



# 2014 Awards Luncheon

Honoring Hampton Roads  
Champions for Children



[www.championsforchildrenhr.org](http://www.championsforchildrenhr.org)

5215 Colley Avenue  
Norfolk, Virginia 23508  
(757) 440-2749

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel  
October 30, 2014



*Letter from Champions for Children Board President, Betty Fitte*

Welcome to the 2nd Annual Champions for Children Awards Luncheon. Today the Hampton Roads community comes together to honor the heroes among us. These Champions have demonstrated the spirit of a community that cares for its children. Thank you for joining us in celebrating them.

Champions for Children is engaged in an all-out effort to bring a heightened level of awareness and concern regarding child abuse and neglect. The recent NFL case of Adrian Peterson exposes the sad truth of child abuse. The problem doesn't only exist among NFL players in Minneapolis or Chicago - it is a big problem right here in Hampton Roads. Last year there were 1,956 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in Hampton Roads. These are merely the instances in which case workers were able to meet certain levels of proof; there were thousands of additional incidents reported and thousands more never reported at all. Knowing that 1,956 is the tip of the iceberg, Champions for Children aims to make that number a household word.

Today we are launching our 1,956 Campaign. We are seeking donations of \$100 per child harmed – or \$195,600 - to continue and expand the work of our organization. Champions for Children is the exclusive local affiliate of Prevent Child Abuse Virginia and Prevent Child Abuse America. This paid affiliation assures our

local Hampton Roads children are represented in legislative action and state program funding. Last year, this effort saved over \$500,000 of funding for the Healthy Families program, and we are able to continue support of the state-wide helpline for parents and caretakers.

Last year alone, through our Stewards of Children program, we trained over 300 para-professionals, such as teachers, coaches, and religious facility workers. This program teaches individuals how to spot signs of abuse and neglect and how to proactively protect children. Additional funding will allow us to expand the program, bringing the powerful message of concern and support to thousands in our community.

We need your support to urge our local leaders to take on the work of examining and eliminating child abuse and neglect in our Hampton Roads communities. Additional funding will allow us to expand our media reach and provide data and other information to impact our local leaders. We must continue to send the message of positive parenting and proactive prevention efforts throughout our community.

Please enjoy the program, congratulate the honorees, and become a Champion today. Adopt 1,956 as your number. I thank you in advance for your generous gifts to support our programs and ensure that we put an end to child abuse and neglect in Hampton Roads.



The pinwheel serves as the national symbol for child abuse prevention. It is a reflection of hope, health and safety – what Champions for Children and our parent organization, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia, desire for children throughout Virginia and everywhere.

Pinwheels for Prevention is a nationwide public awareness campaign that puts a new spin on prevention. The campaign uses community activities and public policies to prioritize prevention right from the start, making sure child abuse and neglect never occur.

The pinwheel – an uplifting symbol of childhood – represents our efforts to ensure the healthy development of children, while recognizing that child development is a building block for community and economic development. When children don't have equal opportunities for growth and development, we put the future of our society at risk. A focus on innovative programming that lays the foundation for children's safety, growth and development reduces the possibility of more serious problems occurring later. When we invest in healthy child development, we are investing in community and economic development.

The pinwheel is our primary vehicle for conveying that prevention works! It is not used to represent children who have been abused or who have died as a result of abuse or neglect. The Blue Ribbon – a signature national symbol which was launched in Virginia- is still used to represent children who have been harmed.

## **Awards Program**

Welcome and Introduction

*Betty Fitte, Board President*

*Sandra Parker, Mistress of Ceremonies*

Presentation of Awards

Education

*Michael C. Spencer, The Williams School*

Government

*Cameron S. Meals, Esq., Office of the Attorney General  
Division of Child Support Enforcement*

Legal

*Kerriel Bailey, Esq., K. Bailey Law, P.C.*

Medical

*Dr. Wendy M. Gunther, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner,  
Norfolk Division*

