



## **For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Jack Kresnak, President & CEO

(517) 485-3500 office

(313) 550-6497 cell

[jack@michiganschildren.org](mailto:jack@michiganschildren.org)

# **Michigan Leaders Honored as Children's Heroes**

*Exemplary Service Celebrated At Eleventh Annual Event*

**LANSING** – Eight policy makers and a lobbyist received the high honor Tuesday of being named Heroes for Michigan's Children in recognition of their exemplary legislative and community leadership on behalf of Michigan's children and families.

The awards were presented at the Eleventh Annual **Much Ado About Something Wonderful**, hosted by Michigan's Children at the Country Club of Lansing. Each year, this special recognition benefit brings together the governmental affairs community and elected officials who help us achieve our vision of making Michigan the best state in America to be a child. The awards recognize those who have particularly distinguished themselves on behalf of children. The 2010 honorees are:

### ***Legacy Heroes***

U.S. Rep. Vern Ehlers (R)

U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak (D)

Sen. Ray Basham (D)

Sen. Patty Birkholz (R)

Sen. Liz Brater (D)

Sen. Tom George (R)

### ***Seasoned Advocate***

Rep. Joan Bauer (D)

### ***Visionary Freshman***

Rep. John Walsh (R)

### ***Kevin A. Kelly Child Advocate Award***

Nancy Moody

"All of our honorees set fine examples of people who not only care about vulnerable children, but who take action to improve their chances for success," Michigan's Children President & CEO Jack Kresnak said. "Michigan should be as proud to have these leaders as we are to honor them."

This is the third year of the Kevin A. Kelly Child Advocate Award created in 2008 to recognize those in the nonprofit or business world who work on children's issues. Mr. Kelly was a long-serving member of the Michigan's Children Board of Directors and highly respected political operative known for bringing people together for important causes and donating great amounts of his own time and energy.

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We are proud to honor Nancy Moody, Director of State Government Affairs for DTE Energy, as this year's recipient of the Kevin A. Kelly Child Advocate Award. Ms. Moody worked with Mr. Kelly and has had a lifelong commitment to serving the needs of vulnerable children.

Much Ado About Something Wonderful is one of only two annual fundraisers held to support the important work of Michigan's Children in communities, the Capitol and Congress. The statewide nonprofit and nonpartisan children's advocacy organization accepts no government funding, and thus relies solely on support from foundations, businesses and individuals.

Sponsors for the 2010 Much Ado event were DTE Energy Foundation, Michigan State Medical Society, HealthPlus of Michigan, Lansing Community College, Michigan Education Special Services Association (MESSA), Children's Hospital of Michigan, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Michigan Health & Hospital Association, Michigan State University Office of Outreach & Engagement, Dean Transportation and Public Affairs Associates.

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*Michigan's Children is a statewide, independent voice for children and their families.  
We work with lawmakers, business leaders and communities to make Michigan a place where all children have the  
opportunity to thrive.*