

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2009 / Sarasota, FL

YMCA Head Carl Weinrich, named SARASOTA'S "Citizen of the Year"

The Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCoSA) will honor YMCA CEO/President Carl Weinrich as its "Citizen of the Year" at their 4th Annual "Sarasota Shining Stars" Award & Recognition Luncheon. Mr. Weinrich will be named at the event scheduled for Thursday, March 12th, 2009 (12pm) at the Meadows Country Club, in Sarasota.



Mr. Weinrich was selected by the Award Committee as a distinguished leader for his role in combating substance abuse in Sarasota County. "We are very fortunate to have so many distinguished citizens in our county who go that extra mile, yet Carl Weinrich's long term commitment to our mission make him the obvious choice", states Curt Lavarello, Executive Director for the coalition. "From the moment I met Carl Weinrich and spoke to him, it was very clear his commitment comes from his heart" continued Lavarello.

When Carl Weinrich joined the YMCA over 32 years ago, it operated one facility with 14 employees. Through Mr. Weinrich's leadership and vision, the Sarasota Family YMCA operates 30 sites with a 90 million dollar budget. Mr. Weinrich has embraced the mission to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities. In 2000, then Governor Jeb Bush appointed Carl to serve on the board of the Florida Commission on Community Based Care, and was often referred to by Governor Bush as the "Godfather" of Community Based Care.

"I cannot think of a more deserving individual than Carl Weinrich", states Sherri Reynolds, who is the chairperson for Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse, and oversees Sarasota County School Board's Safe & Drug Free Schools program "Carl's love for the Sarasota community stands out" continued Reynolds.

Additionally, the 2009 "Shining Stars" Keynote Speaker will be Mr. William Modzeleski, Associate Deputy Undersecretary for the United States Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

Additional Info:

Call the Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse at 941-377-7736.

Curt Lavarello, Executive Director

e-mail: CURT@SCOSA.ORG