



The Tampa Connection Names Joel Stephens Citizen of the Year

TAMPA, Fla. – June 20, 2016 – The Tampa Connection recently presented Thomas Financial Principal Joel Stephens with its 2016 Betty Tribble Citizen of the Year award. Established in 1985, The Tampa Connection develops committed and engaged leaders and provides them the opportunity to get involved with the local community. They began the tradition of recognizing outstanding alumni with the “Citizen of the Year” award in 2005. This prestigious award, named after first recipient Betty Tribble, is presented annually to a Tampa Connection graduate whose volunteer efforts exhibit exemplary commitment, leadership and service to the Tampa Bay area, resulting in an overall positive impact in the community.

A cornerstone of Joel’s professional and personal life is his active involvement in community and civic endeavors. After graduating from The Tampa Connection’s Class of 1999 he served six years on their Board and was Chairman in 2004. Joel currently sits on the Professional Advisory Council on Planned Giving for the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, and has demonstrated his commitment to education over the last 14 years with his involvement with the Hillsborough Education Foundation where he serves on the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and as Chairman of the Planned Giving Committee. Joel has been recognized by the American Red Cross as a Hero in their “Heroes – Changing Lives in Tampa Bay” campaign.

“The Tampa Connection has played such a large role in developing leaders, myself included, within the Tampa Bay community and I am thankful for their recognition,” said Joel. “To be on the same list as Betty Tribble and other distinguished alumni recipients is very humbling.”

Joel joined Thomas Financial in 1994 and specializes in life insurance planning for business owners and executives of both closely-held and publicly-held companies.

About Thomas Financial

Thomas Financial provides life insurance, wealth transfer, business continuation, executive and employee benefits and wealth management solutions to help meet the needs of the affluent and corporate markets. Combining deep expertise, product innovation, collective strength and legendary service, Thomas Financial has consistently performed at the top of its field for over 40 years.

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