



For Immediate Release

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## **Kenton County Schools winner of first 'Champions for Children: the Next Generation' Award**

North College Hill H.S. and St. Xavier receive honorable mentions

**(Cincinnati--Nov. 1, 2011) Hanners' Helpers**--a Kenton County School District project--is the winner of 4C for Children's first Champions for Children: the Next Generation Award. This project trains and places 800 high school students to work one on one weekly with below grade level primary students to improve literacy skills or to mentor students identified as "at risk."

Beverlee Collins, Sara Callahan and Tonya Brummer are the student leaders who help train and place 800 high schoolers in relationships with 800 primary students identified by their teachers as needing academic or behavioral support.

4C is awarding honorable mentions to two additional high school projects:

- **Dollars for Darfur**--a North College Hill High Project that raises thousands of dollars to build kindergarten classrooms, pay kindergarten teacher salaries and provide nutritional support to children in Darfur, Sudan. Erin Daniels is the student project leader.
- **Big Buddies at Roll Hill Academy**--a St. Xavier High School project that pairs 10 St. X students with one or more "little buddies," ages 6 to 9. through a collaboration with the Roll Hill Boys and Girls Club. Cameron Vogel is the project's student leader.

The goal of the [Champions for Children: The Next Generation award](#), being presented for the first time this year, is to honor high school students in grades 9-12 who are taking action on behalf of the children of our community--or of our world. "We want to reinforce in the leaders of tomorrow the importance of investing in the children of today--especially those from birth to age 8," says 4C President/CEO Sallie Westheimer.

4C for Children has been recognizing adult community leaders who champion children since 2006--and will do so again this year at a [Jan. 28 Champions for Children Gala](#) at the Westin Cincinnati. The 2011 4C Champions for Children are State Senator Eric Kearney, community volunteer Digi Schueler and Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing North America. A special presentation of the new youth award will also be made at the Jan. 28 gala.

To be eligible for consideration, projects had to be nominated by Sept. 15, demonstrate the involvement of high school students and do one or more of the following:

- **empower and educate young children** through direct service
- **provide leadership or raise awareness** on an issue that impacts young children
- **improve the quality of life** of young children.

**The project also had to show ample evidence of success** by the time of its nomination. Kenton County Schools, for example, reported that, over the course of eight months, students receiving reading tutoring improved their fluency rate of words read per minute by an average of 36 words.

Project most closely matching the above criteria were asked to submit full applications by Oct. 14. An awards committee meeting in late October selected the winner and named the two honorable mentions.

The awards committee included: Stephannie Byrd, director of Success by 6; Patti Gleason, present of Cincinnati Early Learning Centers; June Sciarra, professor emerita of early childhood at the University of Cincinnati; and these community volunteers: Mary Kay Irwin, Joyce Monger, Merri Gaither Smith and Ann Williams.

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[4C for Children](http://www.4cforchildren.org), the pioneering leader, advocate and resource for early childhood education and care, serves 40 counties from offices in Cincinnati, Dayton (Ohio) and Covington (Kentucky). Each year this not-for-profit assists over 7,000 families of all income levels in finding and choosing quality child care; educates over 12,000 child care providers in its workshops and trainings; works to increase the supply of high-quality early education and care; and advocates for children and families at the local, state and federal levels. For more information, [www.4cforchildren.org](http://www.4cforchildren.org).

