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Collaborative for Children Honors Community Leaders

Nancy Powell Moore and Dr. Kay Albrecht Receive Awards

HOUSTON, TX (October 11, 2005) – Collaborative for Children presented its annual awards to two individuals in recognition of their remarkable dedication, ongoing commitment and passionate service to children and families in the Houston community. Nancy Powell Moore, longtime community volunteer, received the “Maconda Brown O’Connor Spirit of Collaboration Award” and Dr. Kay Albrecht, a leader in the early childhood field, received the “Kathleen Rowland Excellence in Early Care and Education Award.” The awards were presented at the *Collaborative for Children 2005 Annual Luncheon* on September 19 at the Houstonian Hotel.

This year’s event marked the first luncheon since the 2004 merger that brought together two leading non-profit organizations, the Greater Houston Collaborative for Children and Initiatives for Children, to create the Collaborative for Children. Over 300 funders and partners, public officials, and leaders from the civic, business, medical, philanthropy and children’s services communities were on hand for the announcement. Pam and Randall Onstead served as Co-Chairs of the event, which netted over \$100,000 to support Collaborative for Children’s work to improve the quality of early care and education through programs and services for parents of young children and early care and education professionals.

The “**Maconda Brown O’Connor Spirit of Collaboration Award**” is presented annually to a community leader who exemplifies exceptional collaborative efforts and continues to leave a lasting, positive impact on the community and its children. This year, the award recognized **Nancy Powell Moore** for her years of dedication, support, and volunteer service to all children in the community. Nancy has served in leadership roles in a variety of organizations, from the Junior League of Houston, Inc. to Volunteers in Public Schools to the Powell Foundation. As one of the initial supporters of the Greater Houston Collaborative for Children,

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Nancy Powell Moore helped set a high standard for collaborative partnerships, recognizing the impact of working together to achieve a common goal on behalf of children.

The second award, **“Kathleen Rowland Excellence in Early Care and Education Award,”** is presented annually to a professional in the field of early childhood education who demonstrates distinction, innovation, and leadership in enhancing the early care and education system. This year the award honored **Dr. Kay Albrecht**, president of Innovations in Early Childhood Education. Dr. Albrecht has an impressive list of credentials that range from directing a nationally accredited early childhood program, to serving on the faculty at four universities, to being active in numerous national and local early childhood care and education organizations. Dr. Albrecht recently played a significant role in helping families impacted by Hurricane Katrina. She worked tirelessly, setting up a play center for children at Reliant Center, helping secure an equipment grant donation, and recruiting and coordinating volunteers who staffed the program.

Carol Shattuck, President of Collaborative for Children stated, “It was such an inspiration to see how many people are committed to working collaboratively to impact the lives of children in the Houston community. Both Nancy Powell Moore and Dr. Kay Albrecht exemplify strong leaders and dedicated community volunteers. We were pleased to honor them during the event and throughout the year.”

Collaborative for Children works to improve the quality of early care and education through educational programs for parents and early education professionals, public awareness campaigns, and efforts to strengthen the overall early care and education system. Its mission is to partner with families and communities to build a strong foundation for young children to succeed in school and life. For additional information on the Collaborative for Children’s programs and services, call 713-600-1100 or visit us online at www.collabforchildren.org.

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