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Dinner to honor child care leaders

12:00 AM CDT on Thursday, June 11, 2009

ROBERT MILLER

Leaders in the early childhood development industry will recognize professionals who care for children from birth to age 5 at a dinner tonight at the World Trade Center.

The sixth annual event is sponsored by **IBM Corp.** and coordinated by **ChildCareGroup, Brookhaven College, Dallas Association for the Education of Young Children, Eastfield College, Essential Elements for Education, Head Start of Greater Dallas Inc., Partners for Children, Texas Association for Infant Mental Health, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services** and the **United Way of Metropolitan Dallas**

ChildCareGroup's Sonya Bemporad Excellence in Child Care Award will be presented to **Eugenia Garvin**, a veteran teacher at ChildCareGroup at **Oak Cliff United Methodist Church.**

This award is dedicated to the memory of **Sonya Bemporad**, a visionary and powerful advocate for young children.

The Health Services Shining Star Award for a medical professional who's dedicated to early childhood development through health services will be presented to **Carol Orsini**, a home/school facilitator with the **Garland Independent School District's** Special Education Department.

Janie Medrano of **Mi Esquelita Preschool** will receive the Elaine Krause Award, named after a mentor, teacher and advocate for early childhood education.

The Dallas Association for the Education of Young Children will present the following honors:

- Margaret Cone Award to **Murriel Webb**, owner and director of **Braswells Kids Too**;
- Alzenia Hunter Teacher of the Year Award to **Sara Estrada** at **Open Door Preschool**;
- Pat Kennedy Award to Dr. **Jane Rowe**, a **Brookhaven College** child development chairwoman.
- Joanie Pieper Award to **Sherrel Durham**, a teacher at **Customize Learning Center**;
- Administrator of the Year to **Tim Devaney**, Head Start of Greater Dallas; and
- Advocate of the Year to **Judy Dillon**, **Dallas Association of Parent Education.**

Essential Elements for Education will honor **Wanda Smith** of Head Start of Greater Dallas with its Community Partnership Award.

Dawn Hallman of the Dallas Association for Parent Education and **Lisa Ogelsby- Rocha** of **AVANCE-Dallas** will share the Community Empowerment Award, presented by **Partners for Children**.

The Dallas Foundation will be named the Outstanding Donor for Early Childhood Education by the **United Way of Metropolitan Dallas**.

ChildCareGroup, a United Way agency founded in 1901, is dedicated to promoting, delivering and expanding child care services.

The families it serves are primarily the working poor, with most earning incomes below the poverty level.

Every day, ChildCareGroup is responsible for providing or managing the care of 13,000 children from low-income families.