

## **This is a compilation of testimonials received for 2009 BMA**

It goes from most recent to least:

I was also invited by the PBS brand manager to attend an award ceremony for community awards in Tampa called the “Be More” awards. They were started by the Tampa station and they’re launching the program nationally. Kelly thought it was something I should see and she was right. I don’t know if I’ll be able to muster station support to do something like this in our market, but wow – I’d love to.

The station takes nominations for community service organizations doing wonderful things in different categories and honors these amazing groups with awards. It was highly produced and absolutely beautiful. I took these photos just to share with the people at home and they're not good ones, but you can see, it was very elegant (so was lunch!). I was glad to attend.

**-Jeanie**, Blog Post on <http://themarmeladegypsy.blogspot.com/2009/01/tampa-wrap-up.html> with photo.

**From:** "Calvert Ruby"

**Date:** Mon, 19 Jan 2009 10:37:36 -0700

**To:** <rlobo@wedu.org>; <lturner@wedu.org>; <ljopek@wedu.org>

**Subject:** Congratulations on Your "Be More Awards" - AMAZING!

Richard, Laura and everyone:

I was so honored to be invited to your “Be More Awards” event in Tampa last week. It was truly amazing! How proud you must be to have pulled together such community spirit and volunteerism – all in one room – and the units of good you have all done for your community of Tampa was incredible. The young man “Zack”, who raised all the money for homeless children was truly inspirational – and my idea of what a “PBS KID of Tomorrow” should be.

I’m not sure we can emulate what you have done in Tampa – but I think there are some things we could do which might be similar. I have sent your flyer from the ceremony to my Promotions Manager, Jennifer Amend, and asked her to calendar this for discussion at our next strategic planning session.

Again, my congratulations on a wonderful event and your accomplishments – it is clear WEDU is an important community resource!

Ruby Calvert  
General Manager  
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Riverton, WY 82501

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"Celebrating 25 years...because of you!"

The ceremony was so moving, you just know how seriously the applicants felt about the competition. I very much look forward to being involved next year.  
-Jessica Ruth Greene [say.it.write@gmail.com]

We definitely feel grateful and honored to be chosen this year. Just looking at the list of organizations who submitted for the awards is amazing. There are so many groups doing wonderful work out there in a 16 county area.

Cannot wait for my wife to get to see the awards on WEDU in February!  
Scott

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**Scott Hinckley**

Director of Development

***Meals on Wheels of Tampa***

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*Nourishing and Enriching the Independent Lives of the Homebound and Seniors*

**From:** Barry Alpert [mailto:Barry.Alpert@RaymondJames.com]

**Sent:** Friday, January 16, 2009 11:30 AM

**To:** Laura Turner

**Cc:** Dick Lobo

**Subject:** Be More

And you do.....more

Each year the Be More...event becomes more meaningful. Everyone walked away knowing that WEDU stands for all that is good in our community, and your contribution towards this effort cannot go unnoticed.

Thanks for all you do and will continue to do. During these very difficult, it is important to remember our mission which is what you do so well.

Barry M. Alpert  
Managing Director, Investment Banking  
Raymond James & Associates  
880 Carillon Parkway,  
St. Petersburg, FL 33716  
727.567.5029

**From:** R SHAWEN [mailto:ronflausa@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 15, 2009 3:21 PM  
**To:** Laura Turner  
**Subject:** Congratulations!

Laura,

I was so pleased to hear that the Be More Awards went National. It is a rare moment indeed in life when someone's creativity and talents are so widely recognized. You should be so proud of yourself that not only are your skills and talents so suited for the job you do, but they are so recognized by so many others. I know I am personally proud of you and happy that you were so recognized. All the best today and everyday of your life.

STAY HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND SAFE!

RON

From: Rodriguez, Aileen (Martinez) [mailto:Aileen\_Rodriguez@martinez.senate.gov]  
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2009 1:30 PM  
To: Marti Miller; Laura Turner; Dick Lobo  
Cc: 'karenciatime@hotmail.com'  
Subject: Congratulatory letters

Dear Dick and WEDU Team members,

I am pleased to let you know that Senator Martinez will be sending a congratulatory letter to each of today's WEDU Be More Awards winners.

A special thank you Karencia for recruiting me to join you in supporting these awards four years ago in the very beginning. It is an honor to serve such a wonderful organization such as WEDU.

Please feel free to call on me anytime our office can be of assistance to you.

Kind regards,

Aileen

Aileen Rodriguez  
Gulf Coast Regional Director  
Office of The Honorable Mel Martinez  
United States Senator

3802 Spectrum Boulevard, Suite 106  
Tampa, Florida 33612  
(813) 977-6450 office  
(813) 977-6593 fax

**From:** Monroe Berkman  
**Date:** Thu, 15 Jan 2009 17:32:37 -0500  
**To:** Dick Lobo<rlobo@wedu.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Your Board

I must compliment you and Laura and the staff for a most, most excellent "BE MORE AWARD" luncheon. Professionalism is the only word I can use.

Monroe

Hi Marialuisa,  
WOW!!! Everyone here at Meals On Wheels of Tampa is extremely touched and a bit numb regarding our Be More Awards. Thank you so much!

It was a wonderful program today and we are honored to receive such recognition through your Be More Awards. As Big Bird would say, Super Duper!  
With a Grateful Heart,  
Scott

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**Scott Hinckley**

Director of Development

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*Nourishing and Enriching the Independent Lives of the Homebound and Seniors*

Congratulations on the big day.

We thought the video you all made about Forty Carrots was very well done. Of course we wouldn't expect anything but a well made production, but you really captured our work. Thank you.

Thanks, Minta Getzen

941-266-0059

I just wanted to say what a wonderful job you did with the Be More Awards. Everything ran so smoothly and everyone at BBBS is excited to continue to be involved and hopefully win one next year. Thank you for the opportunity for nonprofits in the area to spread awareness and our story. Just wanted to say great job and hopefully you get to relax now!

Nicole McNally, MNM

Director of Grant Writing and Management

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Before I forget I just wanted to congratulate all of you on your organization and presentation of is year's Be More event. I overheard people talking about how well it was put together this year... and I AGREE! I know how much work is involved in coordinating such a huge effort. You should all be very proud.

Thanks for allowing me to help you and learn from you.

Sincerely,

**Karren Garces**

*Marketing Coordinator*

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Sensational job once again! I look forward to next year.

**Joey Henderson, Executive Director**

**CU Housing Partners, LLC**

***Credit Unions Opening Doors to Homeownership!***

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