

**Project Harmony’s**

**Kids First Nomination**

**October 1, 2019**

It is that time of year! Project Harmony is taking nominations for the Kid’s First Awards. This annual award is designed to honor and recognize an individual or group who have made significant contributions to the well-being of abused and neglected children and/or children at risk for abuse or neglect. The nomination form lists more specific criteria --- nominations “from the heart” are the best!

I hope you will take a few moments to think of someone you would like to recognize for his/her efforts on behalf of children. This award has become a special way for the partner agencies, Project Harmony Board of Directors, staff, and the community-at-large to honor and say thank you to an individual or group on an annual basis.

The 2020 recipients will be recognized at the **Project Harmony’s *Speaking of Children* Luncheon on THURSDAY April 9th 2020, at the CHI Health Conference Center Downtown Omaha. This event will include a 2 day conference in partnership with the United States Attorney’s Office – Nebraska District, and Children’s Hospital & Medical Center providing training and educational opportunities for professionals responding to children in need.**

On behalf of the selection committee, thank you so much for taking time to consider nominating someone for this award! Attached is the nomination form, which can be emailed to ([gklein@projectharmony.com](mailto:gklein@projectharmony.com)) or faxed (402-595-1329) to us by noon November 4th, 2019

Please call me, at (402) 595-1326, with any questions.

Sincerely,

Gene Klein

Executive Director

**Nomination Forms Due: November 4, 2019**

Thank you to those of you who have nominated people for the Kids First Award these past years. Through your thoughtfulness and efforts, we have honored:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2000**  Leigh Ann Retelsdorf, Douglas County Attny  **2001**  Lt. John Lehotyak, Omaha Police Dept  **2002**  Penny Parker, Campfire USA  **2003**  Kathy Lange, NHHS Child Protective Svs  **2004**  Kim Hawekotte, Douglas County Attny  **2005**  Jackie Simmons, NHHS Child Protective Svs  **2006**  Beth Schrager, Community Volunteer  Marti Arndt, NHHS Child Protective Svs  Steve Miller, Bellevue Police Dept  **2007**  Project Linus Community Organization  **2008**  Helen Sinh, MD Project Harmony Pediatrician  **2008**  Nicole Goaley, Douglas County Attny’s Office Trevor O’Brien, Omaha Police Dept  Judy Kay, Child Saving Institute  Kelly Brumm, NHHS Child Protective Services  **2009**  Cathy Ronk, Council Bluffs Police Dept  Tricia Freeman, Sarpy County Attny’s Office  Ronda Newman, NHHS Child Protective Svs  **2010**  Jennifer Crystal-Clark, Douglas County Attny  Barbara Jessing, Heartland Family Service  Gary Perkins, Children’s Hospital & Medical Center  Jackie Rickert, Iowa Dept of Human Services  Teresa Thorson, Omaha Police Department  **2011**  Kathy Bigsby Moore, Voices for Children  Dan McGinn, Pottawattamie County Attorney  Bob Owens, NHHS Child Protective Services  Mary Bennett- Schulte, Children's Hospital & Medical Center | **2012**  Brenda Beadle, Douglas County Attny’s Office  Sally Kaplan, Project Harmony  Lance Worley, Omaha Police Department  **2013**  Stephanie Clark, Nebraska Families Collaborative  Jeremy Kinsey, LaVista Police Department  Amanda Nawrocki, NHHS Hotline  **2014**  Mike Barker, Children’s Square USA  Georgie Scurfield, Sarpy CASA  Schalisha Walker, Project Everlast  Brenda Wheeler, Douglas County Sherriff **2015**  Stephanie Hansen, Jennifer Miralles, and Kathy Healey-Sarpy Co. Attny’s Office;  Judge Kathleen Kilnoski- Pottawattamie County; Vickie Peyton, Nebraska Children’s Home Society  **2016**  Jude Connelly, LMHP, LCSW, Child Saving Institute  Joanna Halbur, LIMFT, Child Saving Institute  Sharon Martin, Boys Town Hotline  Suzie Mistry-Gerloff, LMHP, Children’s Physicians  **2017**  Tom Incontro, JD- Guardian ad Litem  Molly Keene, JD- Deputy Douglas County Attorney  Marlene Novotny- Sergeant, Omaha Police Department  **2018**  Ryan Roskey- Bellevue Police Dept.  Mary Jo Pankoke- Nebraska Children and Families Foundation  Betsy Funk- Omaha Therapy and Arts Collaborative  Jean Bohnker- Early Childhood and Family Support, Family Inc- SW Iowa  **2019**  Dana Harrah, Sarpy County Sherriff  Lakeisha Phelps, Nebraska Family Support Network  Lana Sayre, NHHS, Child Protective Services |

2020 Kids First Award

Nomination

**Purpose:** Annual award to honor a professional or volunteer in our region (eastern Nebraska and western Iowa) who has made a significant impact in the field of child abuse in the area(s) of: victim services, victim education, systems issues, or prevention education.

**Criteria may include:**

* **Professional or volunteer currently active in field of child advocacy**
* **Made significant, long-term contributions to the well-being of children**
* **Helped establish new collaborations between agencies or had a significant impact on “systems”**
* **Demonstrates a vision where children’s best interests are at the forefront of professionals’ activities – i.e., “Kids First” philosophy**

Nominee’s Name: Phone:

Nominee’s Agency:

Address:

City: State: Zip Code:

Explain how this person has positively impacted our community’s children:

Your Name: Phone:

Address:

City: State: Zip Code:

Please email or fax this form **by noon November 4, 2019** to: Gene Klein, Project Harmony,

Fax: (402) 595-1329 gklein@ProjectHarmony.com