



Educates children, strengthens families and builds community

**Media Contact:**

Sabrina Written

504-523-6221, EXT 163

[sabrina.written@kingsleyhouse.org](mailto:sabrina.written@kingsleyhouse.org)

**For Immediate Release**

June 24, 2022

*“Ensuring the Future, Preserving the Legacy” Capital Campaign Announced*

**Gayle M. Benson & Phyllis M. Taylor Receive the Rev. Beverley Warner Award for Commitment to Families & Children at Kingsley House’s 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony**

Kingsley House’s board leadership recognized individuals making a difference for children and families in the community at its 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony and announced the *Ensuring the Future, Preserving the Legacy* capital campaign, which will provide the agency with the capacity and agility to quickly adapt and implement effective solutions to unforeseen challenges of the future. Mrs. Gayle M. Benson and Mrs. Phyllis M. Taylor are honorary co-chairs of the \$2.5 million campaign, which has already reached 60% of goal.

Agency officials also shared that it was awarded national reaccreditation by the Council of Accreditation (COA) for the 7<sup>th</sup> time since 1998—certifying that Kingsley House delivers high quality services, utilizes research-informed best practices, sound financial practices, relevant strategic planning and effective risk management systems.

**Award Highlights**

**Mrs. Gayle M. Benson** and **Mrs. Phyllis M. Taylor** received the *Rev. Beverley Warner Award*—Kingsley House’s highest honor named for its founder. The local luminaries share a storied history with Kingsley House, which is home to the iconic Gayle and Tom Benson Community Center on Kingsley House’s main historic campus and the state-of-the-art Patrick F. Taylor Campus, which opened in 2016 and is anchored by a 24,000 square foot multipurpose intergenerational facility.

**YES for NOLA Kids**, a coalition of early childhood education proponents that played a central role in passage of the Orleans Parish Early Childhood Development and Education Millage, and **Shavonne Hampton**, Kingsley House Director of Early Learning Services, were recipients of the *Libby Milton Champion for Children Award*, which honors individuals who have made significant accomplishments on behalf of children; Kingsley Adult Day Care Activity Coordinator, **Darvin Wallace**, received the *McMain Citizenship Award*, presented to a person who has gone above and beyond to support Kingsley House and the community; and Kingsley House Board Members **Shannon Joseph** and **Ralph Mahana** were recipients of the *Stern Award*, given to a first-term board member who has made outstanding contributions to Kingsley House and the Board of Directors.

(more/more)

**KH Awards Winners- Page 2 of 2**

**Kingsley House Unveils Melanie Bronfin Professional Development Institute for Early Learning**

Immediately prior to the Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony, agency officials unveiled the *Melanie Bronfin Professional Development Institute for Early Learning*, located on its Patrick F. Taylor Campus.

The effort was organized by several of the Kingsley House's Capital Campaign supporters to honor Bronfin's passionate advocacy and extraordinary leadership for children and families over the last 25 years. The establishment of the *Melanie Bronfin Advocacy for Children Award* is to be presented at future annual agency meetings.

Bronfin, a former Kingsley House board president and prior recipient of the *Libby Milton Champion for Children Award*, is also the founder of the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, Louisiana's leading independent source of data, research, and public policy proposals on issues related to young children.

**About Kingsley House**

At Kingsley House, we envision a city and region where all young children are ready to succeed, and all citizens are healthy and economically stable. Recognizing that vulnerable families are at risk of being caught in an intractable cycle of poverty, we are committed to ensuring that individuals and families have the support necessary to be successful at all stages of life. To accomplish our goals, we join forces with dedicated community partners. Collectively, we work with families to fuel economic growth and social change in our city, state, and region.

Founded in 1896, Kingsley House's mission is to educate children, strengthen families and build community. A name change that reflects the organization's values and vision is forthcoming during its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration this year. For more information, visit [www.kingsleyhouse.org](http://www.kingsleyhouse.org).

Attachments: Photos and Cutlines

###