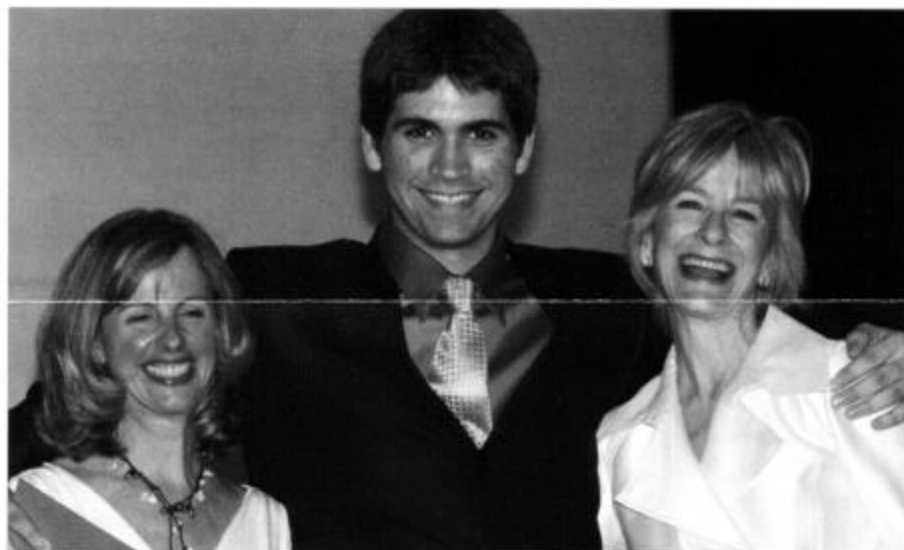


2007 Award Winners Feted at *Smart Kids with LD's* Fifth Annual Benefit



Jesse Kline accepts his award from Suzanne Fields, Chairman of the Youth Achievement Award Committee (left) and Dana Buchman.

More than 260 people gathered at the Stamford Marriott Hotel to celebrate the winners of this year's *Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities Awards* on May 17th. Pete Wright, the renowned Special Education attorney, presided as Master of Ceremonies as the event raised over \$62,000 to support **Smart Kids'** work.

The first-ever dual winners of the *2007 Youth Achievement Awards*, Cassidy Kahn of New York, NY and Jesse Kline of Towson, MD received their awards from Dana Buchman, the celebrated designer and author of *A Special Education*.

Cassidy Kahn accepted her award following a long struggle with dyslexia and expressive language difficulties. She has come out on top academically at the Churchill School for students with LD in New York City. And at age 18, she is one of the nation's most accomplished young divers, just two years after entering competitive diving. Last year she won All-America status in two events, and will join the University of Indiana's top-ranked diving team as a freshman next fall.

Jesse Kline, diagnosed with severe learning disabilities at age 10, has graduated from Jemicy High School for students with LD in Towson, MD

following his junior year, in order to study biology and animal sciences in college. A passionate wildlife and environmental conservationist, he was one of 14 students from around the world selected to train as an Arctic Ambassador last fall, tracking polar-bear migration and climate change on Canada's Hudson Bay.

Five Honorable Mentions Awarded at Gala

Honorable Mention citations for the *2007 Smart Kids Youth Achievement Award* were presented to Courtnie Canady of Greenwood, CA; Maya Colbert of Fort Washington, MD; Charley Goddard of La Canada, CA; Jordanna Rose of San Diego, CA; and David Wills of Dallas, TX.



Courtnie Canady of Greenwood, CA and David Wills of Dallas, TX share a festive moment before receiving their Honorable Mention awards.

Zimmerman & King Receive *Smart Kids* Awards



Elaine Zimmerman admires her Smart Kids Community Service Award.

As Executive Director of the Connecticut Commission on Children, Elaine Zimmerman has played a pivotal role in the promotion of research-based reading instruction and other initiatives addressing children's needs in CT. She accepted the *2007 Smart Kids Community Service Award* from Dr. Margie Gillis, **Smart Kids'** Vice President and Director of the Haskins Literacy Initiative.

Pete Wright presented the *2007 Smart Kids Professional Achievement Award* to Diana Hanbury King, who taught him to read and write early in her illustrious career as an Orton-Gillingham teacher. The founder of the Kildonan School for students with dyslexia in Amenia, NY, Mrs. King continues to teach, write and lecture around the country as an education consultant.



Diana Hanbury King speaks about her life's work educating children with learning disabilities.

Smart Kids *Launches Program on Getting Ready to Learn to Read*

The odds against succeeding in school are formidable for children in Bridgeport, CT, where 95% are economically disadvantaged, one in three has no preschool experience, and many come from homes that do not speak English or provide support for literacy.

Smart Kids' new initiative, launched this spring, offered parents of 3- and 4-year-olds training to help their children enter kindergarten ready to learn to read. The pilot program provided three sessions of hands-on instruction by Dr. Margie Gillis, Director of the Haskins Literacy Initiative and her colleague, Dr. Evelyn Russo in English and Spanish.

Co-sponsored by the Cesar Batalla Family Resource Center, one of four serving Bridgeport's low-income population, each program began with dinner for the entire family, followed by parent-training sessions. Children re-joined their parents for hands-on practice with games and activities promoting pre-literacy skills. Each family was given printed materials developed by **Smart Kids**, in addition to books and alphabet sets to encourage further practice and games at home.

Major funders include the Verizon Foundation, the Westport/Weston United Way, RBS National Bank, Citizens Bank and the DS Culpeper Foundation.



Dr. Margie Gillis teaches children to play with the alphabet sets they were given to encourage their use at home.



Mother and child enjoy a pre-literacy workshop activity.

Families were provided with dinner and childcare to enable them to attend the series of three workshops.



An Evening to Remember — Smart Kids' 5th Annual Gala



MC Pete Wright, creator with his wife, Pam of the Wrightslaw books and website



Ginger Donaher (left), President of Smart Kids' Board of Directors enjoys a moment with Judi Bernstein, Co-Chair of Smart Kids' previous benefit events



Victoria Negley, Co-Chair of the wildly successful Auction Committee, chats up a Silent Auction item



Dana Buchman with Cassidy Kahn, 2007 Youth Achievement Award winner



Maya Colbert, 16 of Fort Washington MD and her mother, Harriet Corbett-Colbert



Smart Kids' ace circulation volunteer, Alysa Kabakow, with husband Jim, CEO of Media Horizons

*Our thanks to
LINDAMOOD-BELL
LEARNING PROCESSES
Sponsor of the 2007
Youth Achievement Award*

*And to
JETBLUE AIRWAYS
for making it possible for the
2007 Youth Achievement Award
winners to attend
The Sky's The Limit benefit*



Daughters Marisa and Maggie with Marilyn and Andrew Fezza



Monika Shah (left), Director of Operations and Beth Sugerman, Head of the new Winston Preparatory School for students with LD in Norwalk, CT