



## WEDU News

### Winners Announced During 10th Annual WEDU Be More Awards

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TAMPA, FL (February 12, 2015) — **Tampa, FL — WEDU PBS** held the 2015 WEDU Be More Awards on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> before a sold out crowd of over 500 guests at the A La Carte Pavilion in Tampa. Continuing the tradition of honoring Tampa Bay area nonprofit organizations, the annual community event began at 11:00 a.m. with the *Hall of Heroes* followed by an inspiring luncheon and awards ceremony at Noon.

The WEDU Be More Awards was created by WEDU PBS to help raise awareness for local nonprofits and their service to West Central Florida. Annually, the program helps introduce new donors, volunteers, and those in need of services to the worthy nonprofit organizations.

Utilizing a panel of impartial judges who spent weeks reviewing applications and nominations, **WEDU**, West Central Florida's primary PBS station, recognized nonprofit organizations and individuals who applied or were nominated for honors in a variety of categories - culminating with one organization being named the *WEDU Be More Unstoppable, Nonprofit Organization of the Year (2014)*.

To help commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the community event, guest presenters included: Hailey Scheinman of Livy's Hope and the first winner of the Be More Inspiring Award; Dalia Colon, Host of WEDU Arts Plus; Thomas Mantz, Executive Director of last year's Be More Unstoppable Nonprofit of the Year, Feeding American Tampa Bay; Ryan Nece, the inspiration behind the Be More Positive ABC Action News Award. The ceremony was emceed by Cathy Unruh, Lissette Campos, and Jack Harris.

The winner of this year's Be More Unstoppable Nonprofit of the Year Award will be featured on an upcoming episode of **Up Close with Cathy Unruh** and was presented with a \$2,500 Community Investment Grant from WEDU.

#### **BE MORE ENRICHED**

#### **WINNER: Coexistence, Inc. (Embracing Our Differences)**

***Greenberg Traurig Arts & Culture Award*** | This award recognized culturally-based organizations that contribute to the spirit of adventure and exploration through education in the arts and culture by creating an exciting and engaging museum experience to visitors. ***Examples may include:*** Programs or experiences related to the arts, performance, historic, or zoological; programs that provide cultural experiences to

audiences who might not otherwise have opportunities to witness or be an active participant.

**Finalists: Art Center Sarasota; Florida Studio Theatre; Glazer Children's Museum, Ruth Eckerd Hall**

**BE MORE UNSTOPPABLE**

**WINNER: High Risk Hope**

***Nonprofit of the Year Award* | This award is the most coveted and is determined through extensive research. It was ultimately decided by an independent judging committee and given to one organization that, through a superior level of service, helps their constituency be more. Selected from all submitted applications, the criteria to win this award consisted of overall organizational excellence; fulfillment of the Four Commitments to the Community, including service to the organizations' constituency, level of community impact, financial viability and embodiment of overall community goodwill. In addition to many other benefits, the organization recognized with this award received a \$2,500 WEDU Community Investment Grant.**

**Finalists: Ad 2 Tampa Bay; Asolo Theatre, Inc.; Coexistence, Inc (Embracing Our Differences); More Health, Inc.; Ruth Eckerd Hall**

#### **ABOUT WEDU PBS**

WEDU is West Central Florida's leading PBS station reaching 16 counties through media platforms including on-air programming and online experiences that broaden horizons, transport and transform and open gateways to new ideas and new worlds. Financially supported by the community, the organization offers a wealth of award-winning inspirational, educational and enlightening content over a variety of multi-media platforms including: television programming, station website, [www.wedu.org](http://www.wedu.org) and various social media platforms, monthly member magazine *Premiere*, educational outreach activities and a myriad of special events. WEDU's focus on the local community has resulted in the station being regarded as a beacon of trust for men, women and children of every walk of life no matter their age, ethnicity or socio-economic status. WEDU is a treasured community resource; a window to the world for the homebound and a vital educational source for the youngest members of society. WEDU prides itself on its position in the Tampa Bay community as a leader, partner, informed citizen and a member of PBS, the most trusted institution in America (ORC International's DualFrame CARAVAN, January 2015). For more information, program schedules or to support WEDU visit [www.wedu.org](http://www.wedu.org); WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter (@wedupbs) or call (813) 254-9338.