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Center for Youth to Honor Dedicated Community Advocates, Philanthropists Monday

Rochester, N.Y., Sept. 26, 2016 – Several community leaders and philanthropists who are committed to improving the lives of young people in the community will receive Chuck Cuminale Youth Advocate Awards at The Center for Youth’s annual meeting at **6 p.m. Monday at the Memorial Art Gallery (500 University Ave.)**. The Cuminale Award, created in memory of a dedicated Center counselor and champion for youth, is the agency’s highest honor.

Eleven people or groups will be recognized, including:

- The **Ronald McDonald House** and its staff for partnering with The Center’s Crisis Nursery. Families who stay at the Ronald McDonald House often turn to the Crisis Nursery for temporary childcare for siblings of another child being treated at Golisano Children’s Hospital. Additionally, Ronald McDonald House Charities has been a consistent source of funding for the Crisis Nursery.
- The **Villa of Hope and its President/CEO Christina Gullo** who have supported The Center’s Safe Harbour program. The Villa of Hope has been an essential partner as the Safe Harbour team works to identify and provide direct services to youth victims of trafficking.
- **Pastor David Ryder and the Flour City Church members** who are reliable, passionate volunteers. Members of the church have served meals to youth, collected items for The Center’s food pantry, and spruced up yards at The Center’s main offices and shelters.
- The **Women’s Council of Realtors**, a group of local realtors who have gone above and beyond in their support of The Center in the past year. The group hosts fundraisers, collects items for The Center’s pantry, serves meals, and donates its time to support The Center’s young people.



- **Mary McLeod Bethune School 45** and **Nathaniel Rochester School 3** in the Rochester City School District. In collaboration with The Center, staff and leadership at these schools have helped to implement unique, creative programs for students that enhance learning and improve student behavior.
- A special group of men and women who are long-time supporters, including **David and Jacob Berardi** of Hank Parker Rentals; local developer **Frederick Rainaldi Jr.**; **Kristin Auchter** of Manning & Napier; and **Frank DiNitto**, a volunteer who prepares regular healthy meals at The Center's youth emergency shelter.
- The band, **SHINE**, who generously donated its time and performances to raise funds for youth at The Center's 2016 gala.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the annual meeting will feature entertainment provided by ROC City Singers, a group of student singers and dancers, as well as a student group from 25 North Dance.

About The Center for Youth

Started by youth for youth in 1971, The Center for Youth delivers a continuum of services to homeless and runaway youth and families in crisis, including emergency shelter, transitional housing programs and Crisis Nursery, which provides temporary childcare during emergencies. The Center's school-based, counseling and community awareness programs aim to educate, engage and empower young people. All services are delivered with the knowledge that youth want to and can take responsibility for their life choices. For more information, visit www.centerforyouth.net or find us on social media: Facebook (Center for Youth) and Twitter (@center4youth).