

# Stepping Up for Kids

9th Annual Event | October 18, 2024

Celebrating people who go  
**above and beyond** for children  
in foster, adoptive care, & kinship care.



# Congratulations to the Stepping Up For Kids honorees!

Thank you for  
all you do for  
kids and  
families in  
St. Louis  
County.



**ST. LOUIS COUNTY**  
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[stlcsf.org](http://stlcsf.org)



[keepingkidsfirst@stlouiscountymo.gov](mailto:keepingkidsfirst@stlouiscountymo.gov)



314-615-5850

**Program:**

**Prelude Music** ..... Heal Center for the Arts

**Call to Order and Welcome (12:00 PM)** ..... Sanaria Sulaiman  
Vision for Children at Risk, CEO

**Lunch**

**Recognition of Sponsors & Special Guests** ..... Yolanda West  
PACT-STL Director

**Musical Interlude** ..... Heal Center for the Arts

**Introduction of Guest Speaker** ..... Bryan Berry  
Chair of VCR Board

**Guest Speaker** ..... Orvin Kimbrough  
Chairman & CEO, Midwest BankCentre  
Author, Twice Over A Man

**Presentation of Stepping Up for Kids Awards** ..... Yolanda West

**Closing Comments** ..... Yolanda West

**Recessional Music** ..... Heal Center for the Arts

**Thank You To Our Sponsors:**

**PLATINUM SPONSORS**

Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition  
KVC Missouri  
St. Louis County Children's Services Fund

**BLUE RIBBON SPONSORS**

Children's Permanency Partnership  
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Research and Training (CICM), Brown School,  
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Show Me Healthy Kids - Home State Health  
St. Louis City Family Court  
St. Louis County Family Court

# FOSTER & ADOPTIVE CARE COALITION



For 35 years, the Coalition has collaborated with local child welfare agencies to service children impacted by the foster care system and their caregivers, increasing permanency and stability.

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### ✓ TRADITIONAL FOSTER FAMILY RECRUITMENT

RESPOND – increasing the number of Black/African American non-relative foster families, and Traditional Fostering, Family Development, Families United, and Respite.

### ✓ CHILD-SPECIFIC RECRUITMENT

Intensive family finding to serve youth at a variety of points during the case: Senate Bill cases, 30 Days to Family®, Family Connections, and Extreme Recruitment®.

### ✓ In-Home Therapeutic Services

Family Works, Youth Acceptance Project – helping families support LGBTQIA+ youth.

### ✓ Advocacy, Navigation, & Support

CareLine, Educational Advocacy, Comprehensive Systems Navigation, and Older Youth Readiness.



**For more information, contact our CareLine team:**

<https://www.foster-adopt.org/coalitionareline/>  
1750 S. Brentwood Blvd. Suite 210  
Brentwood, MO 63144



## GUEST SPEAKER

### Orvin Kimbrough

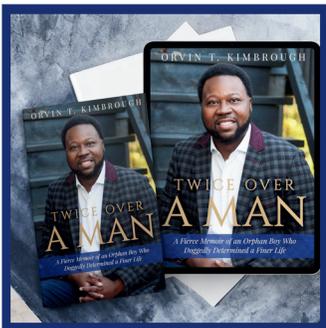
Chairman & CEO, Midwest BankCentre

Author, *Twice Over A Man*



Orvin Kimbrough, author of *Twice Over A Man: A Fierce Memoir of an Orphan Boy Who Doggedly Determined a Finer Life*, and Chairman and CEO of Midwest BankCentre, St. Louis' second-largest privately-owned local bank, has turned his personal journey from foster care to corporate leadership into a powerful mission. Leveraging the bank's financial services, Kimbrough empowers individuals, strengthens businesses, and revitalizes entire neighborhoods—demonstrating that financial growth and social impact go hand in hand.

A visionary leader in community and economic development, Kimbrough has spearheaded transformative initiatives like Impact Banking and the Rising Together Foundation, both of which reflect his unwavering commitment to creating lasting change. His leadership is not just about driving profits; it's about fostering opportunities for everyone to rise together.



