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July 28, 2016

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Carol S. Fox MAKING KIDS COUNT Awards Reception Honorees Announced

Voices for Virginia's Children to present awards Oct. 5 at Bolling Haxall House

RICHMOND, Va. – Voices for Virginia's Children has named the honorees of the annual Carol S. Fox MAKING KIDS COUNT Awards and the Theodore R. Groves Memorial Awards. The Making Kids Count award recognizes a Virginia individual and an organization for exemplary efforts to improve the lives of children in the Commonwealth. The newly created Theodore R. Groves Memorial Award will recognize two organizations that promote racial and ethnic equity for Virginia's children through their work.

This year's honorees include: Jeanine Harper, a dedicated advocate who is changing the way we help children heal in our community; **Art 180**, an organization that gives young people the chance to express themselves through art, and to share their stories with others; **Hopkins House**, an organization dedicated to providing high quality, high impact educational programs and learning opportunities to children, youth, and their families; and **ChildSavers**, an organization that guides children through life's critical moments with trauma-informed mental health and child development services.

The honorees will receive their awards at the Carol S. Fox MAKING KIDS COUNT Award Reception at the Bolling Haxall House in Richmond on Wednesday, Oct. 5th.

Carol S. Fox "Making Kids Count" Award

Jeanine Harper, of Richmond, has been changing the way we help children heal in our community. Jeanine has been the Executive Director of Greater Richmond SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) for over 16 years, leading her team with unparalleled strength and kindness. Jeanine leads SCAN's staff and volunteers to provide awareness, support, and education to enhance the lives of our most vulnerable children, those at-risk of abuse or neglect or who have been abused and neglected. This past year, Jeanine has built partnerships with local school administrators within the Richmond Public School system to help expanding a trauma informed approach in the division's Pre-K-12 programs. She has also served as a loaned executive to the

Department of Social Services when the number of reported child abuse victims across Virginia topped 50,000.

Art 180, of Richmond, was founded in 1998 to give young people in challenging circumstances the chance to express themselves through art and to share their stories with others. Their programs are offered at no cost to participants. Over their 18 year history, they have served 3,500+ young people in programs fostering creative expression. Most of the participants are from single-parent or non-traditional households, low performing/under-resourced schools, the foster care or juvenile justice system, identify with a diagnosed behavioral challenge, or from the LGBTQ community. By giving youth a voice through the arts they not only speak out for children, but also empower them to speak out for themselves. They help to position young people as agents of change rather than targets of change.

Theodore R. Groves Memorial Award

Hopkins House, of Alexandria, was founded in 1939 by a group of teachers committed to providing child care to African-American children in segregated Alexandria when government funding for their care was cut. The teachers named the new center for Dr. J. Milton Hopkins, a local African-American physician who for years had provided medical care to anyone in need, regardless of ability to pay. From its beginning serving 24 children, Hopkins House has grown to an enrollment of 315 children at three preschools in Northern Virginia. In addition, the organization collaborates with national, state and local governments on a range of public policy matters affecting children and their families, including health, housing, and education. In collaboration with Northern Virginia Community College, Hopkins House also assists 100 teens and young adults yearly earn professional credentials, college credits, and career placement in the early childhood education field.

ChildSavers, of Greater Richmond, was established in 1924 as the first children's mental health clinic in the South. ChildSavers' fundamental commitment is to the mental well-being of children and the formation of a positive bond between children and their care providers. Their clients come from all cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, but most have experienced the hardships of poverty and family turmoil. In the 2014/2015 program year, ChildSavers impacted 14,000 individuals and provided direct service to 2,967 children, family members, and childcare providers. Currently, approximately three-quarters of the children served are African-American while 76% live with families that are at or below 200% of the federal poverty line. In 2014 the Virginia General Assembly passed a resolution recognizing ChildSavers as the only trauma response program in the Commonwealth devoted to immediate response and trauma counseling services for children and acknowledged their long-term commitment to the mental health and developmental needs of children.

About Voices for Virginia's Children

[Voices for Virginia's Children](#) is a statewide, nonprofit and non-partisan child advocacy organization. Our mission is to champion public policies to improve the lives of Virginia's

children. We are also home to the Virginia KIDS COUNT Data Center, which provides extensive data on child well-being to Virginia leaders, policymakers and concerned citizens.

About the Carol S. Fox MAKING KIDS COUNT AWARD

The annual awards were first given in 2012 and are named in honor of [Carol Spaulding Fox](#), a co-founder and long-time board member at Voices. In the course of her many years of dedicated service to Voices in a variety of leadership roles, Carol inspired Virginia citizens and organizations to speak out for children. Her dedication helped position Voices as a Virginia policy and advocacy leader, and inspired countless citizens and organizations to add their voices to the cause of improving the lives of children.

About the Theodore R. Groves Memorial Award

This year, we have added the [Theodore R. Groves](#) Memorial Award in honor of our late KIDS COUNT Director, Ted Groves. Ted was instrumental in helping Voices consider the issue of racial inequities for children in health, education and other domains. He was eager to have conversations about the effects of racial inequity, systemic racism, and concentrated poverty, driven by a desire for all children to thrive. One of Ted's favorite sayings was the traditional Masai warrior greeting: "And how are the children?" The Masai use it because they believe the well-being of their children indicates the well-being of their culture.

For information about attending or being a sponsor of the MAKING KIDS COUNT Awards Reception, contact Michael Brown at 804-649-0184.

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