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## **Award Winners for Child Abuse Prevention Efforts Announced**

The State Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force (CAP/ITF) Awards recognized outstanding child abuse prevention programs in Oklahoma and individual child abuse prevention efforts at the *Child Abuse Prevention Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, April 9*. The 2013 award winners are: Bethesda Inc. in Norman for the Outstanding Program Award; Jacqueline Steyn for the Marion Jacewitz Award; State Rep. Mike Sanders, Dist. 59, for the Outstanding Elected Official Award; and Sharon Doty, Esq., Arpeggias, LLC for the Mary Ellen Wilson Award.

“The CAP/ITF award recipients are all fine examples of working together to prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening families. These individuals and agencies are a shining example of how collaboration and commitment make a difference in the lives of Oklahoma's children,” said Maggi Hutchason, CAP/ITF chair.

**The 2013 Outstanding Program Award** winner is **Bethesda Inc.** in Norman. Bethesda Inc. was incorporated as a non-profit in 1982 and provides primary, secondary and tertiary prevention services. Their philosophy is that no child should be left without the help they need after suffering abuse, so the services are provided statewide and without charge. Their vision is to end the cycle of abuse. In 2005, Bethesda Inc. added an Outreach Prevention Program designed for children ages 4-11 to teach about appropriate and inappropriate touching. The program began in the Norman Public Schools and has expanded to other communities to reach more than 18,000 children. Bethesda Inc. is routinely consulted about issues related to sexual abuse, treatment, education, and prevention by district attorneys, judges, other clinical professionals and educators.

**The 2013 Marion Jacewitz Award** winner is **Jacqueline Steyn** with the YWCA of Oklahoma City. She holds the position of Chief Programs and Compliance Officer at the YWCA where she provides a variety of services for victims of domestic and sexual abuse and is known as an expert in services for children. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and has worked in the mental health field for over 25 years, holding positions on numerous boards and commissions working to improve the lives of victims of domestic violence and their children. She was recognized as one of the 2012 Women of Achievement by the Zonta Club of Central Oklahoma and was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for Excellence in Service to Victims and Survivors of Violence Against Women by the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General. She is always willing to serve the community and engage the community to ensure safety and access to justice for victims and children in Oklahoma.

**The 2013 Outstanding Elected Official Award** winner is **State Rep. Mike Sanders, District 59, Kingfisher**. This award is to honor an elected official for distinguished service on behalf of children and families in Oklahoma. This individual is one who strives to enhance the quality of life for babies, children or adolescents (and their families) in their neighborhood, community, and/or across the state. Rep. Sanders is a leader among his peers regarding child advocacy and promoting programs that support families and ultimately prevent child maltreatment. He is always available and willing to assist families in need of help in troubled situations dealing with child abuse and neglect. He was instrumental in passage of major legislation to improve services provided by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and to enacting the Pinnacle Plan for implementing reforms in the child welfare system to benefit the best interest of the children.

**The 2013 Mary Ellen Wilson Award** winner is Sharon Doty, Esq., Arpeggias, LLC. Doty is a child advocate and consultant from Tulsa. In addition to graduating with distinction with a Juris Doctorate from the OU College of Law, Doty has a master's degree in Human Relations and a diploma from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine Department of Pediatrics in Interdisciplinary Training in Child Abuse and Neglect. She was the first ever child advocate appointed by the juvenile court in Pontotoc County. In 1997, Doty was hired to chair an expert consulting team for an organization made up of a group of Catholic dioceses. The charge given to the team was to research, develop, and implement an adult child sexual abuse prevention program for the Roman Catholic Church in the United States.

The CAP/ITF honors people and organizations that demonstrate significant and outstanding commitment and dedication to child abuse prevention activities. The CAP/ITF membership, as prescribed by law, is appointed by the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth and composed of 17 members.

For more information about the award recipients, their programs, or the how you can get involved in child abuse prevention activities, contact the OSDH Family Support and Prevention Service at (405) 271-7611.



ATTACHMENT 1 – Maggi Hutchason, CAP/ITF chair, and Kay Christiansen of Bethesda Inc. – Outstanding Program Award Winner



ATTACHMENT 2 – Maggi Hutchason, CAP/ITF chair, and Jacqueline Steyn – Marion Jacewitz Award



ATTACHMENT 3 – Maggi Hutchason, CAP/ITF chair, and Sharon Doty, Esq., Arpeggias, LLC – Mary Ellen Wilson Award



ATTACHMENT 4 – State Rep. Mike Sanders with wife, Nellie – Outstanding Elected Official Award

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