

*you are cordially invited to attend*

# the annual kid's best friend dinner & benefit

for the education center  
friday, november 7, 2003

*the education center... a place to fit in.*

**The Ballroom** of the Hilton Lisle/Naperville  
3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle

**Kid's Best Friend** Award Winners 2003  
Ed and Kathy Channell

**Business Leadership** Award 2003  
J. Raymond "Ray" Kinney

**Community Leadership** Award 2003  
Dr. Mary Ann Bobosky

**Honorary Event Chairs**  
Sid L. Port, Chairman, Lawson Products | Roberto Ramirez, CEO, Tidy International  
Robert J. Schillerstrom, DuPage County Board Chair | Christopher Lauzen, Illinois State Senator  
George Pradel, Mayor of Naperville

**Hosted by Mary A. Mitchell**, Columnist and Editorial Board Member, Chicago Sun Times

**Cocktail Reception and Silent Auction** 5:30 pm  
**Dinner, Presentation & Live Auction** 7:00 pm

**Please RSVP by October 10, 2003**

Yes, we will attend the Annual **Kid's Best Friend** Dinner and Benefit! My tax-deductible gift made payable to **The Education Center** of Developmental Resources is enclosed. Return lower portion with check to: The Education Center, 113 East Van Buren, Naperville, IL 60540.

\_\_\_ individual tickets at \$75 each

\_\_\_ table sponsor at \$1,500 per table—please list the names of the 10 guests on the reverse side. Please print sponsor name clearly for table signage, event program book and Donor Honor Roll banner.

\_\_\_ I will not be able to attend and have enclosed a donation to help kids succeed in school and in life.

\_\_\_ I have an auction item which I have enclosed or please call me at the number below (*circle one*).

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** (best day or evening): \_\_\_\_\_

All reservations will be held at the door. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information please call 630/420-7807.

**The Education Center** is a nationally acclaimed agency offering premier educational, vocational and counseling services to children and young people in need of special support to succeed in school and in life. The Education Center, headquartered in Naperville, is lead by Executive Director Dr. Michael Litow, and partners with businesses, schools, churches and civic organizations to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of students each year. To find out how you can get involved at The Education Center, through sponsorships, volunteering or mentoring, please call 630/420-7807. Information available at [www.theeducationcenter.org](http://www.theeducationcenter.org).



*Daily Herald, October 22, 2002*

## ***The Education Center to laud those who help kids***

**by Stephanie Penick**

The major problem families have with teens is a lack of communication, said Ed Channell of Naperville.

Channell and his wife, Kathy, are co-chairmen for the "Kid's Best Friend" dinner and benefit for The Education Center. The event is set for Friday at the Lisle Hilton.

"In the lightning fast environment we live in, it's easy to forget we need to slow down and get back to basics," he said. "Like having dinner together...and spending quality time with each other."

Channell, a grandfather of seven, has two grown children and a teenage stepson.

"Teens are under a lot of peer pressure here," he said. "Everyone expects to get a new car the day they turn 16. The kids that don't are embarrassed. They think their parents are being unfair to them."

Channell believes peer pressure can help drive a wedge between parents and teens.

Channell said Dr. Michael Litow, executive director of The Education Center, is a person teens can confide in and trust.

"He listens," Channell said. "He doesn't preach like most of us parents. Kids find a friend in Mike that lasts far beyond their teen years. He's got kids that are out in the real world with real jobs who still communicate with him. He truly becomes a friend who cares."

"In the midst of confusion that can permeate youthful judgment, Mike stands as a beacon of light," added Kathy Channell, who sought Litow's advice when her son was in high school. "Mike defragmented my feelings of inadequacy as a parent while empowering my son with the answers on how to get where he wanted to go. Formulas became clear and so did the path of growth."

What's the difference between Litow's advice and a parent's advice? He listens, no matter what the subject.

"Mike's door was always open, and I feel confident that the door will remain open for life," Kathy Channell said.

### **Empowering Children**

Founded in 1979 by Litow, The Education Center provides educational, vocational and counseling services to young people in need of support to succeed in school and life.

The goal is to empower children ages 4 to 20 with skills to deal with a range of problems. During the past 23 years, thousands of children from all social, cultural and economic backgrounds have been helped to control their behavior to make better choices.

Litow said community involvement with civic leaders who provide internships, mentoring and job opportunities makes the difference. The sense of belonging that comes from mentoring goes far beyond traditional counseling.

*Sponsor Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Guests:*

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |