



SING OUT LOUD FESTIVAL HONORED WITH 2018 “QUALITY OF LIFE” AWARD BY NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

St. Augustine, FL (December 13, 2018) – The 2018 Sing Out Loud Festival was recently honored for its significant contribution to the livability and quality of life in Northeast Florida by the Northeast Florida Regional Council during its 2018 Regional Leadership Awards Ceremony, held at WJCT Studios in Jacksonville, Florida.

On December 6, the Northeast Florida Regional Council held its 2018 Regional Leadership Awards Ceremony, recognizing regional excellence in a variety of critical arenas essential to positioning the regional community as a model of cooperation and coordination. The ceremony hosted award recipients, elected officials and community leaders from all over Northeast Florida. Award categories ranged from Excellence in Economic Development & Tourism and Excellence in Education to Excellence in Planning & Growth Management and Excellence in Inclusion. In a first for the Festival, the Sing Out Loud Festival was honored with the “Quality of Life” Award due to its significant contribution to the livability and quality of life in Northeast Florida and for its fundraising efforts resulting in a donation of \$98,000.00 to the Betty Griffin Center of St. Johns County. Accepting the award on behalf of the Sing Out Loud Festival was General Manager and Festival Organizer Ryan Murphy alongside staff of the St. Johns County Cultural Events Division.

“It was an honor to be recognized for the positive impact that this Festival we work so hard on has had in the community,” Murphy stated. “Most significant was the thunderous applause that erupted around the room when we noted the money we raised for the amazing and critical work that the Betty Griffin Center does. Thank you to all who support the Festival and to the amazing staff that works tirelessly on this event each year.”

About Sing Out Loud Festival

The Sing Out Loud Festival is a multi-year festival proudly presented by Community First Credit Union and produced by the St. Johns County Cultural Events Division (which owns and operates the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall), the St. Johns Tourist Development Council and the St. Johns Cultural Council. 2018 marked the Festival’s third year and solidified the Festival as one of Florida’s largest free music festivals that music fans, musicians and venues now look forward to each September. With fans coming as far as Austin, Texas and even South Africa, the 2018 Festival welcomed over 25,000 people to St. Augustine over the course of four weekends between September 1 and September 23. Two hundred and seventy-nine acts, ranging from indie rock to punk rock, bluegrass to blues, spoken word to comedy took the stage at 18 different venues in an epic celebration of local, regional and national singers, songwriters, musicians and performance artists. Through the sale of donation tickets to the September 22 showcase featuring Jason Isbell and The 400 Unit, \$98,000.00 was raised for the Betty Griffin Center to assist in their mission of working to end domestic violence and sexual abuse in St. Johns County. For more information on the Sing Out Loud Festival, please visit www.singoutloudfestival.com.

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