

Families As Allies Community Partnership Celebration 2019

Greeting and welcome

Introduction of Board and Staff

Community Partnership Celebration Awards Presentations

*Helen Reddy Johnson Memorial Award for
Valuing Every Child and Family*

Katelyn Elizabeth Brown, Miss Presley Heights

Rusty Turner Memorial Award for Excellence

Julio Cespedes Jr., UMMC

Partnership Award

Balch and Bingham, Jackson

Accountability Award

Jeff Amy, Associated Press

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Helen Reddy Johnson Memorial Award For Valuing Every Child And Family

Katelyn Elizabeth Brown, Miss Presley Heights

Earlier this year we had the good fortune to meet Katelyn Elizabeth Brown, an amazing young woman who is passionate about children's mental health. Katelyn is this year's reigning Miss Presley Heights 2020, and was a top ten finalist in the Miss Mississippi pageant last year. Katelyn asked us how she and Families as Allies could partner to help support families and children, and that partnership resulted in the video that you will see tonight.

We are grateful to Katelyn and her family for sharing the important messages that children's mental health challenges are real, there is help and hope, and the best way to help children is by supporting their families.



Rusty Turner Memorial Award for Excellence

Julio Cespedes, Jr., UMMC

Julio Cespedes Jr. is a mosaic of cultures, philosophies, perspectives, approaches, and ideas. From South America to Connecticut to Mississippi, from engineering to business and medicine, he is determined to bring about true system of care transformation and create an optimal system in which people receive care in a way that makes sense.

WE VALUE EXCELLENCE

We hold ourselves to the highest standards in what we do. We expect the systems that serve our children to do the same.

His passion is to build an optimal system of care for his fellow Mississippians by collaborating with physicians, hospitals, payors, public and private entities to create innovative pathways and models of care. He is the Director of Strategic Development at UMMC.

This award honors Julio for his work on Mississippi's Integrated Care for Kids application and for how committed he is to working in partnership with families and our organization.

Partnership Award

Balch and Bingham, Jackson

Balch's Jackson office has played a significant role in both business and governmental litigation throughout the state. Their many nationally ranked attorneys are sought after for the quality and sophistication of their work.



**We will work in partnership
with you and whoever you tell
us is important to your family.**

They are engaged in active pro bono legal counsel, volunteer opportunities and charitable giving with many vibrant nonprofits, including the Mississippi Museum of Art, and other national and local nonprofit organizations.

Balch and Bingham is receiving this award for its ongoing support of Families as Allies and its generous donation of pro bono work this year. The firm's guidance has definitely helped Families as Allies come closer to reaching our goals and their support and belief in our mission means the world to us. We are touched to think how happy receiving this award would make their former colleague and our dear friend Rusty feel.

Accountability Award

Jeff Amy, Associated Press

Jeff Amy is a staff writer for the Associated Press, covering education (early childhood, K-12, higher education and beyond) in Georgia and across the South. He has been a reporter for over 20 years, and previously spent 8 years here in Mississippi as a staff writer for AP covering state government, business, education and other subjects. Jeff is a graduate of both Princeton University (B.A.) and the University of Missouri-Columbia (M.A.).

WE VALUE ACCOUNTABILITY



We will be open and honest with you about our organization and help you get information from the systems that serve your child.

This award recognizes Jeff for his consistent, thorough and accurate reporting over the past year about Mississippi's mental health system. We are also grateful for his tweeting from the recent federal trial about Mississippi's adult mental health system - the information he shared was easy to follow and allowed people who were unable to attend to stay updated. We appreciate his commitment to objective reporting and making complex concepts understandable to his audience.

Families as Allies named these two awards for two extraordinary people. We honor their memories.

The Helen Reddy Johnson Memorial Award for Valuing Every Child and Family

Helen Johnson spent her life caring for children and bringing communities together. She was instrumental in the establishment of Southern Echo and the Nollie Jenkins Family Center. She was a school board member and worked tirelessly on behalf of school children in Mississippi, especially those in the Delta.



Helen was a board member of Families as Allies and never lost her focus on insuring that the organization was accountable to the families and children it served.

Her life exemplified respect, compassion and dignity and serves as an inspiration for our work every day.

The Rusty Turner Memorial Award for Excellence

Rusty Turner was an outstanding labor attorney who received many awards and much recognition for his accomplishments. As part of his work at Balch and Bingham, Rusty patiently and carefully guided Families as Allies in updating all of our policies and procedures in keeping with best practices, allowing us to focus much more of our time on our mission.



More importantly, just by the way he chose to live his life, Rusty exemplified Families as Allies' vision that all children have the opportunity to reach their potential and be successful.

We are grateful for these memories and also honored that Rusty had committed to become a board member in 2016.

Past Award Recipients

The Helen Reddy Johnson Memorial Award For Valuing Every Child and Family

2014 Linda West

2015 Helen Johnson

2016 Growing Pains/Dr. Rick DeShazo and Kathryn Rodenmeyer

2017 Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba and First Lady Ebony Lumumba

2018 Catholic Charities' Mental Health Care Conference

The Rusty Turner Memorial Award For Excellence

2014 Grayson Norquist, MD, MSPH

2015 Rusty Turner, Esq

2016 Dr. Wanjiku Njoroge

2017 The Family Run Executive Directors Leadership Association (FREDLA)

2018 Coalition For Citizens With Disabilities' Special Education Law Conference

Partnership

2014 St James Episcopal Church

2015 Chane – Fondren First Thusday

2016 Nita Rudy, Parents for Public Schools

2017 The Wraparound Institute

2018 The Community Students Learning Center

Accountability

2014 Mandy Rogers

2015 Leonard VanSlyke, Esq

2016 Representatives Joel Bomgar and Jay Hughes

2017 The Clarion Ledger

2018 Congressman Gregg Harper



