

**1616 Hawthorne Court  
Norman, Oklahoma 73072**

March 10, 2013

Dear Members, Norman Children's Rights Commission:

When I read in the *Norman Transcript* about your Service to Children Award, I immediately thought of Dr. Candace McCaffrey. Through our years of shared participation in Exchange Club, and as board members at Mary Abbott Children's House and Bethesda, Inc., I have come to appreciate the deep and lasting healing influence Candace has brought thousands of children. Thankfully, and to her credit, Candace's wise and caring mentorship of numerous interns and clinicians in training also guarantees a legacy of protective care for generations of our children to come.

Candace had dedicated her life to children. She has carried out this work in both paid and voluntary settings. Presently, she works as a clinical psychologist. In that capacity, she has, for many young people, buffered the trauma suffered from having been abused. She has achieved success, but always, as she might say, "for them." An inherent desire to bring healing is what seems to drive Dr. McCaffrey. Her achievements include counseling children and families in private practice; teaching others how to offer ethical, effective therapy; consulting with emergency room physicians in crisis situations where children are in need; and creating, implementing and administering innovative treatment programs. Her 30 year history with Bethesda, Inc. includes years of service as staff therapist, Clinical Director, Executive Director and now, as President of its Board of Directors.

In each of these roles, Candace has maintained the highest standards of service. She has done this through countless hours of over-time volunteer work, i.e., she has offered plain ole blood, sweat and tears for the good of kids in settings as diverse as commission conference halls to kitchens. She has served as a member of the Child Abuse Response Team of Cleveland County and as a board member of the Oklahoma Professional Society on Abused Children. She shared time and talent as a member and chair of the Norman Children's Rights Commission. Recently I witnessed her creativity and culinary skills in cheerfully making untold gallons of chili, at her own cost, for a fund-raising benefit for Bethesda. This was accomplished, mind you, after she had *already* hand-created dozens of beautiful ceramic bowls in which the guests' chili would be served! This is but one example of the quiet efforts that are a constant in Candace's life. *For the good of the children* seems to be her personal mantra. She motivates many of us in inspiring us to bring life to that mantra. Yes, as a highly effective therapist, she talks the talk. But what is so remarkable about Candace is that she chooses, on a daily basis, to walk the walk. She is a gentle guide, whom lots of us, young and young at heart, have chosen to follow, for her leadership always, without fail, results in good things for others.

As a leader, Candace brings science and art; mind and heart. Metaphorically, she has led countless children and their families out of the darkness of traumatic pain suffered from abuse. She literally moves others by bringing us along, as she creates programs of quality clinical care, prevention, and advocacy. She recognizes talents; provides needed resources; guides; steps aside; assesses; grieves; celebrates. Through decades of dedicated service, she has bolstered treatment programs, implemented

unique therapeutic approaches replicated in treatment programs throughout the U.S., and found ways to greatly enhance existing education and prevention programs ~ all designed to promote the well-being of children.

Knowing her, I realize that Candace would rather I not call public attention to her outstanding service through this letter of nomination. However, I do so with the great hope that she may feel at least a small measure of the gratitude held in thousands of hearts, for her graceful, humble, generous service.

Thank you for considering Dr. Candace McCaffrey's candidacy as a recipient of the Commission's Award for Service to Children.

Kind regards to each of you. Please accept my thanks, and that of the many people on whose behalf I write, not only to acknowledge Candace, but to express thanks to you, too, for your service in support of the children of our community.

Glenda M. Peters, Ed.D.

Member, Board of Directors, Bethesda, Inc.