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CWLA Honors Congressional Officials, Mayor, Professor, Journalists, Agency and Corporate Champions

***April 28, 2015 – Washington DC – Crystal Gateway Marriott***

Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), the nation's oldest and largest membership-based child welfare organization, has been known and respected as a champion for children since 1920. During their national conference, April 27 – 29, they will honor Rep. Renee Ellmers, Republican, 2nd District of North Carolina; the Honorable Ramon Luis Rivera Cruz, Mayor of Bayamon, Puerto Rico; journalists Susan Ferriss and Amy Isackson; Dr. Angelique Day of Wayne State University; Thomas Safran Associates (TSA); and International Social Service – USA, Inc.

**The Anna Quindlen Award for Excellence in Journalism on Behalf of Children and Families** is awarded to journalists in both print and broadcast who have provided constructive, informative reporting that advances awareness, understanding, and action to meet the needs of children and families who are vulnerable. Awardees: Susan Ferriss and Amy Isackson – The Center for Public Integrity

**Congressional Advocate of the Year** is awarded to a member of Congress who has provided leadership on behalf of children and families who are vulnerable, and achieved demonstrated policy or funding improvements related to services and supports for children in the child welfare system. Awardee: Rep. Renee Ellmers, Republican, 2nd District of North Carolina for her work on reauthorizing the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program in North Carolina;

**Corporate Advocate of the Year** is awarded to a for-profit business that has made a demonstrated national and local commitment using the principles of the *CWLA National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare* to improve outcomes for children and families who are vulnerable and the organizations that serve them. Thomas Safran Associates (TSA), a Los Angeles affordable housing developer; recognized for their work in successful fundraising events for community nonprofit organizations.

**CWLA National Blueprint Champion for Excellence (Individual)** is awarded to individuals with demonstrated commitment to the principles of the *CWLA National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare with the goal that* “all children will grow up safely, in loving families and supportive communities with everything they need to flourish—and with connections to their culture, ethnicity, race, and language. Awardee: Dr. Angelique Day of Wayne State University for her role in assisting 800 of Michigan’s high risk youth graduate from college.

**CWLA National Blueprint Champion for Excellence (Community Partner)** is awarded to an organization that supports a CWLA member agency and the children and families it serves to advance the vision of the *CWLA National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare*. Awardee: The Honorable Ramon Luis Rivera Cruz, Mayor of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, for his work in facilitating and leading collaborations between organizations to support teens in Puerto Rico.

**CWLA National Blueprint Champion for Excellence (Agency Innovator)** is awarded to member agencies that have demonstrated innovation and excellence in the delivery of programs and services to advance improved outcomes for children and youth utilizing the principles of the National Blueprint. Awardee: International Social Service – USA, Inc., for their work in cross-border child welfare.

CWLA holds up a vision of an America in which families, neighborhoods, communities, organizations, and federal state and local governments work together to ensure that all our children have the opportunity to grow up healthy and strong. CWLA reshapes priorities, one community at a time, by bringing people together around common goals, sharing ideas that have been shown to work, and facilitating collaboration across sectors and systems.

For more information on CWLA, visit [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org). For more information on the conference, visit <http://www.cwla.org/2015NationalConference/>

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*Since 1920, CWLA has been the nation's preeminent membership-based organization dedicated to ensuring that disadvantaged and vulnerable children are protected from harm and have the tools and resources they need to grow into healthy and happy adults. CWLA is the trusted authority for professionals who work with children and the only national organization with public and private member agencies working across all sectors of the children's services field.*