



Stepping UP For Kids Awards Luncheon



Honoring Special Service to Children in Foster and Adoptive Care
October 7, 2016



The third annual **Stepping Up for Kids Awards Luncheon** on Oct. 7, 2016, recognized three resource families and three agency staff members for their outstanding service. Pictured, front row from left, guest speaker Judge Darrell Missey from Jefferson County, Brenda Maly of the St. Louis Family & Community Partnership, resource family honorees Jennifer Tripp and Adella Coleman, and emcee Debbie Monterrey from KMOX Radio. Second row, Ruth Ehresman from Vision for Children at Risk, resource family honorees Jan and Paul Wilkin, agency staff honorees Gail Knipshild from Children's Home Society of Missouri and Karen Jones of the Missouri Children's Division, and Mike Fitzgerald of the St. Louis Family & Community Partnership. Not pictured: Denise Kelley from the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition.



Judge Missey gave stirring remarks affirming the efforts of social workers and others in the child welfare field "as a force for good" for those facing challenges. He also referred to his personal campaign to secure more foster homes in Jefferson County, so children in foster care can stay in the same school district and neighborhood. Thanks also to the Riverview Gardens High School Musical Ensemble (below) for their excellent jazz entertainment.





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Leadership Table Sponsors



Adella Coleman, Resource Family



*Jennifer Tripp, Resource Family
(Husband Shane Tripp not pictured)*



Jan and Paul Wilkin, Resource Family

*Not Pictured:
Denise Kelley
Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition*



*Karen Jones
Missouri Children's Division*



*Gail Knipshild
Children's Home Society of Missouri*