



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2007

Contact: Halle Czechowski (VOICES)
czechowski@voices.org
202-289-0777 x211

Bryant Recognized As National Advocacy Leader

WASHINGTON, DC – Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, has been honored for her work as a mentor, strategist, leader, and champion of future child advocates with the 2007 Florette Angel Memorial Child Advocacy Award by Voices for America's Children.

"Elizabeth Burke Bryant is committed, passionate, and energetic in her pursuit of better outcomes for children," said Bill Bentley, VOICES President & CEO. "She is the model of what child advocates can accomplish through focus, collaboration, and evidence-based advocacy."

The Florette Angel Award - established in 1996 in the memory of Florette Angel, a tireless child advocate who worked to better the lives of West Virginia's children - is given annually by Voices for America's Children and captures Angel's spirit, exceptional leadership, innovative advocacy, and effective service on behalf of children and their families.

Bryant will be honored at VOICES annual meeting, The Forum, in New Orleans, Louisiana on Wednesday, October 10.

"The focus and effectiveness that Elizabeth Burke Bryant brings to KIDS COUNT makes it the clear gold standard for advocacy organizations in our nation. She has been a strong voice for children and a fierce advocate for public policies that support children and families," said Mayor David N. Cicilline, City of Providence.

Under Bryant's leadership, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT has earned a solid reputation as the premier child advocacy organization in the state and a national reputation for excellence. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT has been a member of the VOICES network for 10 years.

During her tenure, the organization has contributed to significant victories in the areas of child care and early education, child welfare, dropout prevention, health insurance coverage for children, affordable housing, lead poisoning prevention, and improved access to prenatal care.

"In the state of Rhode Island, no one is more closely identified with children's issues than Elizabeth Burke Bryant. From housing to poverty, health care to school readiness, Elizabeth provides leadership – to draw the picture, tell the story, frame the discussion, and promote the policy options. She functions in a manner that is bi-partisan, all inclusive, and consensus-building – operationalizing the phrase "it takes a village," said Senator Teresa Paiva-Weed, Rhode Island General Assembly.

###

Voices for America's Children is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit child advocacy organization committed to speaking out for the well-being of children at the local, state and federal levels of government. With 60 members in nearly every state, as well as the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands, we advocate for effective public policies in order to improve the lives of all children throughout the United States. For more information, please visit Voices' website at www.voices.org.