An avid writer, speaker, and coach, Kimbrough dedicates his time to guiding motivated individuals and organizations to their next level of success. His influence extends beyond the corporate world as he serves on various public and private boards, including as a Commissioner with the National Academy of Medicine and a member of the St. Louis Federal Reserve's Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council.

**Through it all, Kimbrough remains focused on one goal: lifting others as he continues to rise.**

## Thank You Honorees!

You are making a difference in the lives of children and families. **We are forever grateful for you!**

**VCR promotes the well-being of children, youth, and their families, with a primary focus on those impacted by socioeconomic risk and racial inequity.**

**We do this by:**

- **Informing** the community with data and research,
- Promoting **collaborative** action,
- **Engaging** and supporting families, and
- **Advocating** for child well-being through policy and community investment.

Vision for  
CHILDREN at Risk



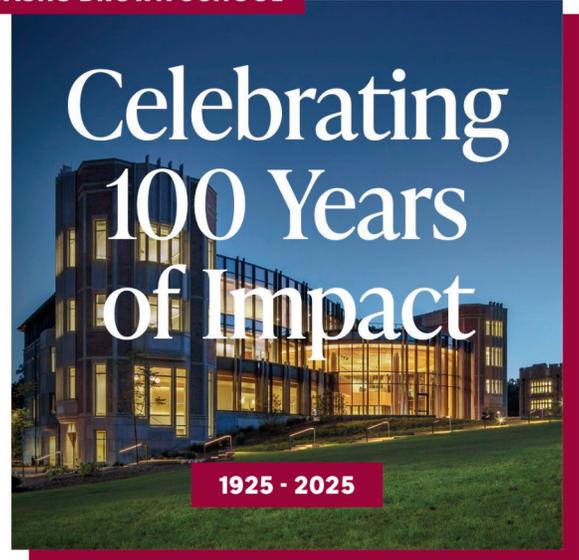
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Best wishes and deepest appreciation from your friends at MBCH Children & Family Ministries.



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**Congrats to all of the nominees!**



Child Protection Department  
Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit of Missouri  
Family Court-Juvenile Division



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## HONOREE

Rich Patton Champion for Children Award



### Ben Burkemper

Ben Burkemper has spent much of his career in child welfare, serving as an attorney, judge, and now as the Family Court Administrator in St. Louis County. Over the past five years, we have witnessed his deep commitment to children, youth, and families firsthand. Ben has been a vital member of the PACT-STL Collaborative and its Executive Committee. Additionally, Ben has been instrumental in our System of Care work and the facilitation of impactful conversations between families and the court system. He exemplifies unwavering support for efforts to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect in the region.

Ben previously served as the Legislative Director of the Office of the Missouri Attorney General and an Associate Circuit Judge in Lincoln County, Missouri. He is a graduate of Saint Louis University (B.A., 1988, M.B.A., 1994), Gonzaga University (J.D., 1991), and The London School of Economics and Political Science (LL.M., 1995). Ben and his wife, Sarah, have three adult children, Elizabeth, Joseph, and Anne.

St. Louis County Family Court  
21st Judicial Circuit of Missouri

**Thank you honorees,**  
*for all you do.*  
*for children and families!*



# Giving hope to Children & Families



KVC Missouri is a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening families, preventing child abuse and neglect and supporting mental health wellness. Our services range from preventative and educational support to community-based programs and intensive inpatient care.

## Community-Based Services

In 2023, KVC Missouri positively impacted 1,540 people through services such as:

- > Family strengthening programs
- > Family resource centers
- > Foster care case management
- > Foster/adoptive parent licensing and training
- > Treatment foster care
- > Autism services
- > Emergency shelters
- > Domestic violence shelters
- > Child Advocacy Centers
- > Meramec Wilderness Ranch
- > And more!

## Educational Academies

We operate private therapeutic K-12 schools approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, providing a nurturing environment for 445 students to heal and grow.

## Children's Residential Treatment

We offer intensive clinical services in a supportive, home-like setting to over 500 youth annually, addressing needs such as depression, anxiety, trauma and other behavioral and mental health needs.

