



For Immediate Release

4th Annual Golden Baby Shoe Awards Presented to a Sold Out Audience (the “Grammys” of the Healthcare and Social Services Industry).

On August 24, 2014, six extraordinary individuals were honored at a sold out event for their outstanding contributions in ensuring that babies have a chance at a healthy start in life.

- **John Bartlett MD** (*Lifetime Achievement Awardee*)- Pediatrician with Physicians Primary Care (PPC) Pediatrics
- **Jill Carpenter**, BSW- Team Leader for Lee Memorial Home Health Healthy Start team
- **Trina Puddefoot**- Early Steps Program Director for the Health Planning Council of SWFL
- **Lasheba Travis**, PhD- Program Director of Biomedical Sciences, Keiser University and former Program Manager for The Florida Department of Health in Hendry and Glades Counties
- **Nancy Travis**, RN,BC,CPN,CBC,BSN,MS – Director of Women’s Care for Cape Coral Hospital
- **Todd Vedder MD**- Pediatrician with NCH Healthcare and Chair of the Safe and Healthy Children’s Coalition of Collier County.

The event was held at the Grandezza in Estero, FL, Keynote speaker Richard Akin, CEO of Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida and the Chair of the Lee Memorial Health System Board of Directors gave a heartfelt speech about the important impact frontline workers have on families with young children. He noted there are lots of changes coming with healthcare reform, but one thing is clear, we will have less funding to meet the needs, but this can also be an opportunity to be even more efficient with the resources we do have. Mr. Akin also gave the group a pep talk to rally the troops in the fight against infant mortality and that collaboration is the key to a success. The event’s MC was Stephanie Summers, co-host of Fox 4’s “The Morning Blend”.

The Golden Baby Shoe Awards is a program of the Healthy Start Coalition of Southwest Florida. For pictures and videos from the event, go to:

www.GoldenBabyShoe.org

Healthy Start is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) serving Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties since 1992. We help ensure moms and babies have access to needed medical care, community services, and health education to help give their baby a Healthy Start in life. Last year Healthy Start served more than 17,000 pregnant women, babies and young children up to age three who were at higher risk for poor health outcomes. 94 cents of every dollar received goes to local services.