

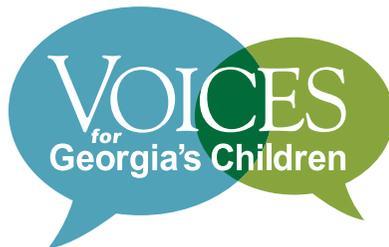


BIG VOICE

for children

AWARDS CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 6
2015



A BIG *thankyou* TO OUR SPONSORS

CHAMPION



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UNITED WAY OF GREATER ATLANTA ~ WELLCARE

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Tom & Kay Rawlings ~ Bill & Becky Rumer ~ Matthew & Allison Thompson
Tom & Patsy Upchurch ~ Pat & Charlie Willis ~ Comer Yates

Thank you for joining us for the Big Voice for Georgia's Children Awards!

We know you will enjoy this lively event and draw inspiration from each of our honorees tonight.

Voices for Georgia's Children was formed to help ensure that children's voices are heard when vital decisions impacting their lives are made. We exist to ensure that children are safe, healthy, educated, employable and connected to community.

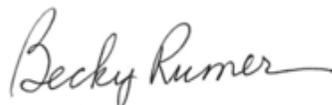
Those we honor tonight have committed deeply not only to the children in their own lives, but to many others — some of whom they will never meet. Each shares our commitment to helping kids by transforming the systems that support them.

- Justice Hines, the Presiding Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, has been a leader on the court and an unflinching advocate to ensure that children are treated fairly in the judicial system.
- Sue Smith believes in the fundamental potential of all children and works tirelessly to help families navigate the mental health supports they need through the Georgia Parent Support Network.
- Sara Kogon and Kelly Jenkins want to ensure that children throughout Georgia can obtain hearing aid technology, so that all children, not just those who can afford to pay, can hear. Together they created Let Georgia Hear.
- East Lake Foundation not only transformed a struggling neighborhood and provided high quality education to thousands of children, it spawned a new community development model being used all around the country.
- Southwire Company had the vision to believe that kids struggling in school could become high performing workers with innovative training and community support – and made this happen through 12 for Life.

As the new Executive Director and Board Chair, it is our honor to share this evening to you – and to thank you for your crucial role in making the work of Voices a success for children all over Georgia.



Emily Pelton
Executive Director



Becky Rumer
Board Chair

PROGRAM

Opening Entertainment

The Sharper Boys

Master of Ceremonies

Dean Crownover

Welcome and Introductions

Becky Rumer, Board Chair

Dinner is Served

Musical Entertainment

The Sharper Boys

Big Voice Awards

Presented by Emily Pelton, Executive Director

JUSTICE P. HARRIS HINES

PRESIDING JUSTICE, GEORGIA SUPREME COURT

SUE SMITH

CEO, GA PARENT SUPPORT NETWORK

SARA KOGON AND KELLY JENKINS

FOUNDERS, LET GEORGIA HEAR

EAST LAKE FOUNDATION

SOUTHWIRE COMPANY

Fund a Voice

Dean Crownover and Becky Rumer

Closing

DINNER MENU

Garden Greens Salad with Quinoa Tabbouleh and Balsamic Glaze
12 Hour Short Ribs and Grouper with Red Wine Sauce
Served with Seasonal Vegetables and Roasted Butternut Squash
Risotto topped with Sautéed Mushrooms
Caramel Pretzel Tart and Roasted Apple Cheesecake

Giving Tree



This year, join us in filling our giving tree full of lovely leaves. Your support tonight will help us grow our impact and continue to ensure that all children have a voice, in the community and at the State Capitol.

With your help, we can raise \$15,000 in 5 minutes!

How will you help us to get there? Which leaf will you choose?

Here is a closer look at what your support tonight can help Voices accomplish tomorrow:

\$1,000



Helps Voices hold a public dialogue to build consensus on important issues. We are known for our flair for convening lively public events.

\$500



Helps Voices host Children's Day at the Capitol – a chance to remind legislators of the importance of investing in education, health, and support for youth.

\$250



Helps Voices bring our public policy messages to rural and underserved areas through live-streaming and other electronic communications.

\$100



Helps support Voices' internship program – committed future public policy leaders that help Voices stay nimble and informed!

\$50



Helps Voices produce high-impact fact sheets to give public policy makers access to smart, clear analysis on up-to-the minute issues.

As an extra bonus, anyone who helps us fill our giving tree this evening will have the chance to win a surprise gift!

