



Debbie M. Thomas-Brown

Debbie Thomas-Brown has worked in Community Outreach for many years, as a beacon of positive change in neighborhoods throughout Broward County and Miami-Dade, Florida. She has utilized her roles as Nurse, former high school teacher, and community outreach advocate to help develop programs that serve the community and raise awareness to create a lasting impact.

She is a Jamaican born community advocate from the parish of Westmoreland where she was a high school teacher before migrating to Florida, where she now lives and works as a nurse at the Miami VA Hospital.

Debbie provides community outreach and advocacy, supporting marginalized, disadvantaged, and underserved, immigrant and minority communities in South Florida.

In 2009 she founded South Florida Connects, Inc. (SFC) a faith based, outreach and advocacy organization to provide a way for underserved individuals to become Kindness Ambassadors, by reaching out and supporting each other with acts of kindness. SFC also began to offer Straight Spouse Awareness Education and Support to South Florida immigrant & minority straight spouses. The organization now provides awareness support to women and men from all over the world via their website at www.southfloridaconnects.com.

Debbie hosts several radio shows to provide seminar type, educational outreach and awareness support monthly, on local WAVS1170am radio, and weekly via BlogTalk Radio at SFC's Channel www.blogtalkradio.com/straightspouseawareness.

Her non-profit organization (SFC) offers a bi-monthly face-face support group for straight spouse men and women, and also to their families and friends who support them.

Debbie earned numerous community service awards for her volunteer work in the South Florida community and was named **A Daily Point of Light** by the Points of Light Institute on October 3, 2012 for demonstrating exemplary citizenship through volunteering as an advocate for straight spouses. She received the Points of Light Award Certificate and letter.

She also received the **President's Call to Service Award**, a Certificate and Pin, signifying a national honor from President Barack Obama, given in recognition for her outstanding volunteer service advocating for straight spouses and other marginalized individuals in her community. Debbie was also nominated as 2013 South Florida Federal Employee of the Year for Community Outreach.

The City of Miramar and Family & Friends Connection, Inc. also conferred several outstanding community volunteer awards to recognize her outstanding achievements in her community and she was recently nominated as a L'Oreal Woman of Worth for her work with straight spouses.

Debbie provides telephone and email peer support to immigrant men and women of every nationality. As an immigrant straight spouse herself, she understands the challenges that immigrant straight spouses face and how to reach them with the necessary support and outreach based on their own cultural awareness and needs.

Debbie implemented an academic scholarship through **SFC's Annual Self-Actualization & Academic Scholarship Award** to help academically outstanding, but financially needy students go to college, and also finish high school, in Florida and Jamaica. She can be reached via SFC's support hotline at 954-404-8859 and via email at sfconnects@gmail.com or via the [South Florida Connects, Inc.](http://SouthFloridaConnects.com) website.



The President's Volunteer Service Award letters, certificate and pins

