



Tuesday, January 11, 2011

## News

### **CCA announces winners of Connecticut Champion of Children Awards**

The Center for Children's Advocacy, a Connecticut nonprofit that protects the legal rights of abused and neglected children throughout the state, announced the winners of their 2011 Fairfield County Champion of Children awards recently. Award winners are Shari Shapiro, Executive Director of Kids in Crisis, Stamford; and The Tow Foundation, New Canaan (Emily Tow Jackson accepting).

The Center for Children's Advocacy's Champion of Children awards recognize ongoing outstanding effort in support of Connecticut children and youth who suffer without stable homes, without healthcare, without necessary educational supports, without families.

Awards will be presented at the Center's "Sunshine in February" event to be held on February 10, 2011 at Trump Parc in Stamford. The event is open to the public.

The Center for Children's Advocacy (CCA) was established in 1997 to protect the legal rights of Connecticut's most vulnerable children, those falling through the cracks of the state's child welfare, education, juvenile justice, health and mental health systems - systems that were designed to offer support. "The services we provide to children throughout the state are critical," said Martha Stone, Executive Director of CCA, "We serve the poorest of the poor, and their problems can be overwhelming. With our community partners, we're able to reach children who have suffered from abuse, from neglect, from lack of support and without a safe place to live. The support we provide gives children some hope, and they deserve the right to safe and healthy lives."

Kids in Crisis, founded in 1978, provides free, round-the-clock crisis intervention counseling, temporary emergency shelter, and prevention programs throughout Fairfield County. The Tow Foundation, founded in 1988, funds juvenile justice initiatives and collaborative ventures that support reform for underserved populations.

The Center's "Sunshine in February" event will take place on February 10, 2011 at Trump Parc, One Broad Street, Stamford, from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Children represented by CCA attorneys will speak briefly about the issues they have overcome with consistent support from dedicated nonprofit organizations.

Catering for the event is generously provided by Stamford's new Fairway Market, wine provided by BevMax Stamford, and Trump Parc is made available by Thomas L. Rich and Louis R. Cappelli. The law firm of Robinson & Cole LLP; and Rutkin, Oldham & Griffin, LLC are lead sponsors for this event.

To purchase tickets, go to [www.kidscounsel.org](http://www.kidscounsel.org) or email [bberk@kidscounsel.org](mailto:bberk@kidscounsel.org) or call 860-570-5327.

Center for Children's Advocacy [www.kidscounsel.org](http://www.kidscounsel.org)

Kids in Crisis [www.kidsincrisis.org](http://www.kidsincrisis.org)

The Tow Foundation [www.towfoundation.org](http://www.towfoundation.org)