Public Safety

*Master Police Officer, Joyce L. Williams  
Suffolk Police Department*

Social Work

*Dr. Viola Vaughan-Eden  
Norfolk State University*

Business

*Il Giardino Restaurant*

Community-At-Large

*Carter L. McKay, CHKD Child Abuse Program*

## 2014 Champions



### Education

*Michael C. Spencer, The Williams School*

A graduate of Old Dominion University, Michael C. Spencer is the Head of School at The Williams School and the former Chief Operations Officer for Norfolk Public Schools (NPS). Mr. Spencer also served as Interim Superintendent for NPS prior to coming to The Williams School. Over his extensive career, Mr. Spencer has been an exceptional mentor to thousands of children and has developed programs dealing with issues such as alcohol and substance abuse, teen depression, the achievement gap, and the drop-out rate. Mr. Spencer has received numerous awards including Educational Administrator of the Year, Virginia Association of Educational Office Professionals, Outstanding Community Support and Leadership, Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, State Secondary Principal of the Year, Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Inspiration Award in Leadership and Vision, Norfolk Public Schools.

Mr. Spencer is active in the community having served on the Boards of the Tidewater Boy Scouts Council, Lead Hampton Rods, Girls Inc., and the Ghent Neighborhood League.

## Government



*Cameron S. Meals, Esq., Office of the Attorney General - Division of Child Support Enforcement*

Cameron S. Meals has practiced law in the Office of the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia since 2002. As an Assistant Attorney General, Ms. Meals represents the Division of Child Support Enforcement in litigating over 3000 cases per year before many area courts, holding noncustodial parents responsible for their obligations to support their children, as well as establishing paternity, child support and health care obligations. Ms. Meals assists the Division in development and implementation of policies to advance its mission not only to ensure that children are provided for, but also that families are strengthened. Ms. Meals assisted and advised the Division in its initial rollout of a pilot project in Portsmouth, the Prisoner Reentry Program, which is now in use statewide. Ms. Meals led the Division's establishment of its Intensive Case Monitoring Program, providing noncustodial parents who are unable to pay their child support with resources including employment, fatherhood, parenting and housing assistance.

Ms. Meals is active in children's issues in the community through her work with Catholic Charities, CHKD, Edmarc Hospice for Children, and the Junior League of Norfolk-Virginia Beach, Inc.

## Legal



*Kerriel Bailey, Esq., K. Bailey Law, P.C.*

A graduate of Regent University School of Law, Kerriel Bailey, Esq. runs an active solo practice, K. Bailey Law, representing hundreds of children including those abused, neglected and otherwise victimized. Ms. Bailey is also an Adjunct Law School Instructor and author, *They've Crossed the Line, A Patriot's Guide to Religious Freedom*.

Ms. Bailey serves as an allied attorney at the Alliance Defending Freedom and is a motivational and conference speaker. She has been a radio and television guest discussing law related subjects. As a frequent speaker to church leadership, staff, and volunteers, she provides counsel on issues of child safety and church issues. She is also a trained forensic interviewer and member of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children.

Ms. Bailey survived an abusive and difficult childhood herself, having run away from home at 12 years old, never to return. Those events shaped her life and service.

## Medical



*Dr. Wendy M. Gunther, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Norfolk Division*

Dr. Wendy M. Gunther, Assistant Chief Medical Examiner for the Commonwealth, is a forensic pathologist, board certified in anatomic, clinical, forensic, and pediatric pathology. She is the author of numerous abstracts, and belongs to many medical societies, such as the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and the National Association of Medical Examiners.

Dr. Gunther has performed more than 4000 autopsies, and testified countless times as an expert witness in forensic pathology. She is a noted speaker on child abuse both in the United States and abroad.

Dr. Gunther has served as a member of the Virginia Child Fatality Review Team, the Tidewater Child Fatality Review Team, and is working with EVMS pediatric residents to utilize OCME files to extract data on deaths of infants in Hampton Roads with regards to her research on safe sleep practices. She is on the committee at CHKD responsible for information and training on Safe Sleep, and has given numerous presentations on the topic to both medical and non-medical audiences.



## Public Safety



*Master Police Officer, Joyce L. Williams, Suffolk Police Department*

Joyce Williams has been employed with the Suffolk Police Department since November 1981.

Detective Williams serves as the Suffolk Police Department's liaison for the Chesapeake Forensic Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners program, Children's Hospital of the King's Daughter Child Abuse Program, and the Locator Program for the National Center for Missing Children.

