

## PRESS RELEASE

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### *Ten Unsung Heroes, Others Honored For Outstanding Service to Children and Youth*

#### At The National Child Labor Committee's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Lewis Hine Awards

**New York, NY:** The **National Child Labor Committee (NCLC)** today presented the **2009 Lewis Hine Awards for Service to Children and Youth**. The award recognizes unheralded professionals and volunteers who devote extraordinary time and energy to helping children and youth. The awards ceremony was held on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Hotel in New York City.

The 2009 Awards Ceremony Chair was **Tracey Brown James**, a partner at The Cochran Law Firm and Ronald H. Brown's daughter.

*"To provide the leadership and pathways so necessary to assure the well-being of our nation's children and youth we will be relying on individuals like the heroes we honor with the 2009 Lewis Hine Awards."* said Tracey Brown James, the 2009 Awards Chair.

In addition to the Lewis Hine Awards, the NCLC presents **Distinguished Service Awards** upon business leaders and individuals in the public eye who have made a positive impact on the welfare of the nation's children and youth. The 2009 Honoree was **John McIvor**, Executive Director and Founder of the nonprofit "Summer on the Hill." He joins the ranks of past recipients--leaders from the worlds of media, arts and entertainment, and public service—which include Paul Allaire, Frank Bennack, Jr., Geoffrey Boisi, Michael Bolton, Raymond Chambers, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Joan Ganz Cooney, Tipper Gore, David T. Kearns, Ann M. Marchetti, J. Richard Munro, Susan Saint James, Charles Schulz, William Steere, Laurie M. Tisch, and Janice Weinman.

The NCLC also bestows the **Ronald H. Brown Award**, which honors American leaders, like the late Mr. Brown, who have overcome prejudice and discrimination and who uses his or her public platform to help today's young people do the same. The 2009 Honorees were **David A. Paterson and Michelle Paige Paterson**, Governor and First Lady of New York, and **Karen Bass**, Speaker of the California State Assembly. Gladys Carrion, Commissioner of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) accepted the award on behalf of the Patersons.

Previous Honorees include Harry Belafonte; Edward Lewis, Founder and Chairman of *Essence*; Diane Patrick, Partner, Law Firm Ropes & Gray and First Lady of Massachusetts; Hugh B. Price, President and CEO, National Urban League; Lisa Quiroz of Time Warner; Jorge Ramos of Univision Television Network; Dennis Walcott, NYC Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development; Oprah Winfrey; and Raul Yzaguirre, President, National Council of La Raza.

#### **THE 2009 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HONOREE**

**John McIvor**, Summer on the Hill, Riverdale, New York

**John McIvor** is the Founder and Executive Director of Summer on the Hill. This nonprofit provides an after-school enrichment program for promising public school children in grades 2-12 from the Bronx and upper Manhattan. The program is sponsored in large part by the Horace Mann School, a private school in Riverdale, NY, which lends its facilities to the program.

## **THE 2009 RONALD H. BROWN AWARD HONOREES**

**David A. Paterson and Michelle Paige Paterson, Governor and First Lady of New York.**

**Governor David A. Paterson and First Lady Michelle Paige Paterson** have devoted their professional and personal lives to advocating on behalf of children and youth. Since the mid-1980s, as a State Senator from the 29<sup>th</sup> District in Harlem, Mr. Paterson fought for after-school programs, summer work programs for students, and the creation of charter schools. As Lieutenant Governor and Governor, Mr. Paterson has led efforts to reform the juvenile justice system and create \$350 million in public university education loans through a public-private partnership.

Mrs. Paterson is Director of Integrative Wellness at Emblem Health. In her professional life she works on programs promoting healthy living and combating childhood obesity. The purpose of her initiative, "Healthy Steps to Albany: First Lady's Challenge," is to educate New York families about the need for healthy eating and the dangers of childhood obesity. She also volunteers on behalf of domestic violence victims—mothers and children.

**Karen Bass, Speaker of the California State Assembly.**

**Karen Bass**, as Speaker of the California State Assembly, has led the fight to reform California's foster care system, sponsored the Healthy Families Insurance Program, and secured over \$600 million in educational funding for the L.A. Unified School District. In 1990, Ms. Bass cofounded the Community Coalition to help clean up the drug problem in Los Angeles. One of her goals was to encourage teenagers to play an active role in the effort.

## **THE 2009 LEWIS HINE AWARD HONOREES**

### **Professionals**

**Jasmin Benab**, Latin American Youth Center (LAYC), Washington D.C.

**Jasmin Benab** is the program founder and coordinator for Girl Talk, a Girls Leadership program at the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC). She works with women, ages 12-18, providing alternative activities for gang-affiliated girls.

**Jack Brennan**, Family Focus Adoption Services, Little Neck, New York

**Jack Brennan** is the Associate Director for the Waiting Child program at Family Focus Adoption Services, which serves families throughout the New York Metropolitan area, upstate New York, and around the country. He has used his own experience as an adoptive child, working at a recreational treatment center for foster children, and his becoming an adoptive father to create the thirty-year-old Waiting Child program, which launched the "Empowered Transition" process to help children and youth and their prospective families develop relationships that lead to successful adoption.

**Tyrone Green**, Goodwill Industries of Greater NY/NJ, Long Island City, New York

**Tyrone Green** is a community youth services sports coordinator at Goodwill Industries of Greater NY/NJ. As a coach and mentor, he works with inner-city teenagers to help them stay off of drugs and encourage them to stay in school. In basketball circles, he is known as the New York City recreational coach who helped nurture such stars as Chamique Holdsclaw of the WBNA and Joakim Noah of the NBA, back when they were kids.

**Diane Latiker**, Kids Off the Block (KOB), Chicago, Illinois

**Diane Latiker** is the Founder and President of Kids Off the Block (KOB), a community-based organization aimed at helping inner-city children and youth, ages 6 to 19, stay off the streets and guiding them to achieve their dreams.

**Teresa Loving**, SOAR Academy, Spartanburg, South Carolina

**Teresa Loving** is the Executive Director of SOAR Academy, a private, non-profit school serving children, from age 1 and up, with a broad range of physical and developmental disabilities. Utilizing her experience as a special education teacher and as a child with an undiagnosed learning disability, she helped to create a school where special needs children can SOAR--obtain success, opportunity, achievement, and reward.

### **Volunteers**

**Darlene Beale-Norris**, Leadership and Development of our Youth in Sports (LADYS), Rex, Georgia

**Darlene Beale-Norris** is President and CEO of Leadership and Development of our Youth in Sports (LADYS), an organization that empowers and enriches the lives of nearly 500 young ladies ages 9-16 through programs that focus on academics, athletics, and spirituality. As a former college basketball player, Mrs. Beale-Norris learned how playing sports can instill discipline and self-esteem in young women.

**Evelyn Gibson**, CASA of Orange County, Santa Ana, California

**Evelyn Gibson** is a court-appointed special advocate and mentor for children with CASA of Orange County. As a community volunteer, she has devoted the last 20 years fighting for the best interest of the abused and neglected foster care children assigned to her, both in and out of the courtroom. The majority of the children she has worked with are victims of sexual abuse.

**Dr. David Harmon**, Bakersfield Homeless Center, Bakersfield, California

**Dr. David Harmon** has spent the last 16 years as a volunteer physician at the Bakersfield Homeless Center (BHC) giving much needed medical care to single mothers, children, and families who have no medical insurance or are underinsured. He is an advocate for preventative care and healthcare screenings for the homeless so that they don't face medical emergencies.

**Joseph F. Lagana**, Homeless Children's Education Fund, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Joseph F. Lagana** is the Founder and Administrator of the Homeless Children's Education Fund (HCEF), whose purpose is to "provide hope through learning" for homeless children. HCEF has set up Learning Centers and Resource Libraries in homeless shelters, and transitional and drop-in centers for youths. In addition to providing books, DVDs, CDs, art supplies, and computers with educational software, the Learning Centers also provide a safe haven for the children.

**Mildred Moore**, Scotland Neck Recreation Center, Scotland Neck, North Carolina

**Mildred Moore** is the Director of the Scotland Neck Recreation Center. Now a senior citizen, she returned to her birthplace, where she became a leader in the community and also fulfilled her dream of opening a safe haven for children to study and provide pathways out of poverty. She mobilized children and adults to help her clean up an abandoned building that was littered with trash and debris. In 1996 she opened the Scotland Neck Recreation Center where children can come to use computers, get help with homework, do arts and crafts, and play games.

### **About Lewis Wickes Hine**

Lewis Wickes Hine is known for his work photographing child labor practices. Beginning in 1908, Hine became a staff photographer for the NCLC with a difficult and unusual assignment. Often hiding his camera and tricking his way past bosses, Hine even learned to write with his hand inside his pocket in order to get accurate captions without giving himself away. His work--famously never touched up for effect--depicting children laboring in sweatshops, coal mines, textile mills, and on farms outraged the public and shamed the government into acting. His photographs provided the NCLC with the leverage it needed to advance the enactment of state and federal laws to protect the rights of children in the workplace, including the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, which was the first major Federal child labor law ever enacted.

### **About the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC)**

The National Child Labor Committee is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the well-being of children and youth in the fields of work and education. Founded in 1904 and incorporated by an Act of Congress in 1907, the mission of NCLC is to promote the rights, dignity, well-being, and education of children and youth as they relate to work and the workplace. In its eleventh decade, the NCLC continues the work of its founding visionaries as a leading force in ensuring child labor law compliance, transforming the workplace into a learning environment, improving employment and training opportunities for older youth, and securing youth occupational safety and health.

Additional information about the organization and its programs can be found at

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

**To learn more about the 2009 Lewis Hine Award Honorees please visit the following web sites:**

Governor David A. Paterson and First Lady Michelle Paige Paterson--<http://www.ny.gov/governor/>

Speaker Karen Bass--<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/Speaker/>

John McIvor, Summer on the Hill--[www.summeronthehill.org](http://www.summeronthehill.org)

Jasmin Benab, Latin American Youth Center (LAYC)--[www.LAYC-DC.org](http://www.LAYC-DC.org)

Jack Brennan, Family Focus Adoption Services--[www.familyfocusadoption.org](http://www.familyfocusadoption.org)

Tyrone Green, Community Youth Services Program at Goodwill Industries of Greater NY/NJ--  
[www.goodwillindustriesofgreaterny/nj](http://www.goodwillindustriesofgreaterny/nj)

Diane Latiker, Kids Off the Block (KOB)--[www.kidsofftheblock.org](http://www.kidsofftheblock.org)

Teresa Loving, SOAR Academy--[www.SOARacademy.org](http://www.SOARacademy.org)

Darlene Beale-Norris, Leadership and Development of our Youth (LADYS)--[www.ladysinc.org](http://www.ladysinc.org)

Evelyn Gibson, CASA of Orange County--<http://www.casaoc.org/>.

Dr. David Harmon, Bakersfield Homeless Center (BHC)--<http://www.bakhc.com/>

Joseph F. Lagana, Homeless Children's Education Fund (HCEF)--[www.homelessfund.org](http://www.homelessfund.org)

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