



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Children's Advocates To Be Honored Nov. 29**

*Twelfth Annual Event Celebrates Work on Behalf of Children*

LANSING – Michigan's Children will celebrate exemplary community, legislative and judicial accomplishment on behalf of children at the Twelfth Annual **Much Ado About Something Wonderful** on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. 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. Our 2011 honorees are:

Sen. Hoon-Yun Hopgood (D)  
Sen. Howard Walker (R)  
Rep. Lisa Brown (D)  
Rep. Matt Lori (R)  
Rep. Amanda Price (R)  
Rep. Maureen Stapleton (D)  
Former Oakland County Probate Court Judge Eugene "Bud" Moore  
Rod Murphy, Principal of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish School of East Lansing

The awards recognize those who have particularly distinguished themselves on behalf of children. Legislators were selected for a series of actions displaying their commitment to putting children first, whether in proposing new policies and regulations or preventing harmful budget cuts to crucial programs and services benefitting our most vulnerable youngsters.

The Honorable Eugene "Bud" Moore, who retired in December 2010 from Oakland County Probate Court after 44 years on the bench, was known for his work on behalf of juveniles and efforts to improve Michigan's juvenile justice system. He is a past president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Michigan Probate Judges Association, and has been a long-term member of the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Principal Rod Murphy will receive the *Kevin A. Kelly Child Advocate Award*. Mr. Murphy has had a lifelong positive effect on children as an educator and mentor and worked with the children of Mr. Kelly, 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. The award was created in 2008 to recognize those in the nonprofit or business world who share Mr. Kelly's passion for advancing children's issues.

"These honorees have a history of advancing children's issues," said Michigan's Children President & CEO Jack Kresnak. "They don't just talk about the need to help vulnerable children, they are taking action to make our kids' lives better and improve their chances for success. Michigan should be as proud to have these leaders as we are to honor them."

Tickets are \$125 per person and can be purchased online at [www.michiganschildren.org](http://www.michiganschildren.org) or by calling (517) 485-3500.

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 receives no government funding, relying solely on support from foundations, businesses and individuals.

Sponsors for the 2011 Much Ado event include Michigan Education Special Services Association and Michigan State University Outreach and Engagement.

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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.*