In 2013, Detective Williams received the City of Suffolk Star Award for employees who demonstrate outstanding service to citizens through daily performance beyond that required by their normal job duties. The award resulted from Detective Williams' service as a mentor for the Suffolk Youth Public Safety Academy. The Academy has numerous success stories of youth who graduated from the program who previously had severe discipline issues at home and/or school as well as minor encounters with the police. Detective Williams is a member of the Tidewater Child Fatality Review Team, the regional and local Sexual Assault Response Team, and past member of the local Domestic Violence Task Force.

## Social Work



*Dr. Viola Vaughan-Eden The Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work at Norfolk State University*

Dr. Viola Vaughan-Eden has provided child and family counseling services to the Hampton Roads community for more than 25 years, including as a psychotherapist at The Barry Robinson residential treatment center, and was a founding staff member of a Child Abuse Program that eventually became a nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center at CHKD. As a clinical and forensic social worker, Dr. Vaughan-Eden has evaluated more than 1500 cases of maltreatment and provided expert testimony more than 500 times.

Dr. Vaughan-Eden is President of the National Organization of Forensic Social Work, Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services' CASA/CJA Programs, and Immediate Past-President of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. Dr. Vaughan-Eden is the recipient of the 2011 National Children's Advocacy Center Outstanding Service Award in Mental Health and the 2012 National Association of Social Workers - Virginia Chapter Lifetime Achievement Award.

## Business



### *Il Giardino Restaurant*

Il Giardino restaurant at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront is known for its special wood burning oven and its delectable Italian specialties. The restaurant is also very well known to Champions for Children for its 30 years of outstanding support for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. For each of the past 30 years, Il Giardino has opened its doors to host the organization's Celebrity Night event, raising thousands of dollars for the organization, contributing proceeds from the evening event, and spreading the word of the need to prevent child abuse and neglect throughout Hampton Roads.

Over the years the event has seen celebrities like Elvis and Patsy Cline, and a host of radio personalities work the crowds to gather donations for the organization. But the fund raising didn't stop there - Il Giardino also contributed a generous portion of the evenings' proceeds to the cause. Providing a strong link to our business community is essential for the ongoing achievement of our mission and we are most grateful to Il Giardino for its years of outstanding support.

## Community-At-Large



*Carter L. McKay, CHKD Child Abuse Program*

Carter McKay has over 20 years of experience in sexual abuse cases and education on the effects of family violence on children, including 14 years direct service with the Military Family Advocacy Program. As the Community Outreach Supervisor for CHKD's Child Abuse Program, she coordinates trainings about CHKD's services and functions as a liaison between the Program and its community partners, providing community education about CHKD's Child Abuse Programs and Services. Ms. McKay helped develop Adult Fatality Review Teams in Norfolk and Virginia Beach to ensure that children who witness violence receive appropriate services. She serves as an agency representative to the Samaritan House's Children's Advisory Board, the Virginia Beach Coordinated Community Response Team, the Hampton Roads Coalition Against Trafficking and eight different Multidisciplinary Teams.

Ms. McKay has also worked with children's charities including FORKids, Edmarc, Excellence Girls' Club, and is a past Board Member of both the Junior League of Norfolk-Virginia Beach, Inc. and Mustard Seed Child Care Center.

## **Champions for Children**

For over 30 years Champions for Children, formerly Prevent Child Abuse Hampton Roads, has been working to prevent child abuse and neglect through advocacy, public education, and family support programs across the Hampton Roads region.

Champions for Children is a volunteer led non-profit organization that aims to create a safe and healthy community for Hampton Roads children. An affiliate of Prevent Child Abuse Virginia, Champions for Children works with community, state, and national organizations to expand and disseminate knowledge about child abuse prevention and neglect.

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## Our Awards Luncheon Sponsors

Thanks to our generous sponsors for making today's event possible – they are all Champions for Children!

### Platinum



### Gold



### Silver



Elizabeth and Ron Chupik

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### Bronze



### Table Sponsorships

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***Special Thanks to Leslie Hartig Floral Design and  
the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel***

Join these sponsors by becoming a Champion today! Please fill out the donor card at your table and become a driving force in fighting child abuse and neglect in Hampton Roads. For more information on Champions for Children and the 1,956 Campaign, please visit [www.championsforchildrenhr.org](http://www.championsforchildrenhr.org).