



Photo: Facebook

CAMPBELL FOUNDATION'S KEN RAPKIN TO RECEIVE BROWARD HOUSE 'SPIRIT OF HOPE' AWARD

Tucker Berardi

The Fort Lauderdale organization dedicated to funding HIV/AIDS research, The Campbell Foundation, has announced that its Executive Director, Ken Rapkin, will receive the Broward House "Spirit of Hope" award.

The award recognizes impactful individuals that bring hope to the community through support of Broward House as well as participation with its partners.

"We look to honor the individuals who make a difference, but who often are not recognized in our community, to demonstrate a commitment to increasing prevention and care and reducing stigma through their actions," Broward House president and CEO Stacey Hyde said. "Ken is an example for many of us. He is committed to eliminating HIV from our society through research funding, while also bringing voice for us to still care, still act! He shows his support through his role at The Campbell Foundation, but also through his gentle, yet powerful personal presence in the community — standing beside other agencies, advocates and our clients in unity."

Rapkin will receive the award during an August 30 reception held at the B Ocean resort in Fort Lauderdale.

The honorees include Mark Budwig, owner and president of boutique creative agency S.MARK Graphics Florida; Marta Gonzalez, advocate and Broward House Case Manager in service of the HIV Community; and Marie Brown Hayes, Program Director for the Comprehensive

Family AIDS Program (CFAP) at the Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center (CDTC).

"I am proud of Ken's steady leadership and his role at the Campbell Foundation, as well as his dedication to the cause of AIDS/HIV awareness within the community," Bill Venuti, Campbell Foundation trustee said.

Rapkin served as Program Officer for the Campbell Foundation since its 1995 inception, and was named Executive Director of the foundation in January. He administers the grants program, is a liaison to both the Peer Review Board and the Board of Directors, and coordinates all research/scientific information and grant funding from initial grant receipt through final disposition.

The missions of the Campbell Foundation and Broward House align closely with one another. The focus of the foundation has been to fund research in pursuit of an HIV/AIDS cure, while Broward House's mission is to serve the HIV community and reduce HIV incidence.

"Although The Campbell Foundation's main funding lies in nonprofit HIV research, we realized long ago that while researchers try to eradicate the virus, people need ongoing daily support, care, and services," Rapkin said. "Thanks to organizations such as Broward House, we have been able to directly assist those in need and are very proud of our community partnerships. I am honored to accept the Spirit of Hope Award on behalf of the foundation." *SFGN*