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PHOTOGRAPH ATTACHED

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Realize Bradenton Named 2016 Manatee Nonprofit Organization of the Year

Realize Bradenton, a nonprofit organization that brings people together to create a more vibrant, attractive, and prosperous Bradenton area, was named 2016 Manatee Nonprofit Organization of the Year by the Manatee Chamber of Commerce.

(Bradenton, FL) — Realize Bradenton was recognized as the **2016 Manatee Nonprofit Organization of the Year** at the 37th Annual Manatee Small Business of the Year Awards, which was conducted by the Manatee Chamber of Commerce at the IMG Academy Golf Club on August 12, 2016.

The annual Manatee Small Business of the Year Awards celebrates local businesses and nonprofit organizations that have stellar customer service, dedicated employees, sustained business growth, and a significant role in building local community.

“We are extremely grateful to have received the award considering the many wonderful nonprofit organizations in the Bradenton area” said Dennis Zink, Chair of the Realize Bradenton board. “This award allows us to shine the spotlight on the positive work of our board, staff, 350 volunteers, and many community partners and local businesses.”

Realize Bradenton has been honored with many noteworthy awards over the years:
2015 Knight Cities Challenge Grant by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation;
2014 Public & Societal Benefit Nonprofit of the Year by the Tampa Bay Business

Journal; **2014 Goodwill Ambassador of the Year** by Goodwill Manastoa; and the **2013 Outstanding Public Interest Group of the Year** by the American Planning Association. These awards underscore the positive impact that Realize Bradenton has on residents, visitors, and businesses of the Bradenton area.

As a community-benefit organization, Realize Bradenton works with others to continually strengthen the Bradenton area's social, cultural, and physical assets in the key areas of: strategic marketing and communication; special events and event support; and public engagement, outreach, and capacity building for other nonprofits.

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About Realize Bradenton

Realize Bradenton is a nonprofit organization that brings people together to create a more vibrant, attractive, and prosperous Bradenton area for residents, visitors, and businesses. Visit RealizeBradenton.com for more information.