



News Release

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National Children's Advocacy Center Honors Local Therapist with Outstanding Service Award

-- Dr. Viola Vaughan-Eden Selected for Outstanding Service Award in Mental Health

Huntsville, AL -- The **National Children's Advocacy Center** (NCAC) recently presented the Outstanding Service Award in Mental Health to Child and Family Resources Therapist **Viola Vaughan-Eden** of Newport News, Virginia. The honor came at the 27th National Symposium on Child Abuse in Huntsville, Alabama.

Approximately 1,200 child abuse professionals from 48 states, the District of Columbia, and eight foreign countries and U.S. territories joined Vaughan-Eden to participate in educational sessions on law enforcement, legal, medical, mental health, victim advocacy, forensic interviewing, prevention, child protective services, and administrative best practices.

Vaughan-Eden received the prestigious award at the Symposium's annual awards luncheon. The criteria for the **Outstanding Service Awards** is based on the pioneering work that began with the formation of the National Children's Advocacy Center in 1985 and revolutionized the way America responds to child sexual abuse. The honors are intended to recognize professionals who have made a significant positive contribution to services that address child abuse and exploitation in their communities.

In recognizing Vaughan-Eden, NCAC Executive Director **Chris Newlin** cited her work as one of the founding staff members of the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) now located at The Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters in Norfolk, Virginia. She helped develop the program and promote the CAC services to the community.

Vaughan-Eden was recently appointed to the Court Appointed Special Advocate/Children's Justice Act Programs advisory committee and she is an Executive Council member of the National Organization of Forensic Social Work and President-Elect of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC).

Newlin said, "Dr. Vaughan-Eden teaches and models collaboration in a variety of venues - with agency workers in-house, with university students as an adjunct professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, and with professionals at conferences worldwide. When it comes to collaboration, she not only walks the walk, she talks the talk. She is an ambassador in the best sense for the CAC movement."

In addition to Vaughan-Eden's award in **Mental Health**, the NCAC also selected **Outstanding Service Award** winners from multiple nominations in the categories of **Child Protective Services, Law Enforcement, Medical Care, Victim Advocacy, Multi-Disciplinary Service, and Prosecution.**

The National Children's Advocacy Center is located in Huntsville, Alabama. The non-profit organization provides extended services in prevention, intervention, and treatment for abused children, and is one of the leading providers of quality training for professionals working with abused children and their families. The NCAC model serves more than 900 established and developing children's advocacy centers in the U.S. and gives hope to more than 250,000 child abuse and neglect victims every year. For more information, visit www.nationalcac.org.