



19th Annual Paula Bailey Inspirational Community Member Award Nomination Form

We are grateful to the Bailey & Watson Family for allowing LBB to name Dining in the Dark and this Award after Paula!

Paula Bailey was a beloved friend to many including LBB. We met her after she was diagnosed with meningitis which led to the loss of her sight and hearing. Despite her difficulties she persevered and remains an inspiration to all of us at LBB from her first meeting with her Vision Rehabilitation Therapist. It is our privilege to know Paula and to honor her with this annual event and award.

Every year prior to Dining in the Dark, LBB invites our community to send nominations for this award. The ideal individual will be 1) an inspiration in the community we represent, 2) foster positive emotion and action in others, and 3) have the desire and determination to learn the necessary skills to adjust and live a full and independent lifestyle.

Paula grew up in Charlotte, NC and moved to Tallahassee to attend graduate school at FSU where she received a Master of Arts in Communication. She met her future husband Doug Bailey, they had their daughter Elizabeth, and she had a career as a media consultant and a graphics editor. Until 1999, everything was going as planned.

However, in January of 1999, Paula caught what she thought was the flu with a fever, headache, and earache. She later received the difficult diagnosis of meningitis, an inflammation of the membrane covering the brain which caused her to slip into a coma lasting six weeks. While comatose, Paula suffered strokes and cardiac arrest. Once Paula regained consciousness, she was unable to see or hear.

After recovering, Paula reached out to LBB for assistance. She worked with our specialists to learn to navigate and maintain a fulfilling life through orientation and mobility training, self-advocacy counseling, and learned valuable communication skills. she also learned how to communicate with her family and friends by spelling letters in

her hand. She took back every part of her life from her involvement with church to her book club. In addition, she became a part of the blind community and made many connections, including serving on LBB's Board. She also had the honor of participating in a nationwide relay celebrating the Americans with Disabilities Act 10th Anniversary in 2000. Paula's long-time employer, Wilderness Graphics, sponsored her to carry the Spirit of ADA Torch.

Before Paula passed away in 2005 from injuries sustained in a car accident, she was an LBB board and committee member, and she helped organize Dining in the Dark. We are privileged to hold this fundraiser, in part, to honor Paula's inspiring spirit. This Award was created in her memory to honor individuals in the blind community who have overcome obstacles they have faced with vision loss.

After careful review, the recipient is selected by the LBB board and is announced at Dining in the Dark.

Qualifications:

- Visually impaired or blind.
- The individual's personality reflects the same inspiring characteristics of Paula Bailey including an inspiration to their community, foster positive emotion and action in others, and have the desire and determination to learn the necessary skills to adjust and live a full and independent lifestyle.
- A resident of one of the eleven counties LBB serves including Franklin, Gadsden, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, or Wakulla.
- An individual who has not received the award in the past 10 years.

Email the nomination form completed in full to djump@seeingindependence.org by February 9, 2024. Nomination forms must answer all questions in detail with specific examples for each of the 3 characteristics listed.

*Past winners include Mira Gaitanis, Will Hollimon, Sila Miller, Ronald Fox, John Plescow, Lloyd Blackwood, Jr, Owen McCaul, Norine Labitzke, Michael Elliot, William Benjamin, Barbara Kiger, and Delores Wussler.

19th Annual Paula Bailey Inspirational Community Award Nomination Form

Nominator _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Nominee _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Is nominee visually impaired & resident in one of LBB's 11 counties? Yes___ No___

At what age did the nominee become blind or visually impaired _____

Please explain how the nominee became blind or visually impaired.

Describe in detail why you are nominating this individual and give several specific examples for each of the characteristics for your nominee including 1) inspiration to their community, 2) foster positive emotion and action in others, 3) desire and determination to learn necessary skills to adjust and live a full and independent lifestyle. Please use the space below or attach a separate document detailing examples.

Please note, you must give examples for each of the 3 characteristics listed above or the form will be returned for completion.