

FLORIDA TIMES UNION EVE AWARDS 6/5/09

THANK YOU! UNBELIEVABLE!

IT IS AN HONOR AND A JOY TO BE AMONG YOU! CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE VISIONARY AND COURAGEOUS WOMEN IN THIS ROOM, BOTH THE RECOGNIZED EVES AND THE UNRECOGNIZED WOMEN WHO LEAD AND PERSEVERE WITHIN THE ENGINES THAT MOVE THIS CITY FROM FAMILIES TO BOARD ROOMS...

THANK YOU CAPTAIN JOHN, MY DAUGHTERS, SON AND STEPSONS – YOU ARE THE WIND IN MY SAILS AND THE RHYTHM OF MY SOUL.

THANK YOU BRIDGE TEAM – BOARD, STAFF, PARTNERS, AND YOUNG PEOPLE...THIS MOMENT IS REALLY ABOUT YOU! THE BRIDGE HEART! YOU LIVE THE HEARTBEAT OF CARING AND DEDICATION EACH DAY!

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS TIMES UNION - FOR FORTY YEARS THIS EVENT HAS CELEBRATED THE WOMEN THAT CREATE A BETTER COMMUNITY AND THE CONNECTEDNESS OF US ALL.

THE TIMES UNION REPORTER WHO INTERVIEWED THE FINALISTS ASKED, “WHAT WOULD WE LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN?”

ONE RESPONSE WOULD BE:

AS A COMMUNITY, WE UNDERSTAND THE MORAL CHARACTER OF A CITY IS DEFINED BY HOW WE TREAT OUR CHILDREN. WE CREATE A NEW GREETING LIKE THE BOLD AND MIGHTY MASSAI WARRIORS HAVE AS A PERSON ENTERS THEIR VILLAGE.

OUR GREETING WOULD BE: “AND HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?”

THE RESPONSE, FORGED OUT OF CARING FOR THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELL BEING FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN, WOULD BE:

“THE CHILDREN ARE WELL!”

WE WOULD PLEDGE TO MAKE EVERY CHILD WHO COMES INTO THIS WORLD, PLANNED, WANTED, LOVED AND CARED FOR...IT WOULD BE AN IMAGE ON OUR BILL BOARDS, IN FACEBOOK AND ON LICENSE PLATES...

AND WITH AWARENESS THAT THIS EVENT RECOGNIZES EDUCATION, VOLUNTEERS, AND EMPLOYMENT – WE PLEDGE TO PREPARE THESE CHILDREN OF PROMISE TO COMPETE IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY - OUR CITY MUST PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS IN EMPLOYMENT AND OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

THANK YOU – I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO BE AMONG YOU.