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## ***WEDU PBS Honored with 2 Suncoast Regional Emmys® from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences***

THE  
NATIONAL  
ACADEMY OF  
TELEVISION  
ARTS & SCIENCES  
SUNCOAST CHAPTER



**Tampa Bay, FL** – The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences honored **WEDU PBS**, West Central Florida’s primary PBS station, with two Suncoast Regional Emmy® Awards during the annual ceremony held on Saturday, December 13, 2014 at the Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences annual ceremony in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

The first Emmy® was awarded to Jeremy Peplow in the Interstitial Category for ***Memories of The March: Gwendolyn Powell***. This special segment, created by WEDU as part of a nationwide online collection of local stories and memories in commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom**, told the story of Gwendolyn Powell who had just graduated from George Middleton High School in Tampa when she attended the March on Washington.

The second Emmy® was awarded to Kristine Kelly in the Human Interest – Program Category for **Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay**. This award winning segment was part of **WEDU Arts Plus**, a local weekly arts and culture program. The touching segment shared the stories of volunteer photographers who capture candid portraits helping children in foster care find adoptive families through the Children's Board Heart Gallery.

“We are extremely proud to be honored for WEDU’s community focused programming which is at the heart of our mission. This acknowledgement is a tribute to the quality of work produced by the hardworking and talented staff of WEDU PBS and our local production colleagues. I couldn’t be more gratified with the efforts by the entire team of professionals we have the privilege to work with,” said **Jack Conely**, WEDU Vice President of Content, as he shared his congratulations for the 2 Emmy® Award wins and nine overall nominations bestowed.

The nominations also honored original **WEDU PBS** programs that included **Florida This Week**, a local weekly public affairs program episode titled **“Syria Issues Hit Home”** and an additional segment from **WEDU Arts Plus** featuring artist **Robert Butler**.

Additional Emmy® nominations went to a trio of **WEDU PBS** original documentaries:

**Project: Shattered Silence** took a candid, in-depth look at the remarkable real life stories of 46 teenagers in the Tampa Bay Area. WEDU, in partnership with **Ruth Eckerd Hall**, captured the catharsis of a group of courageous teenagers who were willing to bare

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their souls, and share their intriguing stories of struggle and survival, rejection and acceptance, and ultimately, unwavering hope. **Project: Shattered Silence** has been collecting accolades across the country including “Best Feature Documentary Award” from the Louisville International Festival of Film, an “Honorable Mention Award” from the Santa Monica Film Festival, and three nominations from the Maverick Movie Awards.

**Too Close To Home**, WEDU’s original documentary, exposed the human trafficking crisis Tampa Bay. Men, women and children are forced against their will to serve in the sex trade, domestic servitude and agricultural industries. They are bought, sold and discarded in our own community, making Florida the third-highest ranked state in the nation for this fast-growing crime. A companion to the documentary, **Too Close To Home: A Roundtable Discussion** explored specific local efforts to help human trafficking victims in Tampa Bay. The issues of safe housing, public health, funding and state legislation were addressed to recognize the special needs of victims and educate the community on the many ways it can help. Underwriting support for **Too Close To Home** was provided by **Allegany Franciscan Ministries**. The documentary was also the center of a collection of community screenings and outreach events targeting awareness about human trafficking in Tampa Bay.

**Historic Green Village: Generating the Future, Treasuring the Past**, a 30-minute WEDU original documentary, explored how the Historic Green Village on Anna Maria Island, Florida has become a showcase for sustainable living, electrical generation and water conservation by recycling and renovating historic buildings in the area. Two major goals for the project were to become LEED Certified Platinum and to have a Net Zero Campus. The buildings would use as little electricity as possible, generate their own electricity, adhere to strict environmental usage of water, and be part of a community that has a limited impact on the environment.

The Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences is a nonprofit Florida corporation dedicated to excellence in television and offers the annual Regional Emmy Awards to television markets in the entire State of Florida; Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles and New Orleans, La.; Mobile, Ala.; Thomasville, Ga.; and Puerto Rico.

**Complete Suncoast Regional Emmy® Award Nomination List:**

**ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT – Program Feature/Segment**

**WEDU Art Plus - Robert Butler: Original Highwayman Artist**

**Kenneth Cherry**

**ENVIRONMENT - Program**

**Historic Green Village: Generating the Future, Treasuring the Past**

**Kenneth Cherry**

**HUMAN INTEREST - Program**

**WEDU Arts Plus – Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay**

**Kristine Kelly**

**DOCUMENTARY - Cultural**

**Project: Shattered Silence**

**Colleen Hamilton, Mark Harris, Bradley Clore, Jeremy Peplow**

**DOCUMENTARY - Topical**

**Too Close To Home**

**Kristine Kelly, Bradley Clore, Jeremy Peplow**

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**INTERVIEWED/DISCUSSION**

[Florida This Week #2087: Syria Issues Hit Home](#)

Gina Presson

**INTERSTITIAL**

[Memories of The March: Gwendolyn Powell](#)

Jeremy Peplow

**EDITOR – Program (Non-News)**

[Project: Shattered Silence](#)

Mark Harris

**EDITOR – Program (Non-News)**

[Too Close To Home](#)

Kristine Kelly

**WEDU Arts Plus** broadcasts weekly on Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. and **Florida This Week** broadcasts weekly on Fridays at 8:30pm. **All of the winning and nominated programs can be viewed on the WEDU PBS website at: [www.wedu.org/awards](http://www.wedu.org/awards).**

**ABOUT WEDU PBS**

WEDU is West Central Florida's leading PBS station and public media company reaching 16 counties through 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's 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 2014). 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.

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