### Connect With Us!



[www.kvcmo.org/](http://www.kvcmo.org/)

(844) 424-3577

330 North Gore Ave.  
St. Louis, MO

2573 Madison Ave.  
Kansas City, MO



## HONOREE

Rich Patton Champion for Children Award

### Dr. Shanté M. Lampley



Dr. Shanté M. Lampley is the Chief Deputy Juvenile Officer for the 22nd Judicial Circuit of Missouri, Child Protection Department. In this capacity, she oversees four Child Protection and Permanency Units as well as the Mediation and Special Court Services Unit. She has held this position for 15 years. She has previously worked as a Deputy Juvenile Officer in the Child Abuse and Neglect Unit, Assistant Supervisor for the Truancy Unit, Family Court Mediator, and Supervisor of the Mediation and Special Court Services Unit. She has held positions as Director and Liaison for the Family Subcontracted Services Program, and St. Louis City Site Coordinator for the Annie E Casey Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. While she has worked at the 22nd Circuit Court for 26 years, Dr. Lampley has been an advocate for children's safety and well-being for over 31 years.

Dr. Lampley is a 2017 Missouri Foundation for Health Leadership Fellow. She has served in the past as adjunct faculty in Criminal/Juvenile Justice for Harris-Stowe State University and St. Louis University. She is a member of the St. Louis Regional System of Care Council, St. Louis Child Abuse and Neglect Network and Coalition against Trafficking and Exploitation. Dr. Lampley is a current board member of MGC, Elevate Inc. and the Office of State Courts Administrator-Juvenile Division Education Committee.

Dr. Lampley received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Child/Family Development, a Master of Arts degree in Criminology/Criminal Justice and a Doctor of Management and Organizational Leadership. She has completed Basic and Advanced Civil and Divorce Mediation Training. Dr. Lampley received both a Management Certificate and Supervision Certificate from Southwest State University, Management Development Institute. She also participated in the Advanced Juvenile Justice Management Institute, which was certified by the Louis W. McHardy National College of Juvenile and Family Justice.

She is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

**Thank you, for  
going the extra mile  
for children & families!**



*Dedicated to brighter futures,*

FamilyForward offers trauma-informed services that foster safer, healthier relationships for children and families.



[www.familyforwardmo.org](http://www.familyforwardmo.org)



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[facebook.com/BringingFamiliesTogetherSTL](https://facebook.com/BringingFamiliesTogetherSTL)  
new website coming soon! @BringingFamiliesTogether.com



**Congratulations,  
Stepping Up for Kids  
honorees! We appreciate all  
that you do to serve children  
and families.**

[cardinalglennon.com](http://cardinalglennon.com)



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**We are  
proud to be  
a partner in  
Stepping Up  
for Kids**

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Parenting Support Services |  
Adoption Services**



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## HONOREE

### Resource Families

#### Shanna and Maurice Hill

*Nominated by Angelia Houston*



What makes the Hills exceptional is their BIG Hearts. They personify what it truly means when you say someone has a loving home. They are always willing to help with some of our harder to place youth. The care that they both show the youth in their home is heartwarming and is a real-life example of fostering that seeks to address past trauma and provide aide for healing.

Whenever a youth needs something, they just go out and get it. It doesn't matter if the youth need shoes, clothes, a coat or jacket, or whatever the need is, they just get it done. They are also not that foster parent that comes back saying they need to be reimbursed, or they can't take them to get anything because they are waiting on the youth's Children's Division Worker to send the money. They see the need and just get it done.

Shanna and Maurice Hill are an exceptional team, working tirelessly to make sure everyone in their care is thriving. You can see the impact this makes for the youth when you visit their home.

An example that showcases the Hill's commitment to the youth in their care and how they are always exceeding expectations, is a conversation that was had by one of the youths in the home. He is an older youth and he mentioned some of the challenges they were facing trying to find a job and access resources and how the people assigned to their case to assist them were not providing him with the help he needed. He then stated, "the only people helping me is Shanna and Maurice and that's because they love me." He said it so confidently and nonchalantly like it was no big deal. But it was a big deal because how many youths can feel that love and just know it from their foster parent. He knows that he is loved by those entrusted to care for him.

