



**Council for
Children's
Rights**

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**The Council for Children's Rights Recognizes the
2010 Dolly Award and Champions for Children Award Recipients**

September 21, 2010, Charlotte, North Carolina – The Council for Children's Rights announced today its 2010 **Dolly Award** and **Champions for Children Award** winners at the organization's 31st Annual Lunch for Children's Rights.

Maria Bonaiuto, director of School Health for the Mecklenburg County Health Department, was honored with The Dolly Award. This prestigious award is named for the late Dolly Tate and recognizes individuals who demonstrate a passion and commitment to children's issues.

Bonaiuto was recognized for her dedication to improving the health and wellness of children in our community. Among her key accomplishments, she has played an instrumental role in developing a coordinated school health plan in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. And as the first community member to serve on the Coordinated School Health Advisory Committee, Bonaiuto demonstrated her gift of enhancing programs, policies and resources to benefit all children.

The Mecklenburg Bar Foundation was honored with The Champions for Children Award, which celebrates those whose generosity of spirit ensures the mission of the Council for Children's Rights and its ability to provide advocacy for the children in our community.

The Mecklenburg Bar Foundation generously protects children's rights by supporting the Mecklenburg County Bar in its efforts to encourage bar members to participate in pro bono legal work. The Mecklenburg Bar Foundation also goes above and beyond its call for duty by distributing critical funds to area public schools, public educational and charitable foundations, and other institutions that invest in improving opportunities for children. Partner agencies such as the Council for Children's Rights, Legal Aid of North Carolina and Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont have greatly benefited from the Mecklenburg Bar Foundation's unyielding support over the years.

"We applaud Ms. Bonaiuto and the Mecklenburg Bar Foundation for creating positive change on behalf of all children in Mecklenburg County, today and tomorrow," said Council for Children's Rights Executive Director Brett A. Loftis.

Close to 800 people attended The Lunch at the Crown Ballroom in uptown Charlotte with *guest* speaker Jonathan Kozol, a critically acclaimed author, lecturer and activist known for his commitment to educational and social justice issues in America. The annual luncheon raises awareness and support for children's needs in Charlotte and North Carolina.

Council for Children Rights has been the leading voice for children's rights since 1979.

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