BIG VOICE
for children
HONOREES





Justice P. Harris Hines

Justice Hines believes in the importance of early childhood development to help children form strong core values and the need to take special care to protect children under the law. He thinks that everybody “should get a shot at doing right and having good things happen to them.”

Justice Hines was appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court in 1995 and also served as a Superior Court judge and State Court judge in Cobb County. Tonight, we honor him for his exceptional commitment to children through his Georgia State Supreme Court service on the Committee on Justice for Children and the Commission on Children, Marriage, and Family Law. Justice Hines has devoted himself to helping child-serving judges and attorneys strengthen their representation of court-involved children. He takes pride in helping with the Cold Case Project, which mobilizes attorneys to protect kids at risk of getting lost in the legal system.

Justice Hines is well-loved at the court and is described by his colleagues as having “moral fiber of steel.” A native Atlantan, Eagle Scout, and community leader, Justice Hines recalls a wonderful childhood in a family that always gave back and a stimulating education at Emory University. He is a former Trustee of the Kennesaw State University Foundation with numerous distinctions, including Most Admired Community Leader in Cobb County (1993).





Sue Smith

In 1989, Sue Smith joined with 30 other parent supporters to found the Georgia Parent Support Network (GPSN). GPSN (www.gpsn.org) serves Georgia's youth with mental illnesses, emotional disturbances and behavioral differences and assists their families with many needs. Although Sue devotes her days to helping families navigate the complexities of mental health treatment and support, the work is all about one simple goal for her: "to encourage people with mental health issues to be as much as they can be."

A native to rural Georgia, where access to quality services can be a challenge, Sue is committed to serving children and families throughout the state, handling up to 100 referrals per month and providing hundreds of direct services per year. Originally envisioning her career as a professional jeweler, Sue never set out to start an organization. However, she draws special inspiration every day from one of her three children who has suffered behavioral health challenges, yet "has the strength and the power to do whatever she wants to do." Sue has twice been elected National President of the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, and she and her daughter have become national speakers on behalf of their cause.

Sara Kogon and Kelly Jenkins

Sara Kogon and Kelly Jenkins consider themselves unlikely advocates. They first met as parents at a school for children facing speech and hearing challenges. Over time, both became distressed about the tremendous financial hardships faced by many families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Sara and Kelly were called to action when they saw the developmental differences among children with and without hearing aids.

Sara and Kelly learned that some states require health insurance companies to cover hearing aids and soon set out to make things better for families in Georgia. In 2011, they co-founded Let Georgia Hear, (www.letgeorgiahear.org) to convince all private insurance companies in Georgia to cover children's hearing aids, which are expensive and sometimes out of reach. Sara and Kelly are still working to broaden insurance coverage rules, but children of government employees now have better access in Georgia, and Let Georgia Hear has helped make other important policy gains.

Sara and Kelly are champions for their cause, but modest about their achievements - each quick to credit other people and each other for successes. We honor Sara and Kelly for forging a path toward better health care for children - and for their exemplary and selfless citizen advocacy.





East Lake Foundation

The East Lake Foundation was established in 1995 to transform the East Lake neighborhood and create new opportunities for families. Working with neighborhood residents and many partners, the Foundation helped raise up a new community on the site of a former public housing project in a neighborhood previously plagued by crime rates 18 times the national average.

The East Lake Foundation model went beyond local economic development and helped residents to create a shared vision for their future without poverty. The result has been a successful neighborhood system with educational, recreational and self-sufficiency resources, as well as a mixed-income apartment community with hundreds of housing units. East Lake is also home to an educational village that serves babies through high school-aged students and offers health facilities, a family YMCA, and a community garden. Residents also have access to a public golf course that provides lessons, work, and skills development for young people through the nonprofit, "First Tee."

East Lake is the brainchild of Tom Cousins who believes the success of East Lake stems from extraordinary collaboration among government, residents, philanthropy, and business. Voices honors East Lake for creating a healthy environment for kids in Georgia and for inventing a new model that can be used to innovate change in other communities, as well.



Southwire Company

Southwire Company has a history of commitment to community. In 2004, the company initiated a program combining traditional classroom instruction with jobs inside real manufacturing plants. 12 for Life is a unique partnership between Southwire and the Carroll County Schools, giving students the best of all worlds by working regular hours, earning wages and – most importantly – learning skills they will need after graduation and in life.