#### Bill and Elizabeth Jackson

*Nominated by Lindsay Babb, Marygrove*



Elizabeth and Bill Jackson are therapeutic foster parents who genuinely and truly cares about all their foster kids. Elizabeth is a great advocate and will do whatever is best for her kids. She assures that contact and visits take place even if it means she has to transport to and from far distances. Bill and Elizabeth always bring their foster kids on vacation and to family parties instead of using respite. Elizabeth attends all of her kids' events and ensures all of them get their one on one time with her. She will work with tough kids with a variety of diagnosis and behaviors such as aggression.

Bill is a supportive and strong male role model for the TFC youth that they foster. He loves teaching them things such as cooking and working on cars. He loves doing outdoors activities with the youth and works well as a team with his wife Elizabeth. He attends as many activities as he can in which the youth participate in and has a great sense of humor.

Elizabeth is a very patient foster mom who never gives up on a youth despite what may be thrown her way. She has on going relationships and remains a support in foster youth's lives even after they transition out of her home. Former foster youth still come over on holidays and for visits as well as call. She goes above and beyond always.



Proud member of:



**Congratulations  
to the 2024 Stepping Up  
for Kids nominees!**

Contact: 866-326-LFCS (5327) · help@lfcs.org · lfcsmo.org



**Show Me Healthy Kids**

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Proud to support  
Stepping Up for Kids  
9th Annual Awards Luncheon

[HomeStateHealth.com](http://HomeStateHealth.com)



**CONGRATULATIONS**

to Liz and the Jackson Family for

*Stepping Up for Kids*

Our Purpose:

Providing a safe home, compassionate care,  
and high-quality mental health services to  
children and youth who have experienced  
significant trauma, to restore their childhood  
and equip them for productive adulthood.



[marygrovechildren.org](http://marygrovechildren.org)

**Congratulations**

Stepping Up for Kids Honorees!



## HONOREE

Frontline Staff

### Toni Liggins-Hill

*Nominated by Beth Stonefield*

Toni is an amazing advocate for children and families. She is kind, compassionate and works from a strength-based lens. She uses all her skills in training a new generation of child welfare practitioners. She treats families and staff with respect and encourages growth and vulnerability. Toni sees potential in everyone and is an excellent facilitator, bringing people together to meet a common goal.

For the past year Toni has been carrying a caseload of 18 children in foster care. She has a young person on her caseload who is struggling with a multitude of issues. He has disrupted several placements, been hospitalized several times and has been arrested on adult charges. Toni has spent countless hours with him, processing his trauma so he can gain insight into his behaviors. She is a fierce advocate for him in treatment meetings, court, and with placement providers. As a result of her efforts this young person's outcome is bound to be better. This young person has developed trust in Toni which is rare as he has resisted trusting relationships since he has been in care.



**Thank  
you!!!**

**We extend our heartfelt thanks to the foster, kinship, guardian and relative families for their tireless supply of love and nurturing to vulnerable children.**

**C**hildren's  
**P**ermanency  
**P**artnership

Epworth Children & Family Services  
FamilyForward  
Youth In Need  
Together we make a difference!

# HONOREE

## Frontline Staff

### Jeri Teixeira

*Nominated by Elizabeth Eisenhauer*

I have had the privilege of working with Jeri for the past 2 years in her capacity as Foster Care Case Manager at Family Forward, and I can confidently say that she embodies the highest standards of excellence in all that she does. Jeri is an exceptional individual whose contributions have had a profound and positive impact on every youth on her caseload.

Throughout her career, she has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to showing support, compassion, and kindness to every parent, child, placement provider she works with. One of Jeri's most admirable qualities is her unwavering dedication to the older youth on her caseload. She has shown extraordinary leadership through advocacy, problem-solving, patience, and dedication to every youth on her case load. This work has left an indelible mark on the community and has set a standard of excellence in foster care advocacy. In addition to their professional accomplishments, Jeri is deeply respected by colleagues and peers alike for her integrity, kindness, and work ethic. Her ability to inspire and motivate others is a testament to her character and her passion for making a meaningful difference.

