

# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY



*Benefitting*



children at Risk



NOVEMBER 1, 2024 • HOTEL ZAZA  
HOUSTON MUSEUM DISTRICT

# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## WELCOME!

Welcome to the 2024 Annual Accolades Luncheon! Today, we gather to celebrate an inspiring milestone—35 years of advocating for Texas’s children and families. Together, we honor those whose commitment has shaped brighter futures and paved the way for lasting change. As we recognize our 35 for 35 honorees and celebrate child advocates leading the way across the state, we reflect on a legacy built on compassion, resilience, and partnership. Thank you for joining us in celebrating this landmark year, and for your dedication to the mission that unites us all. Here’s to the impact we’ve made together—and the promise of more to come!



SCAN THE QR CODE OR [CLICK HERE](#) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR HONOREES, NOMINEES & 35 FOR 35 INFLUENCERS.



# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

EMCEE

*Melissa Wilson, Fox 26*

WELCOME

*Melissa Wilson &  
Dr. Bob Sanborn, President and CEO  
CHILDREN AT RISK*

INVOCATION

*Janu Iyengar*

CO-CHAIRS RECOGNITION

SPECIAL AWARDS

ACADEMY AWARDS

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

CHILDREN AT RISK MISSION

LIVE AUCTION &  
PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT

BIG BOARD & GRAB BAG OPEN UNTIL 1:15 P.M.



# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## MENU

### SALAD

Iceberg Wedge  
Heirloom Cherry Tomatoes, Chive Snips  
Blue Cheese Crumbles, Buttermilk  
Ranch Dressing

### MAIN COURSE

Seared Red Fish, Lemon Butter Sauce,  
Grilled Sweet Peppers, Lemon Capers &  
Banana Leaf, Soba Noodles with Sesame  
Oil, Grilled Asparagus w/Sea Salt

### VEGETARIAN OPTION

Spaghetti Squash Pasta  
Tomatoes, Sage, Capers, Roasted Brussel  
Sprouts, Brown Beach Mushrooms and  
Grilled Naan

### DESSERT

Birthday Cake & Champagne



# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## CO-CHAIRS



**SHAWN &  
DONALD BOWERS**



**DENISE & MIKE  
MAHER**



# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

CO-CHAIRS



**DEBORAH &  
DAVID ROYLANCE**



**DRS. JOAN &  
JEFFREY STARKE**



# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## HONOREE

Representative James Talarico is a former public-school teacher first elected to serve in the Texas House of Representatives in 2018. He earned degrees from The University of Texas at Austin and Harvard University and currently sits on the Public Education Committee, the Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee, and the Calendars Committee. Representative Talarico has worked tirelessly to ensure all Texas students have access to a quality education. In his first term, he helped write the most significant reform to the state's school finance system in 20 years. He went on to pass major legislation to open millions of dollars for student mental health and character education programs, establish the first-ever cap on Pre-K class sizes to reduce student-to-teacher ratios, and improve the quality and affordability of childcare. For his many accomplishments, he was named one of the Top 10 Best Legislators by Texas Monthly magazine.

## CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN



**STATE  
REPRESENTATIVE  
JAMES TALARICO**  
*DISTRICT 50*



# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## HONOREE

Mark A. Wallace, who was appointed President and CEO of Texas Children's Hospital at 36 in 1989, led the hospital through transformative growth, adding over 10 million square feet and establishing two community hospitals—West Campus and The Woodlands. In 2012, he expanded services by opening the Pavilion for Women, integrating women's health within the pediatric system. In February 2024, under his guidance, Texas Children's opened a 365,000-square-foot hospital in North Austin, extending its reach to Texas's capital.

Known for his approachable leadership, Mark often connected with front-line staff, patients, and families to ensure Texas Children's delivered the highest quality care. After 35 years as the longest-serving CEO in the Texas Medical Center, he retired on October 4, 2024, marking the close of an extraordinary tenure. His legacy is one of unmatched dedication to advancing pediatric and women's health across Texas.

## HEALTH LEGACY



**MARK WALLACE,**  
*Former President  
& CEO, Texas  
Children's Hospital*





# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

THANK YOU TO OUR  
SPONSORS!

**VICTORIA GARCIA**

**PAULA & DR. REGINALD DESROCHES**

**PRISM ENERGY SOLUTIONS**

**RUTH J. SIMMONS**

**WELLPOINT**

  
UTHealth<sup>®</sup> Houston  
McGovern Medical School

Pediatrics



The Children's Assessment Center

Protect Children. Heal Families. Prevent Abuse.

