

## **JJ Daniel Award for Work with Children**

In 1884, the population of Jacksonville was just 10,000, yet even within that relatively small number; there were still a multitude of children in need of help. To that end, a group of church women launched the Orphanage and Home for the Friendless in a small, rented cottage on the corner of Liberty and Ashley Street with a fund launched to open a permanent home.

Then, in 1888, a yellow fever epidemic ravaged the Jacksonville community, leaving more children than ever orphaned and alone. Col. James Jaquelin Daniel, president of the Auxiliary Sanitary Association, and a well-known attorney and religious leader, worked tirelessly to combat the disease and coordinate volunteer efforts. Unfortunately, Daniel paid the ultimate price for his battle, catching and eventually dying from the disease.

Financial contributions poured in from around the nation to build a “living monument” to his memory and the Daniel Memorial Association was formed. Daniel’s widow chose to honor her late husband’s passion for philanthropy and consolidated the Association with the Orphanage in 1891. In gratitude to the widow and respect for Col. Daniel, the Orphanage changed their name and incorporated as the Daniel Memorial Home for Children in 1893.

Each year The Northeast Unit recognizes an outstanding Social Work student who demonstrates the spirit of JJ Daniel's deep commitment and passion for the protection and well-being of all children in our community.

Our 2018 honoree for the JJ Daniel Award for Work with Children is Anton Armstrong, Child Protective Investigator for the Department of Children and Families since 2015 and a second-year FSU Graduate Student. Prior to DCF Anton served as a residential counselor with Daniel Memorial. Anton will earn his MSW degree in May of this year.

