

News Release

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Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana Announces “Champion for Children” Award Recipients

February 24, 2010 – Baton Rouge, LA—**Renita Williams Thomas, John G. Daniel, Dr. Carol Plummer** and **Michelle Clayton** have been selected as the recipients of Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Louisiana’s 2010 *Champion for Children* Award. This is the highest honor that PCA Louisiana bestows upon individuals who have made a difference in the lives of children. The awards will be presented during the 24th Annual “Kids Are Worth It!” Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. The *Champions for Children* luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 2nd between 12pm-2pm at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel in New Orleans.

Renita Williams Thomas is the State Project Director for Early Childhood Supports and Services which works to identify and mitigate abuse and neglect among children ages 0-6. Ms. Thomas is a relentless advocate and volunteer for the betterment of our state’s children. Her passion has driven her to take in three drug exposed children from foster care in hopes of adopting them permanently into her family.

John G. Daniel has spent his life teaching children how to become healthy motivated students and productive citizens. His servant leadership has established numerous programs that give aid and protection to children at risk of abuse and neglect via counseling programs in homes and schools.



Mr. Daniel has served in the following positions: Vice President of Father Flanagan's Boys Town National Operations; Co-founder and Chair of the Arnold Schwarzenegger Inner City Games, Philadelphia; Family and Community Chair of the Louisiana Council on the Status of Black Boys and Men; Deputy Executive Director of Louisiana Spirit Hurricane Recovery; and President of Unity Day Youth & Family Zone.

Dr. Carol Plummer, Assistant Professor of Social Work at LSU, heads their Child Welfare certificate program and teaches courses about children and families. Awarded one of the first available federal grants to develop and implement sexual abuse prevention curricula, Dr. Plummer is a true leader in the prevention field. In 1984, Dr. Plummer published one of the first books on the topic, *Preventing Sexual Abuse*, which is in use to this day internationally. A therapist for many years, Dr. Plummer now consults nationally as well as in places such as Kenya, India, and Afghanistan to promote children's rights and safety.

Michelle Clayton serves on a local level to prevent child abuse in her role as homeless liaison and Director of Academic Accountability in the Zachary Community School District. She acts as an advocate for the district's children and families in crisis. Ms. Clayton works to find students safe, loving homes and works with the families to ensure that they have the resources they need. She has impacted the lives of countless families.

The state chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America since 1986, PCA Louisiana is a statewide, nonprofit organization committed to preventing the abuse and neglect of our state's children. PCA Louisiana programs include intensive, evidence-based parenting support services, trainings for professionals and community-based education and advocacy to prevent child abuse and neglect from ever happening.



For more information on PCA Louisiana and the “Kids Are Worth It!” Conference, please visit www.pcal.org. For parenting support or to find out how you can do your part to assure all Louisiana’s children are nurtured, call our KIDLINE at 1-800-CHILDREN.

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