

Jayne Harris Abess' dedication to the wellbeing of our community encompasses two invaluable aspects of giving: philanthropy and hands-on hard work. Her energy, creativity and leadership not only affect positive change, but also inspire others to assume active roles – particularly within the non-profit fields of health and human services.

Among her numerous volunteer leadership roles, Jayne is former chair of the United Way of Miami Dade Board. She is chair emeritus of Goodwill Industries of South Florida and past president of the Junior League of Miami. She is active in early childhood education advocacy both locally and nationally through United Way's Women United.

A native Miamian and 1989 graduate of Leadership Miami, she and her husband Leonard are past recipients of the Greater Miami Chamber's Sand in My Shoes Award and United Way's Tocqueville Award for Outstanding Philanthropy. She is also a recipient of the Bill Colson Leadership Award from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, the Junior League's Rebecca Herndon Bush Award, United Way's Dorothy Shula Award for Volunteerism and the Miami Coalition of Christians and Jews' Silver Medallion Humanitarian Award, among many others.

Past Vice President of Community Relations for City National Bank of Florida, today Jayne is a partner in thinkLAB Ventures, a family enterprise with interests in aviation, real estate development, agriculture, silviculture, and fixed income. thinkLAB is committed to, responsible, sustainable practices with a goal of improving the communities in which it works.