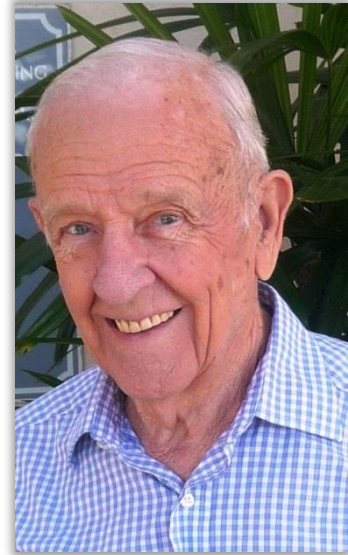


MOONLIGHT honoree: EUGENE BOULIGNY

The Botanical Gardens & Nature Center was delighted to honor local philanthropist **Eugene Bouligny**, who generously has poured millions of dollars into the community through challenge grants to many non-profit organizations over the past 10 years, one of the largest being Del Mar College. Other recipients have included: KEDT, Habitat for Humanity, Mission of Mercy, Art Museum of South Texas, Art Center, Salvation Army, Food Bank, and Metro Ministries. The Botanical Gardens will have an announcement this evening about the status of its second “Bouligny” Challenge Grant, issued the end of April.



Moonlight honorees are not an annual occurrence. In fact, the last was Rich Tuttle, in 2012, upon his retirement from Flint Hills Resources; late geologist Owen R. Hopkins in 2011; and Florence Johnson Shinkle ‘Sissy’ King in 2010. An honoree is an individual who has made the entire community a better place, as Bouligny has challenged many non-profits to find new revenue resources, broadening their horizons and brightening their financial future.

Bouligny selects non-profits each year, usually challenging them to raise a specific amount of “new” money, then matching the amount if successful. He’d have to research his records to tell us how many millions of dollars he’s gifted, or to how many organizations.

Why did he pick this method of philanthropy? A grant or donation is a one-time gift. But when organizations are challenged to find new corporate, individual or foundation resources, they not only get the Bouligny funding match, those new relationships become repeat donors, hopefully multiplying exponentially.

Says Bouligny, “Money is like manure—you have to spread it around to make things grow!” No truer statement than at a botanical garden!

THANK YOU, SIR!