



Summit County
CHILDREN SERVICES
Building Families . . . Building Futures

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Summit County Children Services' Announces 2018 "Champions for Children" Award Winners

AKRON, OH – May 2018 – Summit County Children Services hosted its Ninth Annual Community Appreciation Breakfast to recognize and thank volunteers, businesses, organizations and community leaders for their support of Summit County Children Services and the children and families of our area. The 2018 'Champions for Children' included:

Community Leader Award Recipient:

- **Theresa Carter**, President of OMNOVA Solutions Foundation (for her leadership in the Akron community and advocacy for the Summit County Children Services' mission displayed through supporting the agency's Beds for Kids Program, Child & Family Awareness Month activities and the agency's new Leadership Academy.)

Community Partner Award Recipient:

- **Russell White**, CEO of In Focus of Cleveland, Inc. (for being an excellent collaborator and partner of Summit County Children Services while establishing group homes for young men in need of transitional housing and guiding young men to become successful and confident members of society.)

Duvall Detective of the Year Award:

- **Detective Crystal Bowen-Carter**, Akron Police Department (for her work investigating criminal abuse, neglect, death and serious injury cases involving juvenile victims as part of the Juvenile/Auto Theft/ Missing Persons Unit.)

Duvall Outstanding Service Award:

- **Judge Alison McCarty**, Summit County Court of Common Pleas (for establishing herself as a true advocate and champion of children while handling drug, child abuse and death penalty murder trials during her 10-year career as a prosecutor and for advocating for the victims of domestic violence, drug abuse and sexual assault in Summit County.)

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In addition, a family and youth were presented with ‘**Family and Youth Achievement Awards**’ for overcoming obstacles in their lives, rising beyond the challenges they have faced, and demonstrating a commitment to caring for children and exhibiting positive family life. The family award recipient was recognized for their commitment to collaborating with Summit County Children Services to work towards reunification and displaying a dedication to breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect. The youth recipient was recognized for his academic, personal and extracurricular accomplishments as a graduating high school senior. The youth will be attending The University of Akron in the fall and has received multiple scholarships.

About the Community Appreciation Breakfast . . .

The Ninth Annual Community Appreciation Breakfast was the official conclusion to this year’s 31st Child & Family Awareness Month. Numerous agencies and organizations have formed a unique network committed to strengthening family life using community education as a vehicle for child abuse and neglect awareness and prevention. This network has implemented activities and initiatives during the month designed to build a solid foundation of community support for children and families. For more information about the 2019 Child & Family Awareness Month, please call Summit County Children Services, the coordinating agency for Child & Family Awareness Month, at (330) 379-1994.

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