**CLIFFORD  
CHANCE**

**CAMDEN** 

  
**Texas Children's<sup>®</sup>**

**Children's  
MEMORIAL<sup>®</sup>  
HERMANN**  
Hospital

**PlainsCapitalBank** 

# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## REGIONAL AWARDS

### OUTSTANDING CHILD ADVOCATES

#### **Houston, Gulf Coast & East Texas**

**Carolyn Watson,**

William Stamps Farish Fund

**Cynthia Colbert,**

Catholic Charities

#### **Austin, San Antonio & Central Texas**

**Celina Moreno,**

Intercultural Development Research Association

**Viridiana Tule Carrizales,**

ImmSchools

**Adrian Lopez,**

Alamo Workforce Solutions



# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## REGIONAL AWARDS

### OUTSTANDING CHILD ADVOCATES

#### **El Paso & West Texas**

**Father Rafael Garcia,**

Sacred Heart Parish

**Adrian Vega,**

Education Partnership of the Permian Basin

**Ruben Garcia,**

Annunciation House



# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## REGIONAL AWARDS

### OUTSTANDING CHILD ADVOCATES

#### **Dallas, Fort Worth & North Texas**

**Bethany Edwards,**

Early Learning Alliance

**Lindsey Speed,**

Traffick 911

**Monica Ordonez,**

Bachman Lake Together

#### **Rio Grande Valley**

**Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu,**

Christian's Manor

**Francisco Almaraz,**

Workforce Solutions Rio Grande

**Karina Chapa,**

Texas Association for Bilingual Education



# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## STATEWIDE AWARDS

### CHILD HEALTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

**Shreela Sharma,**

Brighter Bites

**Steven Kelder,**

Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH)

**Dr. Kimberly Avila Edwards,**

Dell Medical School The University of Texas at  
Austin

### EDUCATION ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

**Lisa Descant,**

Communities in Schools

**Lupita Hinojosa,**

Spring ISD

**Daniel King,**

Region 1 Education Service Center

### EXCELLENCE IN EQUITY

**AVANCE, Inc.**

**Mexican American Legal Defense Fund**

**Young Leaders Strong City**



# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## STATEWIDE AWARDS

### **RISING STAR IN CHILD ADVOCACY**

**Jenna Lewis,**

General Counsel Office of Senator

Tan Parker

**Travis Evans,**

Young Invincibles

**Selena Saldana,**

State Representative Senfronia Thompson's Office

### **OUTSTANDING NON-PROFIT RESEARCHER**

**Deanna M. Hoelscher,**

UT Health Houston School of

Public Health in Austin, Susan Dell Center for

Healthy Living

**Sarah Messiah,**

Child and Adolescent Population Health Program

Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health

**Alan Cohen,**

Child Poverty Action Lab



# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## STATEWIDE AWARDS

**OUTSTANDING NON-PROFIT  
COLLABORATIVE OR  
COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM**

Greater Houston Opportunity Youth  
Collaborative

Bexar County Education Coalition

The Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and  
Babies

**OUTSTANDING CHILD FOCUSED  
NON-PROFIT/NON-PROFIT PROGRAM**

Big Thought

Girls Inc. of Metropolitan Dallas

Pre-K4 SA



# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## SPECIAL THANKS

### SUPPORTERS

Michael & Donna Boyd

Donald Bowers

Doe & Henry Florsheim

Kevin Hattery

Pam Humphrey

Regina Rogers

Ruth Roylance

Ginni & Richard Mithoff

Manny Panjwani

Jeremy Samuels

John Seo

Alessa Serda

Bob & Chris Snyder

Mark Troth

Chris Wallace

Larry Wisniewski





# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## SPECIAL THANKS

### IN-KIND DONORS

Cypress Trails Ranch

Dan Longoria

Expressions

Georgia James Steak

High Gloss

Hotel ZaZa

Istanbul Grill

Joyce's Seafood & Steaks

Pewter Lady

Phoenicia Market

David & Deborah Roylance

Sessy's Sweets

Kiran's

Laugh Out Loud

Macaron by Patisse

Marye-Kelley

Michael's Cookie Jar

Nice Winery

Niko Niko's

Orange Theory Fitness

Spindletap Brewery

State of Grace

Taste of Texas

Urban Chef



# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## ABOUT CHILDREN AT RISK

### OUR MISSION

CHILDREN AT RISK is a non-partisan research and advocacy nonprofit dedicated to understanding and addressing the root causes of child poverty and inequality. Established in 1989 by Houston child advocates and researchers, CHILDREN AT RISK has grown into a statewide organization tackling Texas children and families' most pressing needs.

Our mission is to serve as a catalyst for change to improve children's quality of life through strategic research, public policy analysis, education, collaboration, and advocacy.



# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## ABOUT CHILDREN AT RISK

### GOVERNING BOARD

Dr. Bob Sanborn, President & CEO

Chris Wallace, Chair

Ben Arriola

Jay Jayasuriya

Ben Patton

Claire Bocchini, MD

Marissa Kiefer

Chris Pedigo

Donald Bowers

Devika Kornbacher

Kevin Ramoutar

Cris Daskevich

Dan Longoria

Jeremy Samuels

Jason Durham

Michelle Lopez, MD

Adolfo Santos, PhD

Allison Esenkova

Yves Mombeleur

John Seo

Doe Florsheim

Shamina Momin

Alessa Serda

Geraldine Garcia

Kindel Nuno

Chris Watt

Victoria Garcia

Manish Panjwani

Laurence Wisniewski

Asha George

Amit Parikh

Ed Wolff

Juan CarloS Hernandez

Jay Pasale

Daniel Yoo



# ACCOLADES

THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF CHILD ADVOCACY

## THANK YOU!

The Accolades Luncheon is a longstanding signature event and fundraiser that enables us to fulfill our mission of speaking out and driving change for children. As per tradition, we are also celebrating community members and organizations who are doing outstanding work to ensure every child in our state has the opportunity to be safe healthy, and successful through the Academy Awards of Child Advocacy. Thank you for attending!

Learn more about our work at  
[childrenatrisk.org](http://childrenatrisk.org).

