

Belle Glade resident honored as hero

Special to The Sun

ORLANDO – On Nov. 14 Molina Healthcare of Florida celebrated the good deeds of six community heroes at its seventh annual Community Champions Awards. The awards dinner was held at the Orlando Science Center and included entertainment by students from Midway Elementary School.

One of this year's winners included Belle Glade resident Karis Engle. Her passion for helping people, especially the poor, drove Engle to become one of the founding board members of The Glades Initiative, a non-profit that serves more than 12,000 Glades residents providing help with language, literacy, and internet access barriers, along with Medicaid/Medicare and food stamps. In 2011 she initiated the Glades Area Food Bank which distributes \$85,000 in food to nine pantries and two soup kitchens that provide food services to over 80,000 residents each year.

Ms. Engle also launched "Cooking Matters in

See **HERO** — Page 7



Special to The Sun/Courtesy photo

Left to right are Michelle Bentzien-Purrrington, Vice President, Molina Healthcare, Inc.; Community Champion Karis Engle; Maritza Borrajero, President, Molina Healthcare of Florida; Steven Snider, Director, Community Engagement, Molina Healthcare of Florida.

HERO

Continued From Page 1

the Glades,” to teach people shopping on a budget about nutrition and healthy food preparation.

“We proudly recognize the hard work of these extraordinary individuals,” said Maritza Borrajero, president of Molina Healthcare of Florida, “It was a pleasure honoring this year’s Molina Community Champions for

their dedication to serving those in need in the community.”

The Community Champions program celebrates the vision of Dr. C. David Molina, the founder of Molina Healthcare, as well as community partners who work together to care for society’s most vulnerable individuals. Each Community Champion was nominated by a community-based organization and also received a \$1,000 grant to give to a deserving nonprofit organization of his/her choice. Engle will give her \$1,000 grant to The Glades Initiative.