I believe that Jeri exemplifies the spirit of this award. Her tireless dedication to fostering positive outcomes for children in care makes them her ideal candidate for the Stepping Up for Kids award. It is without hesitation that I recommend Jeri for this honor, knowing that her work will continue to inspire and create lasting change in the foster care community.

For two years, Jeri has been a tireless advocate for foster children, consistently going above and beyond to ensure that every child under her care feels safe, supported, and loved. Her ability to navigate the complexities of the foster care system with both empathy and professionalism has resulted in countless success stories, where children have found stability, healing, and permanent homes.

### About the St. Louis Child Abuse & Neglect Network

The St. Louis Child Abuse & Neglect Network (STLCANN) promotes advocacy, education and networking to improve the lives of children and families who have been impacted by abuse or neglect and to strengthen families to prevent child abuse or neglect.



### We are working to:

- Provide educational and networking opportunities for professionals and community organizations to improve the lives of children and families who are at risk of, or who have been impacted by abuse or neglect;
- Promote awareness of public, private, and community organizations that provide resources to families at risk of abuse/neglect; and
- Affirm and celebrate individuals who go the extra mile for children who have been abused or neglected.

## HONOREE

### Community Partners

#### **Reggie Jones**

*Nominated by Michael Daugherty*

Reggie Jones has committed his life to improving the lives of our youth by implementing programs at the Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club. He has been employed at The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (Herbert Hoover), where he serves as Club Director for 28 years. As a coach I have been given the opportunity to see the improvements first hand that Reggie has implemented to improve the lives of the children and families at Hoover.

Reggie Jones has been a member of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. since 1992. He served as President of the St. Louis Junior Football League (an organized tackle football league that serves over 3,000 children in the St. Louis metropolitan and bi state area) from 1999 to 2013. Mr. Jones has been elected to five offices. The Riverview Gardens School Board in 2010, Collector for the City of Dellwood in 2011, Dellwood Alderman for the 3rd Ward in 2012 and currently serving in his 6th term (elected in 2013) as Mayor of Dellwood, and in 2020 he was elected to the office of Ferguson Township Committeeman.

The Mayor Reggie has been a valuable asset to the community as a whole. Through his leadership, I have watched the community grow to fulfill the needs beyond expectations for the children and the families in Dellwood. His influence in the community has been so strong that no one would challenge his leadership as he has ran unopposed in his previous elections. Reggie has truly been a blessing to many children and families that are able to benefit from his vision and promise to improve the lives and the future of many generations to come.

I am Blessed to call Reggie a Friend a Brother and a Visionary, thank you for all you do.

#### **Dr. Allisha Jones-Pickens**

*Nominated by Katina Johnson*

Dr. Allisha Jones-Pickens is the Founder/Executive Director of Community of Hope, a non-profit organization that serves teenage mothers, ages 11-18 under Grant funding and 19-22 under community volunteers, in the St. Louis area; helping them create better environments through case management, mentorship, referrals and direct assistance, for themselves and their children.

It was during her own incarceration in the Prison System that Allisha began to face the obstacles of her own past. It was also where she learned that she, like many other women and young adults, could not move forward because they were still mentally and emotionally imprisoned by the hurts, pains and events stemming from a troubled "yesterday." As a domestic violence and sexual abuse survivor herself, Allisha speaks through various forms of media outlets, such as Podcasts, Workshops, school conferences, retreats and written novels, to promote positive mental health and well-being.

Being a teenage mother at fourteen, Allisha founded Community of Hope to provide young girls a safe space, a resource hub for services and a place where women who have traveled the same path as the young mom's we serve, have a place to give back to the community through shared experiences.

She has been a great support and advocate to the PACT-STL team and parenting programs!





*Thank you*  
Stepping Up for Kids 2024