



United Advocates for Children and Families Newsletter
Special Edition

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UACF Vision Statement

Inspire Hope and Courage

[UACF Mission Statement](#)

Banquet/2010

Care 4 Kids Candlelight Banquet Program



Banquet Welcome From Earl Kelly, UACF Board President

"On Behalf of the Board of Directors of the United Advocates for Children and Families (UACF) and the entire mental health advocacy community, we welcome you to the 2nd Annual UACF Care 4 Kids Candlelight Banquet. The event committee has been working diligently for several months and we thank them for their dedication, commitment and compassion towards this worthy cause."



[Read More...](#)

Keynote Speaker

Promote the emotional, behavioral and social well-being of children, youth and families through transformational leadership.

Seven Principles That Guide Our Work:

- Family Driven, Hope Centered and Youth Guided
- Full Domain and Environment of the Child
- Community Based Support Services
- Culturally and Linguistically Competent
- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Strength based Intervention
- Interagency Collaboration

Our Goals are:

- To Provide a Voice for Family Members
- Empower Family Members and Healthcare Professionals Through Training and Technical Assistance
- To Form Strategic Partnerships to Leverage Local and Statewide Resources.

UACF Board of Directors

- Earl Kelly, President**
Santa Clara County
- Tina Mata, President Elect**
Los Angeles County
- Leona Jull, Secretary**
Yolo County
- John Hatakeyama, Treasurer**
Los Angeles County
- Carmen Diaz**
Los Angeles County
- Gwen Slattery**
Los Angeles County
- Gwen Foster**
Alameda County
- Sai-Ling Chan-Sew**
San Francisco County
- R. Becky Manzanares**
Los Angeles County
- Fran Goldfarb**
Los Angeles County
- Kimberly Laskowski**

Gene Cash, Ph.D., NCSP, Associate Professor, Center for Psychological Studies, Nova Southeastern University
Director, School Psychology Assessment and Consultation Center



[Read more about Dr. Cash...](#)

Carolyn Cooper Award

Dr. William Arroyo Receives the Carolyn Cooper Award.

The highest United Advocates for Children and Families (UACF) achievement award for "Inspiring Hope and Courage"- named after one of the founding mothers 20 years ago was given to Dr. William Arroyo. He is noted for participating with and encouraging parent participation in everything affecting children's mental health. Dr. Arroyo is the Medical Director of the Child, Youth and Family Administration for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.



"It's an honor to receive an award named after someone, Carolyn Cooper, for whom I have tremendous esteem and admiration. She has been an outstanding advocate for youth in the juvenile justice system, an area of great interest to me." said Dr. Arroyo. "I hope I can live up to the standards of advocacy that she has established as one of the founder of UACF."

Carolyn Cooper presented the award to Dr. Arroyo who joined the banquet by video conference from the East Coast.

Youth of the Year Award

Ameenah Atlas receives the Youth of the Year Award

This award for leadership, coaching and mentoring in support of the development of mental well-being programs for youth was given to Ms. Ameenah Atlas. Ms. Atlas is noted for her participation in the development of the youth group Kids of Los Angeles Network (KLAN) and serving as the youth representative for Parents of Los Angeles Network (PLAN) for a number of years.



Parent Partner of the Year Award

Ruth Tiscareno receives the Parent Partner/Advocate of the Year Award

This award for service and advocacy working to represent the best interest of families, children



San Joaquin County
Stephanie Ramos
Sacramento County
Ellen Murphy
San Diego County
Errol Campbell
Riverside County
Mary Jane Gross
Alameda County

and youth was given to Ms. Ruth Tiscareno. She is noted for her inexhaustible courage and persistence to advocate for children and their families receiving or needing services. A parent of children receiving services keeps her constantly in appointments, along with volunteering with Girl Scouts, OAC and various community engagement meetings and activities. Ms. Tiscareno is employed by Amanecer Community Counseling Services, a well established non-profit community mental health services organization annually serving more than 1500 low income, working poor and homeless children, adults and families in Los Angeles.

Rachel Guerrero Award

Manuel Rosas, Jr. receives the Rachel Guerrero Award

This award, a special recognition for cultural competence and ethnic outreach to underserved and underrepresented communities, was given to Mr. Manuel Rosas, Jr. Mr. Rosas is noted for his volunteer work with taking services to the homeless, as well as assisting parent partners with helping families who faced issues of suicidal youth; and counseling youth who had lost friends to suicide.



Professional of the Year Award

Joe Ford receives the Professional of the Year Award

This award for exemplary performance, compassion and willingness to work with families, children and youth in a caring and compassionate partnership involving family members and youth at all levels of decision-making that impacts their mental well-being was presented to Mr. Joe Ford. Mr. Ford is noted for his constant inclusion of parents in meetings and decision making. Mr. Ford is noted for his involvement with victims of domestic violence, encouraging them, building their self-esteem and challenging them to improving their lives.



California Legislative Assembly Resolution

Earl Kelly receives the Resolution Award on behalf of UACF

Suzy Jacobs from Assemblyman Mike Gatto's office presented UACF Board President Earl Kelly with a beautifully framed Resolution from the State Assembly.



Special Recognition

California Endowment receives Special Recognition

Gwen Foster, UACF Board Director, presented California Endowment with a Special Recognition plaque for their successful efforts in supporting the mental well-being of families, children and youth and enabling UACF to establish the first statewide Institute for Family and Youth Leadership based on lived experiences.



Art Display



A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Art Donors!

Cammie Jones
Nery Gabriel Lemus
Douglas Finchman
Sharon Mohorovich
Margo Gunderson
Jessica Rowe
Reeta Hernes
April Tiscareno
Danielle Saucierim
Jonathon Tiscareno
James Christiansen and Charitable Giving, International Corp.
Gabriel Gonzalez
Robert Cruz

Entertainment



The Miracle Project



The Tioata Dance Group

A Special Thank You To Our Sponsors

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California Association of School Psychologists (CASP)
Hathaway-Sveinore Child and Family Services

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Seneca
EMQ
Sierra Madre Learning Center/T.O.T.A.L. Programs
5 Acres
