



Stepping Up for Kids Awards Luncheon

Honoring Special Service to Children in Foster and Adoptive Care
October 9, 2015



An audience of 280 guests joined the St. Louis Family & Community Partnership in celebrating all who give of themselves to care for children in foster and adoptive care at the second annual **Stepping Up for Kids** luncheon on Oct. 9, 2015, at Norwood Hills Country Club. **Stepping Up for Kids** awards were presented to resource families and agency staff for providing outstanding service to children. Pictured above are front row from left, honorees Ed Vazquez (St. Louis Family Court), Jennifer LaVelle (Missouri Children's Division), Lynn Zollicofer (Missouri Baptist Children's Home), Ramona Brooks (foster parent), Edna Green (Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition) and Abigail Bell (Children's Permanency Partnership). Back row, from left, Ruth Ehresman (St. Louis Family & Community Partnership and Vision for Children at Risk), honorees Robert and Tiffany Slouffman (foster parents) and Family & Community Partnership co-chairs Mike Fitzgerald and Brenda Maly.

(Left) Tim Decker, Missouri Children's Division director, gave inspiring remarks on how the Division is utilizing the Five Domains of Wellbeing to provide more equity and inclusion in their services to children and families. (Lower left) Debbie Monterrey of KMOX gave a positive and warm tone to the event as emcee in her fourth appearance at a Partnership event. (Below) The Riverview Gardens High School Ensemble provided jazz music. (Below right) LaDonna Ellis of Youth In Need saluted the honorees with her stirring rendition of the song, "Hero."





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Vazquez Family



Robert and Tiffany Slouffman



Ramona Brooks



Abigail Bell



Edna Green



Jennifer LaVelle



Ed Vazquez



Lynn Zollicofer