The program has been an inspiration for everyone involved. Scott Cowart, Superintendent of the Carroll County Schools called introducing 12 for Life “one of the joys of my life.” Rather than targeting the most successful students, 12 for Life looked for kids who were struggling and needed direction, training, and positive role models to successfully enter the work force.

Southwire approached the project as a transformational exercise. Retiring CEO Stu Thorn says Southwire realized the unconventional plan might seem far-fetched to some. So, they simply ignored the naysayers and followed their vision. The community programs of Southwire, including 12 for Life, have helped to improve graduation rates in Carroll County, with many young adults now working as Southwire managers. 12 for Life convinced the company that community partnership and investment creates shared value. “Everyone wins, it’s that simple,” says Thorn.

BIG VOICE PAST HONOREES

2014

Ann Cramer
Nancy Boxill, Nina Hickson, Deborah
Richardson
Mark Shurett, DDS
Rachel Alterman Wallack
MAAC, Inc.

2013

100 Black Men of America
Kathryn Cheek
Gail Hayes
Phil Jacobs
Mary Margaret Oliver
Wendell Willard

2012

Bill Bolling
Georgia CASA (Court-Appointed Special
Advocates)
Elaine Draeger
Tim Johnson
Pat Nobbie

2011

Renée Lewis Glover
Emory University School of Law
Robin Ferst
Sally Fitzgerald
J. Tom Morgan
Larry Sanders

2010

Dennis Lockhart & Dr. Beverly
Tatum
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Dr. Veda Johnson
Judge Velma Tilley
Sam Mitchell & Marc Upshaw
Becky Cheatham
Jeannie B. Edwards RN

2009

Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin
The Junior League of Atlanta
Franklin J. Richards II
Dr. Luther E. Smith, Jr.
W. Terence Walsh
Don Bower

2008

S. Truett Cathy
Judge Glenda A. Hatchett
Lynn Faulkner
Patricia Pflum & Neil Shorthouse
Becky Rumer

2007

US Senator Johnny Isakson
Stephanie Blank
Judge Aaron Cohn
Savannah Mayor Otis Johnson
Melvin Kruger
Linda Lowe
Tom Upchurch



A SPECIAL
thank you
TO OUR PARTNERS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Voices would like to thank our amazing community partners for supporting tonight's event – and for their valuable partnership and leadership in the community all year long.

Barton Child Law and Policy Center, Emory University School of Law

Georgia Appleseed

Georgia Budget and Policy Institute

Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.

Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students

Georgia Family Connection Partnership

Georgia State University School of Public Health

Individual contributors from the Judicial Council/Administrative
Office of the Courts

The Methodist Home

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Billy Dukes

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Alana Griffin

Allison Thompson

EVENT CONTRIBUTORS

Entertainment

The Sharper Boys

Honoree Videos & Production

John Godwin, John Godwin Productions

Polly McKinney, Producer

Event Coordinator

Reagan Goodnough - EventSmith, Inc.

Invitation and Program Design

Kelly Wilder - Ugly Fish Graphics



Special thanks to our event volunteers this evening!

Why Support Voices for Georgia's Children?

- Voices is there for kids everywhere in Georgia – looking out for their health, education, safety, and future well-being. We are committed to serving children of all ages and backgrounds. We are proud to serve on the First Lady's Children's Cabinet with the child-serving agencies of Georgia.
- Voices works to keep kids healthy all over the state. We serve on many health coalitions and advisory panels, including the Child and Adolescent Policy Coalition, which we co-chair with the Atlanta chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Through our partnership with the Statewide Afterschool Network, Voices promotes quality after school learning in Georgia and the many benefits it provides for student performance and our future workforce.
- Voices has been a long-time advocate for quality early learning programs, including child care and pre-K centers that serve families around the state. Voices joins with community partners around the state to engage policy-makers in children's love of learning during "Pre-K" week every fall.
- As part of the JUSTGeorgia Coalition, Voices supported positive changes to the Georgia Juvenile Justice Code and continues to promote changes that serve the best interests of disconnected youth. We are honored to serve on multiple juvenile justice committees.



- Voices is an advocate and supporter of the Child Welfare Reform Council's efforts, with particular concern for the prevention of child abuse and improved conditions for children who are in state care.
- Voices holds regular community meetings and dialogues to bring thoughtful people together on issues that affect our kids the most. Thousands of people join us each year, in person and through live-streaming technology.
- *Our team is dedicated, informed, and passionate, but we can't do it without your support!*

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