



---

***For Immediate Release***

***Contact:***

The Children's Place Association  
Jennifer Sampson  
(312)-660-3032 or (312)420-4019  
jsampson@childrens-place.org

**Once Upon A Time Gala Raises \$380,000 to Benefit  
Children and Families Affected by HIV/AIDS**

*SmithBucklin honored as 2009 Chicago Champion for Children*

**Chicago – April 8, 2009** – The Children's Place Association's 17<sup>th</sup> annual gala, held on Saturday April 4 at Chicago's Union Station, raised more than \$380,000 to benefit HIV/AIDS affected children and families.

"We realize that the current economy may make charitable giving a challenge, but it is in this climate that our families need our support, more than ever before," said Cathy Krieger, president and CEO of The Children's Place Association. "Many of our families live on \$5,000 a year or less, thus making it difficult for them to pay for life's necessities even in a normal economy. The corporations and individuals who supported this year's gala know these families need our help. With their generosity we will be able to provide programs and services that bring hope to parents and a brighter future for children."

SmithBucklin was honored during the gala as the 2009 Chicago Champion for Children, an award that recognizes the crucial role businesses play in improving the lives of Chicago-area children. Company president and CEO Henry Givray was on hand to accept the award on behalf of the company's employees.

"SmithBucklin has been a generous supporter of our mission for many years," said Krieger. "This award recognizes their work on behalf of our children and families as well as their commitment to charitable involvement in the communities where their employees work and live."

The theme of the gala, Passport to the World, took guests on a journey around the world with music of the Stu Hirsch Orchestra, food by Jewell Events Catering and old world travel ambiance by

## **Gala Release – Page 2**

Joseph Leigh Designs. In addition, dance troupes representing different cultures performed throughout the event. The evening was co-chaired by Auxiliary president Dr. Terry Clarbour of Oak Park; current board member Ray Mulligan of Kildeer; and Auxiliary member and volunteer Shari Sariri of Lake Forest.

The theme was also a reflection of the journey of The Children's Place Association over the last year. In 2008 this leading HIV/AIDS child-welfare organization expanded their mission internationally to serve HIV/AIDS-affected children and families in need in Haiti and Guyana.

Also on hand for the gala was Fox News Chicago co-anchors Robin Robinson and Jeff Goldblatt who served as mistress and master of ceremonies for the black-tie affair.

### **About The Children's Place Association**

The mission of The Children's Place Association is to improve the present and secure the future for children, youth and families confronted by HIV/AIDS or other life-changing health conditions. Founded in 1991, The Children's Place Association serves as a safe haven for children whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS through the Residential Center and Early Learning Center as well as Family & Community Services and Foster Care & Adoption programs. For more information on programs and services, visit [www.childrens-place.org](http://www.childrens-place.org) or call 312-733-9954.

###