



For Immediate Release

March 23, 2018

For more information, contact [cwla@cwla.org](mailto:cwla@cwla.org)

## ***CWLA Honors Journalist, Social Work Professionals, and Nonprofits at Upcoming National Conference***

The 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 the upcoming CWLA national conference, taking place from April 26–29 in Washington, DC, the organization will honor investigative reporter **Scott MacFarlane** of Washington, DC's NBC 4; **Bravehearts**, New York's lead chapter of Youth M.O.V.E National; Rhode Island-based nonprofit **Foster Forward**; Connecticut social worker **Ashley Foster**; **Joseph Hill-Coles**, the City of Philadelphia's Community Navigator; and **Shari Walker** of the National Foster Youth Institute, based in Los Angeles.

**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. Awardee: Scott MacFarlane, NBC 4, Washington, DC.

**The CWLA National Blueprint Champion for Excellence** honors a CWLA member organization that has demonstrated innovation and excellence in the delivery of programs and services for children and families, and/or accomplished successful community partnerships and collaborative efforts to advance improved outcomes for children and youth utilizing the principles of the *CWLA National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare*. Awardees: Bravehearts; Foster Forward.

**The Cassandra Rainey Youth Champion Award** honors a young person (age 26 or younger) who is/was under the auspices of the child welfare system and is actively involved in improving outcomes for children and youth as a volunteer or young professional. The award is named in memory of CWLA Vice President, Cassandra Rainey, who was a passionate youth advocate. Awardees: Ashley Foster; Joseph Hill-Coles; Shari Walker.

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 2018 National Conference, *Advancing Excellence in Practice and Policy: Building Resilience in Changing Times*, visit [www.cwla.org/Resilience2018/](http://www.cwla.org/Resilience2018/).