

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 20, 2009

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ELECTED OFFICIALS HONOR LOCAL LEADERS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN

Rochester, NY – Dr. Andrew Doniger, Medical Director, Monroe County Department of Health, and community volunteers and philanthropists Donna Fielding and Robert Silver, will be recognized for their sustained and significant contributions to children's social and emotional health by Children's Institute at a biennial Community Update breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at The Strathallan Hotel, 550 East Avenue, on Thursday, October 22, 2009.

Joining the breakfast will be representatives from the offices of U.S. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter and Assemblymember Susan John, as well as Senator Joseph Robach and Assemblymember David Koon, who will make a special presentation. The program will highlight the work of Children's Institute with a special feature on "Same Sky Sharing" a new initiative supporting children in our military families.

"We are privileged to add these three distinguished leaders to the Coterie of Children's Institute," said Executive Director Dirk Hightower; "each has contributed time, talent and resources over many years that have helped our organization further its work to improve the lives of children in Rochester and across the country. It is their personal commitment to children that helps to bring about changes in policy and practice to make the world a better place for children to learn and grow into our future citizens and leaders."

Dr. Doniger is being recognized for his pioneering work in the development of a parent appraisal report that is used in kindergarten screening in schools here in Rochester and across the country. He raised public awareness of and support for young children who have been exposed to violence in our community and provided local and national support to the Safe Start initiative, recognizing that violence is a public health issue and one that needs a broad based response to effect lasting change. In addition, Dr. Doniger has been instrumental in developing community goals for improving children's health outcomes through the Health Action Report Card for Maternal/Child Health.

Donna Fielding, board member and Association of Fundraising Professionals' Outstanding Philanthropist Nominee, along with her husband Ron, has made ongoing and significant gifts to support the work of Children's Institute, including the first and lead gift to the organization's most recent capital campaign. Donna has served with distinction on all of the standing committees of the board and helped to shape the composition of the board of directors during her eleven years of service.



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Bob Silver, a recipient of the ESL Jefferson Award, was instrumental in developing a marketing and sales plan for products that support the various programs developed by Children's Institute. Through Bob's commitment, the sale of assessment measures and manuals has increased dramatically, ensuring that millions more children across the country have the opportunity to grow into socially and emotionally healthy adolescents and adults.

Children's Institute is a national charitable organization that works to improve the lives of children by strengthening their social and emotional health. Through sound research and evaluation, the organization develops and promotes effective prevention and early intervention programs, materials and best practices for children, families, schools and communities. Children's Institute is affiliated with the University of Rochester and has served the community for over 50 years.

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