



NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE®

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MEMBER

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NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE RECOGNIZES TOM KING FOR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER INDUSTRY *Outstanding Chapter Leader Award presented at the 2015 National Children's Alliance Leadership Conference*

Boston, MA, June 15, 2015-- On Sunday, May 31, National Children's Alliance presented **Tom King** with the 2015 Outstanding Chapter Leader Award for his leadership as Executive Director of the **Massachusetts Children's Alliance (MACA)**. The award was presented at the awards reception during the 2015 annual National Children's Alliance Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. (May 31 – June 3, 2015).

Tom has served as a dedicated ally for Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) since joining MACA in 2006 when it was formed. Tom's tireless work has resulted in widespread support for Massachusetts' multidisciplinary teams and CACs in the form of funding opportunities, training, technical assistance and legislative advocacy. His leadership has led to the growth and expansion of CACs, and ultimately more children having access to critical services during times of need.

Currently a resident of Dorchester, Tom proudly hails from the western part of the state growing up in East Longmeadow. A graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and the Smith College School for Social Work, Tom has been in human services for over 20 years. He got his start in Children's Advocacy Centers as the child forensic interview specialist in 1997 for then Hampden County District Attorney William Bennett. Additionally, his previous positions include Assistant Director of Forensic Services for the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and as a therapist at River Valley Counseling Center in Chicopee.

Tom credits the support of his colleagues for the work accomplished in Massachusetts, "I have the absolute pleasure of working with an amazing group of talented professionals committed to improving the lives of child victims here in the Commonwealth. Every day, they work across systems to make sure children have what they need to heal and have happy, healthy lives. I am quite honored to be recognized by our national network, a group for which I have the utmost respect." Nancy Allen Scannell, Board Chair, commented, "The Board of Directors of MACA is extremely proud that our Executive Director, Tom King, was selected to receive this prestigious award from the National Children's Alliance. It is a testament to his strong skills, leadership and commitment to safety and justice for children. At the same time we believe that it is a reflection of the high quality of expertise that exists in Children's Advocacy Centers throughout Massachusetts." In addition to this commendation, the Massachusetts

Children's Alliance earned accredited membership status with NCA for a second time, a very proud “seal of approval” says King.

“We are delighted to present Tom King with one of our highest forms of recognition for his exemplary leadership of the Massachusetts Children’s Alliance. Mr. King has been a true champion for children through his work providing support, technical assistance, and training to Children’s Advocacy Centers throughout the state of Massachusetts. And, we are grateful for his extraordinary commitment and guidance at both the state and national level,” remarked Teresa Huizar, Executive Director of National Children’s Alliance.

For more information about **the Massachusetts Children's Alliance**, please visit **machildrensalliance.org**. And for more information about National Children’s Alliance and the 2015 Leadership Conference and Awards, please visit www.nationalchildrensalliance.org.

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Massachusetts currently offers a state of the art, nationally recognized response to children who have been physically or sexually abused through a statewide network of Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs). The **Massachusetts Children’s Alliance** (MACA) is membership organization comprised of the 11 Children’s Advocacy Centers throughout the Commonwealth. Our mission is to ensure that all children and families affected by sexual and physical violence have access to the high quality, comprehensive, specialized and culturally appropriate services of a CAC.

National Children’s Alliance is the national association and accrediting body for the 777 Children’s Advocacy Centers and 49 State Chapters serving each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Dedicated to helping local communities respond to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient, and put the needs of child victims of abuse first, National Children’s Alliance provides support and advocacy to its accredited membership, as well as numerous developing centers, multidisciplinary teams and child abuse professionals around the country, and the world. As the national authority on multidisciplinary approaches to supporting child victims of abuse, the purpose of National Children’s Alliance is to empower local communities to provide comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse. Founded in 1990, National Children’s Alliance provides accreditation opportunities, financial assistance, training, technical assistance, research and education to communities, child abuse professionals and children’s advocacy centers throughout the United States in support of child abuse intervention, advocacy and prevention.