



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **State Leaders Recognized for their Commitment to Children and Youth**

Six Connecticut residents and one Connecticut organization were recognized this week for their public leadership and effective advocacy on behalf of Connecticut's children, youth and families at Connecticut Voices for Children's 5th Annual "First for Kids Awards" ceremony on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. The event, which took place at the Hartford Club in Hartford, honored individuals and organizations in Connecticut whose work and commitment to the state's young people serves as a model for all. The honorees were:

Albert J. Solnit Leadership Award     **U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd (East Haddam resident)**

Legislative Leadership Award     **State Representative Toni Walker  
(New Haven resident)**

Public Service Award     **George Coleman (Newtown resident)  
Associate Commissioner, CT Department Of Education**

Transformational Philanthropy  
Award     **William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund (Hamden)**

Citizen Advocacy Award     **Courtney And Jane Bourns (West Hartford residents)**

Connecticut Voices For Children  
Founders' Award     **Judith Solomon (West Hartford resident)  
Senior Policy Fellow, CT Voices for Children**

Each recipient was celebrated for making a difference in the quality of life of children in Connecticut and enriching our state. Previous honorees include Lt. Governor M. Jodi Rell, Senate President Kevin Sullivan, Senator Toni Harp, and Representative Jack Thompson.

Connecticut Voices for Children is a research-based policy and advocacy organization committed to promoting leadership, policy change, and investment on behalf of all of Connecticut's children and youth. For more information, call 203-498-4240 or visit [www.ctkidslink.org](http://www.ctkidslink.org).

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