



News

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Governor Minner presents Village Awards to Delaware Youth Activists

WILMINGTON – Governor Ruth Ann Minner presented the Delaware Children’s Department Annual Village Awards today to grassroots community activists who have made significant contributions to youth in Delaware. The awards ceremony took place during the Department’s 14th Annual Prevention and Early Intervention Forum “*Meeting the Needs of 21st Century Kids: A Portrait of Best Practices in Prevention and Early Intervention.*” More than 300 child welfare, education, and community services professionals attended the awards ceremony and two-day forum which offered training in the prevention of child abuse and neglect, delinquency and mental health problems in Delaware’s youth.

“We have a lot of amazing people here in the state of Delaware who have touched the lives of so many of our youth and their families through their compassion, dedication and commitment,” said Governor Minner. “Our Village Award recipients are truly inspirational and their actions are no small feat in today’s busy, changing world. Everyone can benefit by their example.”

Rueben Salters of Dover received the “Build the Village” which is presented to a person who has made an impact in the prevention field through planning, administering or leading prevention programs. Mr. Salters was recognized for his work in establishing the “Inner City Cultural League” to provide better recreational opportunities for city youth and the annual African American festival, “Positively Dover,” that showcases the artistic, historic, social and economic contributions African Americans have made to American culture.

The Teen Scene Group of Ellendale and Brenda Kelly of West Rehoboth shared the “Live the Village” award, which is presented to those who work directly with children in successful and effective prevention programming. The Teen Scene Group is spearheaded by Jason Parker, Anthony Hazzard and Vincent Hazzard who provide mentoring, home school visits, prison tours and an entrepreneur program to youth in the Ellendale community and have organized anti-drug marches and other positive community events. Ms. Kelly, who heads up the after school program at West Side New Beginnings Community Center, provides educational instruction and training in etiquette, cultural awareness and health issues to West Rehoboth children several days a week. The children under her tutelage have shown significant improvement in behavior and grades.

On any given day, the Children’s Department provides services to approximately 8,000 children who have been abused, neglected, are dependent, have mental health or substance problems, and/or have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts. Through the Office of Prevention and Early Intervention, the Department reaches out to children, youth and their families to eliminate the need for state intervention and to facilitate transitions of children in care back to the community. For more information, please visit <http://www.state.de.us/kids/>.

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