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Children's Bureau of New Orleans presents its first-ever 'Children's Hero Awards'

By [Sue Strachan, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

There is no mistaking the elaborate architectural details on the “wedding cake” house on St. Charles Avenue — and this famous landmark was the site for the **Children’s Bureau of New Orleans’** inaugural “**Children’s Hero Awards,**” on Friday, Oct. 25.

“We are grateful to **Frances and Calvin Fayard** for hosting this first-ever **Children’s Hero Awards** at their home, and to Liberty Bank for believing in us from the start and signing on as our title sponsor,” says **Jaimme Collins**, Children’s Bureau board chair.

Honorees included **Dr. Karen DeSalvo, Norman Francis, Dr. Stephen Hales, Cathy Harris, the Hon. Calvin Johnson, Michael Lewis, Charles Rice, Sally-Ann Roberts, Norma Jane Sabiston, Alison Salloum, Jackie Curtis Silverman** (who was unable to attend) and **Warner Williams**. For the award itself, the committee decided to do something unique: They had artist **Damion Hunter** create one-of-a-kind portraits of each honoree.

The Children's Bureau of New Orleans is a mental health agency that aims to improve the quality of life for children and families through programs that enhance and strengthen mental health and wellness. The honorees were chosen to recognize their contributions towards this goal.

While the event was serious in intent, the committee also lined up entertainment — **Mia Borders** and **James Andrews** — and enlisted caterer **Laura Arrowood** to provide the cuisine.

Joining event co-chairs **Mullady Voelker, Crystal and Todd McDonald**, and **Bridget Barthelemy and Jason Williams**, were Mayor **Mitch Landrieu** and **Cheryl Landrieu**, former Mayor **Sidney Barthelemy**, **Nancy Hales**, **Ray Harris**, **Ron Nabonne**, **Pam Williams**, **Rhesa and Alden McDonald**, **Ashley and Tim Francis**, **John Gonzalez** and **Tricia Weeks**, **Kathy and Craig Coenson**, **Elizabeth and John Roussel**, **Paulette Carter**, **Dr. Jay DeSalvo**, **Elizabeth Connell**, and state Rep. **Walt Leger**.

“The event was even more successful than what we dreamed it would be, and we look forward to many more years to come,” Collins said.

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