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## **Broward County Vice Mayor and Commissioner Receive “Champions for Children” Award At Broward County Youth Summit**

Broward County Vice Mayor Lois Wexler and Commissioner Sue Gunzburger are two of the recipients of the *Champions for Children Award* at the Broward County Youth Summit which takes place on April 18, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Broward County Convention Center. The Summit, a joint project of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Children’s Services Council of Broward County will bring together more than 300 children’s services professionals, community leaders, and young people to address issues concerning children.

Vice Mayor Wexler was nominated for the award by the Children’s Services Administration Division. She currently serves as a member of the Children’s Services Board and is a member of the One Community Partnership Governance Board, whose vision and mission is to create a system of care for children with serious emotional disturbances. Prior to being elected to the County Commission she served on the School Board of Broward County from 1992 to 2004.

“As a former School Board member it is nice to return to the roots of my career in public service: the need’s of Broward County’s children,” said Vice Mayor Lois Wexler. “It is an honor to be presented with this award.”

Commissioner Gunzburger currently serves as Chair of the Children’s Services Council, the organization that nominated her for this award. She is the namesake of the Sue Gunzburger/Washington Park Child Care Center in Hollywood which provides low-cost child care to working families. Before being elected to the Hollywood City Commission in 1982 and subsequently the Broward County Board of County Commissioners in 1994, Commissioner Gunzburger was a classroom teacher in the public schools, and a clinical marriage and family counselor.

“From my earliest job experience—as a mother’s aid when I was eleven years old—I have concentrated my resources on children’s issues,” said Commissioner Gunzburger. “Throughout my career I have been a camp counselor, an elementary school teacher and a social worker before becoming a County Commissioner.”

This is the first year that the *Champions for Children* awards will be presented. Winners were selected by the child advocates, professionals and community members who sit on the Youth Summit Planning Committee. Other honorees include James Harn, Jarvis Brunson, Susan Widmayer, Rosie White, Diane Sepielli, Jayne Hafer, Laurie Sallarulo, Alan Levy, Abraham Fischler, Nan Rich, Judge Geoffrey Cohen, and the late Carole Andrews.

An updated comprehensive strategic plan for Broward’s children will be unveiled at the Youth Summit, and participants will have the opportunity to review its direction and discuss its implementation. The Summit’s Keynote Speaker will be Jonah Edelman, co-founder of the nationally prominent “Stand for Children” organization. Edelman, of Portland, Oregon, is the son of noted child advocate Marian Wright Edelman, chair of the Children’s Defense Fund in Washington, D.C.

Youth Summit participants may select from nine areas of focus: abuse and neglect, behavioral health, school readiness and literacy, children’s health care, delinquency and juvenile crime, youth employment, transitional independent living, special needs and education.

A \$15 registration fee includes complimentary parking and a box lunch. Youth 21 and under can attend free of charge, but must register. Online registration is available at <http://www.training1.cscbroward.org>. For more information, call (954) 377-1000.

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