

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

Four Connecticut residents and one foundation 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 6th Annual "First for Kids Awards" ceremony on Tuesday, December 13. 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:

Legislative Leadership Award	<b>State Senate President Pro Tempore Donald Williams (Brooklyn resident)</b>
Transformational Philanthropy Award	<b>Melville Charitable Trust (foundation created by Norfolk residents Frank and Allen Melville)</b>
Media Award	<b>Michele Jacklin (Glastonbury resident) Columnist, Hartford Courant</b>
Connecticut Voices For Children Founders' Award	<b>Dr. Janice Gruendel (Branford resident) Senior Advisor on Early Childhood for Governor M. Jodi Rell &amp; co-founder of CT Voices for Children</b>
Albert J. Solnit Leadership Award	<b>Dr. Roslyn Meyer (Guilford resident) Community leader</b>

Each recipient was celebrated for making a difference in the quality of life of children in Connecticut and enriching our state. Previous honorees have included Lt. Governor M. Jodi Rell, Senate President Kevin Sullivan, the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund, and Yale Professor Edward Zigler.

Connecticut Voices for Children is a research-based policy and advocacy organization that promotes the well-being of Connecticut's young people and their families by advocating for strategic public investments and prudent public policies. For more information, call 203-498-4240 or visit [www.ctkidslink.org](http://www.ctkidslink.org).

**Reporter note: Biographies and electronic photos for award recipients are available at [www.ctkidslink.org/news/](http://www.ctkidslink.org/news/). Log in with User ID "firstforkids" and password "award".**

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