



Florida  
Developmental  
Disabilities  
Council, Inc.

## PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact:  
Richard Bivins  
850-922-6706  
[richardb@fddc.org](mailto:richardb@fddc.org)

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### **Panama City Resident to Receive Award at Capitol Event**

TALLAHASSEE, FL. - The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) will honor Ms. Amanda Baker on March 5, 2015 during Developmental Disabilities Day at the Capitol where she will receive the *Sixth Annual Idelio Valdes Leadership and Advocacy Award*.

Ms. Baker was selected to receive the prestigious award because of her numerous community activities and personal achievements which have resulted in a better understanding of increased inclusion of people with developmental disabilities, specifically, exemplary self-advocacy work as President of *Elephant Herds Self-Advocacy Group* of Panama City, Parliamentarian and past Co-Chair of *Florida SAND's* as well as creator of the *Dalton Belles Award*.

"We are thrilled that Amanda is this year's Idelio Valdes award recipient," said FDDC Chair Sylvia James-Miller. "She is an individual who works hard all year long, leads by example, motivates and encourages everyone around her and does it all with a brilliant smile. We are all very proud of her and for her many accomplishments."

Named in honor of Idelio Valdes, a member of the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council and self-advocate who passed away in 2009, the awards ceremony will be held at the Florida Capitol during the annual commemoration that serves as a forum to generate awareness and provide information about the importance of inclusion and services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

FDDC, a non-profit organization charged with advocating and promoting meaningful participation in all aspects of life for Floridians with developmental disabilities, sponsors the award. Together, FDDC and The Arc of Florida, a nonprofit whose mission is to improve the quality of life for persons with developmental disabilities, partner to put on Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day each year. For more information on the FDDC, visit [www.fddc.org](http://www.fddc.org). and The ARC of Florida, visit [www.arcflorida.org](http://www.arcflorida.org).

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