, or leadership initiatives, the recipient has made a meaningful impact on their school or community while inspiring others to become active and engaged leaders.

2. Community Champion Award

Recognizes an individual, business, organization, or community leader whose commitment to children, youth, and families has created meaningful and lasting impact within the community. This award honors those who promote strong community partnerships among schools, nonprofits, government agencies, businesses, or other community partners to develop innovative solutions, strengthen community connections, and improve outcomes for children and families across Alachua County.

3. Rising Star Award

Recognizes an emerging leader who is making a promising impact during the early stages of their service or career. Eligible nominees should have served in a leadership role for three years or less and demonstrate creativity, innovation, initiative, and a strong commitment to improving the lives of children, youth, and their families. This award honors individuals whose leadership shows exceptional promise and significant potential for long-term community impact.

4. Children's Trust Heart of Service Award

Recognizes a currently funded Children's Trust provider organization that exemplifies exceptional hands-on service and support to children, youth, and families. This award honors providers that consistently demonstrate compassion, reliability, and unwavering dedication in meeting the needs of children and youth while delivering high-quality services. Recipients embody the Children's Trust's mission through excellence, responsiveness, and a steadfast commitment to improving outcomes for the families they serve.

5. Lifetime Impact Award

Recognizes an individual whose lifelong dedication, leadership, and service have created a lasting legacy for children, youth, and families in Alachua County. Through years of advocacy, mentorship, philanthropy, community leadership, or professional service, the recipient has made extraordinary contributions that continue to strengthen the community and inspire future generations. This award celebrates a lifetime devoted to expanding opportunities, improving outcomes, and leaving an enduring positive impact on Alachua County.

Award you are nominating the candidate for (select one):

Youth Empowerment Award (Kindergarten-5th Grade)
Youth Empowerment Award (6-12 Grade)
Community Champion Award
Rising Star Award
Children's Trust Heart of Service Award (Must be a currently funded CTAC provider)

Nominee Qualities and Characteristics	Please provide a written description of the qualities and characteristics that make the nominee an ideal candidate for receiving this specific award. Winners will be selected based on how well the candidate meets the criteria listed in the award description.
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Accomplishments and Community Impact	Describe specific examples of their accomplishments and how their contributions have impacted their community, school, or children and families in Alachua County. Where applicable, include length of service, specific names of projects or programs, and any additional information that would support their nomination.
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Please attach any additional documentation that would support the consideration and review of the nominee. This could include but is not limited to letters of support, news articles, photographs, or other exhibits of their achievements.

Additional Documentation