



NATE GITTNER

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Nate Gittner serves as Director of Operations for Physician Services at Halifax Health, where he provides operational leadership across primary care, pediatrics, women's health, wound care, hyperbaric medicine, and other specialty services. Throughout his healthcare career, Nate has focused on expanding access to care, developing strong teams, and helping healthcare organizations better serve the communities that depend on them. His work has included opening new clinic locations, supporting physician recruitment, and leading initiatives designed to improve access, quality, and patient experience.

Nate's roots in Volusia County run deep. After graduating from high school locally and earning his associate degree from Daytona State College, he completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Central Florida and later earned an MBA from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Although career opportunities initially took him elsewhere, Nate intentionally returned to Volusia County to build his career, raise a family, and contribute to the community that has long been home to him and his extended family. Today, he and his wife, Kate, are raising their two young sons in the community they love.

Beyond his professional responsibilities, Nate is passionate about leadership development and community engagement. Through organizations including Volusia Young Professionals, Leadership Daytona, and Daytona State College, he enjoys mentoring emerging leaders, sharing lessons learned throughout his own career journey, and helping others find meaningful ways to get involved in the community. Nate believes that investing in future leaders is essential to building a community where the next generation will choose to live, work, and raise their own families, and he remains committed to that effort.



KELLY KWIATEK

MARVIN SAMUELS MEMORIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD



Kelly Parsons Kwiatek serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer of Halifax Health, a leading multi-hospital healthcare system providing a full continuum of care to the communities it serves. As a member of Halifax Health's executive leadership team, she advises the CEO and Board of Commissioners and oversees the organization's legal, compliance, clinical and claims risk management, insurance and self-insurance, government affairs, and philanthropic functions. She joined Halifax Health in 2019 after a 15-year career as a shareholder with the law firm Cobb Cole, where she focused on commercial litigation.

In private practice, Mrs. Kwiatek was Board Certified in Labor & Employment Law by the Florida Bar, earned an AV Preeminent Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, and received numerous honors recognizing her professional excellence and community service.

She graduated magna cum laude from Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theater and earned her Juris Doctor from Florida State University College of Law.

Mrs. Kwiatek has been appointed by the Governor to serve in key leadership roles, including as a Trustee for Daytona State College and as a Commissioner on the Judicial Nominating Commission for Florida's Seventh Judicial Circuit. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Florida Chamber of Commerce and Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce and is an active member of the Halifax Area Civic League, Checkered Flag Committee, Volusia County Bar Association, Volusia County Charter Review Commission, and the Endowment Committee for St. James Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Kwiatek is married to Jarrett, and they are proud parents of Gavin and Olivia.



NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF VOLUSIA/FLAGLER COUNTIES

For more than 34 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of Volusia/Flagler Counties (BGCVFC) has inspired and empowered young people to reach their full potential. Since 1992, the organization has served more than 60,000 youth across Volusia and Flagler Counties. Today, eight Club locations serve nearly 2,000 young people annually through programs focused on academics, leadership, workforce readiness, STEM, the arts, athletics, mentoring and career exploration.

Guided by its vision, "Greatness Starts Here: Innovate. Reignite. Grow.," BGCVFC is expanding opportunities in emerging technologies, workforce development, STEM and career exploration. In 2025, it was selected as one of only four Boys & Girls Club organizations nationwide to partner with The Boeing Company, receiving a \$75,000 investment for Future U Launchpads focused on aerospace, engineering, STEM and virtual reality. The organization also advanced construction of its first dedicated teen center, expanded workforce programming and began restoring its New Smyrna Beach Campus following Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.

BGCVFC's impact extends throughout the community through partnerships with schools, businesses, healthcare providers, government agencies and nonprofit organizations. As the lead youth development agency for the Volusia County Children and Families Advisory Board collaborative, BGCVFC helps coordinate resources and services for children and families. Through these partnerships, the organization strengthens families, prepares the future workforce and creates opportunities for young people to learn, grow and build a Great Future.



SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



DAYTONA ESCAPE ROOM EXPERIENCE

Founded in 2016 by lifelong Daytona Beach resident Mike Babic, Daytona Escape Room Experience has grown into one of Volusia County's premier immersive entertainment destinations. Over the past decade, the locally owned business has welcomed more than 160,000 guests and now features eight original escape room experiences designed to encourage teamwork, communication, creativity and problem-solving. With a 4.9-star Google rating and more than 1,400 reviews, the company has built a reputation for exceptional customer service and memorable experiences.

Daytona Escape Room Experience continues to grow through innovation and a commitment to its community. The company is developing a second downtown Daytona Beach location and has launched ThePropSite.com, an online marketplace supporting independent prop builders, artists and manufacturers. It also created The PropCon, a new convention celebrating creativity and designed to attract vendors, visitors and nationally recognized artists and special effects professionals to Daytona Beach. These ventures reflect the company's philosophy of creating opportunities while contributing to the continued growth of the local economy.

Community involvement is at the heart of Daytona Escape Room Experience. The company regularly partners with local businesses, schools, nonprofits, tourism organizations and Chamber members and donates gift certificates to nonprofit fundraising events and auctions throughout Volusia County. Through strategic growth, creative innovation and a commitment to exceptional experiences, Daytona Escape Room Experience continues to invest in its guests, its partners and the community it proudly calls home.



PAST WINNERS

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (SINCE 2015)

2015

MARKEY'S RENTAL STAGING
QUANTUMFLO

2016

FAMILY FIRST HEALTH CENTER
OVERHEAD DOOR CO. OF DAYTONA BEACH

2017

SOCIAL ADVISORS
ALL ABOARD PROPERTIES

2018

WHOLESALE LIGHTING
INTRACOASTAL BANK

2019

DREDGING & MARINE CONSULTANTS, LLC
VANN DATA SERVICES, INC.

2021

TOM COOK JEWELER

2022

JONNY NOMAD MEDIA, INC.

2023

DETAILS FLOWERS, LLC

2024

FASTSIGNS OF DAYTONA BEACH

2025

ACIES RENOVATIONS



PAST WINNERS

NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR

2018

COUNCIL ON AGING OF VOLUSIA COUNTY

2019

FAMILY RENEW COMMUNITY

2021

FOOD BRINGS HOPE
(FBH COMMUNITY, INC.)

2022

SMA HEALTHCARE

2023

EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF FLAGLER
VOLUSIA

2024

VOLUSIA RECOVERY ALLIANCE

2025

EASTERSEALS FLORIDA, INC.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

2018

MEGHAN WOODRUFF

2019

KATHRYN NAGIB

2021

KRISTINA CIRCELLI

2022

SARAH HANCOCK

2023

KELIS PATEL

2024

DEVIN MILLER

2025

CAROLINE CLINE

PAST WINNERS

MARVIN SAMUELS MEMORIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

1990: MARVIN SAMUELS (POSTHUMOUSLY)

1991: GWEN AZAMA-EDWARDS

1992: BEVERLY GRISSOM

1993: JOE PETROCK

1994: VICKY JACKSON

1995: DAVID PERRYMAN

1996: CHARLIE LYDECKER

1997: DEBBIE BERNER

1998: TOM VOGEL

1999: BOB COLEMAN

2000: BLAINE LANSBERRY

2001: DEBORAH TALLENT

2002: LLOYD COLLINS

2003: BOB LLOYD

2004: CYNTHIA RAMIREZ

2005: FRED COSTELLO

2006: JOHN FERGUSON

2007: ROBIN KING

2008: DEREK TRIPLETT

2009: ROSE ANN TORNATORE

2010: PHIL MARONEY

2011: TED DORAN

2012: MORGAN GILREATH

2013: BO BREWER

2014: GREG SNELL

2015: BOB WILLIAMS

2016: TERESA RAND

2017: MELINDA DAWSON

2018: BILL GRIFFIN

2019: DR. LINDA BRADLEY

2021: TOM LEEK

2022: RUFUS JOHNSON

2023: JONI HUNT

2024: CHRIS BOWLER

2025: LEN MARINACCIO