



Minnehaha County Coroner Brad Randall (left) is a 2010 Champion for Children in the individual, professional category. Among the contributions that prompted his selection are his research that led to newborn metabolic screening and prompted the “Back to Sleep” program that calls for infants to be placed on their backs.



Lead/Deadwood superintendent of schools Dan Leikvold was named a Champion for Children because he exemplifies the best of what one hopes a school superintendent will do — leave the school and be engaged in the community. In addition to his academic leadership, he worked in collaboration with the community to add a range of services that meet the needs of students and families in Lead-Deadwood, also enhancing their education.



Dr. Tracy Pierret cares for children in his Watertown pediatric medical practice and he advocates for youngsters through his activities with the South Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. As both as a volunteer and staff — he is deeply involved with two Sanford Children’s camps. Spirit Camp is for children with spina bifida, and Camp Bring It On is for children with cancer. He received the 2010 Champion for Children in Watertown from Voices’ executive director Dr. Susan M. Randall (left) and Kay Solberg (center), a member of Voices’ board of directors.



In its seven years of operation, the Boys & Girls Club of Brookings has grown from 100 members 1,300 members offering a fun and safe environment to about 300 first- through 12th-graders each day. Pictured (left to right) are Crystal Weller, art coordinator; Rachel Schumacher, director of operations; Steven Grey, wellness coordinator; Billie Jo McFarland, office manager; Joanie Holm, past president, board member; Keith Mahlum, vice-president, board member; Vanessa Merhib, executive director, all of the Boys & Girls Club of Brookings.



Nearly 11,000 underserved children across South Dakota have received dental care from the staff and volunteers of the Delta Dental Smiles Mobile traveling clinic. Last year, more than 80 dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants volunteered their professional expertise. Accepting their award in Sioux Falls were (left to right) Carrie Mikkonen, program manager, Graham Smith, host dentist, Jean Gross, oral health educator; Kathy Van Kley, mobile program coordinator; Marissa Schweitzer, dental assistant; Tucker Gross, dental hygienist, Donna Mullett, administrative assistant; Scott Jones, Delta Dental CEO.



Delta Dental Smiles Mobile staff members who were recognized at the Rapid City Champion for Children Awards Luncheon are (left to right) Nick Thome, intern; Dr. Gary Bjerrum, mobile program staff dentist; Dr. Greg Hanson, Delta Dental board member; Carrie Mikkonen, mobile program manager; Melissa Schulte, dental assistant; Marissa Schweitzer, dental assistant; Kirby Scott, Delta Dental; Mick Heckenlaible, Delta Dental; Jeff Miller, Delta Dental; Mary Hitzemann, Delta Dental board member; Jim Russell, Delta Dental board member.



Minnehaha County Commissioner Carol Twedt (right) received the 2010 George S. Mickelson Policy Leader Award from Dr. Susan Randall, Voices' executive director. The award was in recognition of Twedt's long-term commitment to helping create a juvenile justice system for South Dakota that assures the safety of the child and community while encouraging rehabilitation of court-involved youth.



In addition to Champions for Children, Honor Roll recipients are also recognized annually. Those who were at the Sioux Falls' event were (left to right) SSG Matt Hurney, Sioux Falls, for his role in developing the South Dakota National Guard's award-winning "Stay on Track" drug and alcohol prevention program; Shirley Schwab, Aberdeen, founding director of the Fifth Judicial Circuit CASA; Jane Gurney, 93, who is in her 11th year as a volunteer at Yankton's Beadle Elementary School; Carole Cochran, Vermillion, director of South Dakota KIDS COUNT; Dr. Scott A. Schneider, Sioux Falls, a child psychiatrist with Avera Midwest Psychiatric medicine; (back) Jeff Brecht, Sioux Falls, who with fellow YWCA board member John Swedeen, raised more than \$600,000 over the past three years to benefit the Middle School After-school Program; Sen. Dan Ahlers, Dell Rapids, for his efforts on behalf of children who are hard of hearing. Not pictured is John Swedeen, Sioux Falls (see photo below).



Bridget Stone (right), service coordinator for Rapid City Birth to 3 Connections, was nominated by Mona Drolic, shown here with her son David who is enrolled in the program.



Vicki Lowry, director of Rapid City's Youth and Family Services Prenatal to Five Head Start program and childcare director, was named to the 2010 Honor Roll.



Dr. Steven C. Gubbrud, Huron, long-time executive director of Our Home, Inc., was recognized for his work to initiate and sustain services for youth inhalant abusers, adolescent sex offenders, teenage addicts, and youth victims of physical and sexual abuse.



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