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***CHILDCARE RESOURCES ANNOUNCES BEN AND LUANNE RUSSELL RECIPIENTS OF THE MARGIE CURRY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR THE 2009 CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE AWARD LUNCHEON***

BIRMINGHAM, AL — Twenty individuals and organizations have been nominated for Childcare Resources 2009 Children's Advocate Award to be presented at the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Children's Advocate Award Luncheon. A fundraiser benefiting Childcare Resources, the March 09, 2009 event will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Birmingham Ballroom, 2101 Richard Arrington Jr., Blvd. North.

The luncheon will also feature the presentation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Margie Curry Lifetime Achievement Award. The award honors Curry, founding executive director of Childcare Resources, who retired in 2007 from her work with the agency. Benjamin and Luanne Russell will receive the award in 2009.

In 1987, the Russells co-founded CARE Alabama. This program matches funds that are raised for CARE almost dollar for dollar. CARE is one of the world's leading organizations that actively fights global poverty.

In 1989, Ben and Luanne Russell founded Children's Harbor, a not-for-profit childcare organization with a mission to *strengthen children and families*. The Children's Harbor campus is located south of Alexander City on Lake Martin. Mr. and Mrs. Russell also made a commitment to Children's Hospital in Birmingham resulting in the construction of the Children's Harbor wing which houses the Children's Harbor Family Center, an innovative child and family care center. This collaborative effort with the hospital provides counseling to chronically ill children and their families from all over Alabama. The Family Center was opened in May 2001.

More recently, Ben and Luanne have pledged \$25 million in support of Children's Hospital. The gift, the largest in the history of Children's Hospital, is part of the \$100 million "Keeping Promises" capital campaign to help build a new facility on the hospital's downtown Birmingham campus. The new facility and campus will be named for Mr. Russell's grandfather Benjamin Russell (1876-1941).

The Russells have dedicated themselves to improving the lives of children through CARE Alabama, Children's Harbor and their work with Children's Hospital.

Lee Styslinger, III, President and Chief Executive Officer of Altec Inc. and his wife Kelly Styslinger, a civic volunteer are the Children's Advocate Award Luncheon's honorary chairs. Joanna Burleson and Willie Chriesman are co-chairs of the luncheon planning committee. Committee members include Dover Currie, Marzette Fisher, Derry Herring, Sherri Jackson, Carden Johnston, Carla McEwen, Teresa Zuniga Odom, Carole Marcus Pizitz, Carla Roberson, Guin Robinson, Cara Ross, Carla Simmons and Leila Watson.

Individuals and nonprofit organizations may purchase a Patron Table for \$750, which includes a table for eight and a listing in the luncheon program. Individual tickets are \$65 per person. Corporate sponsorships are also available. Major sponsors to date include Altec Industries, CBS 42, James Rushton I Foundation, EBSCO, Children's Health System, Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC, Sheryl and Jon Kimerling and Molton Allen & Williams.

For sponsorship, reservation or other information, contact Joy Godsey at (205) 795-2207 or [jgodsey@ccr-bhm.org](mailto:jgodsey@ccr-bhm.org) or visit [www.ccr-bhm.org](http://www.ccr-bhm.org).

Childcare Resources helps families locate child care, trains child care professionals, provides parent education services, and offers child care financial assistance to low-income, working families. Celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a nonprofit organization and United Way partner agency, Childcare Resources is proud of the services we provide to help make quality child care available and affordable in Blount, Jefferson, Shelby and Walker counties. For more information, call (205) 795-2258 or visit [www.ccr-bhm.org](http://www.ccr-bhm.org)