



Clockwise from top: Bob McCracken, Karen Gallagher, Board President D.Scott Petty, Patti Ahrberg, Jeff Watts

The Saville Center's annual fundraiser looked a little bit different this year. After hearing countless stories of folks who truly make a difference in the lives of children, The Saville Center staff and Board of Directors decided the focus of this year's event, titled "Be the One," would honor those in our community who have gone above and beyond for a child in need.

The first Be the One award, the "Willing Heart" award, was aimed at the "everyday citizen" in our community who volunteers their time and talents on behalf of children. Nominees this year included a Boy Scout troop leader, several non-profit board members, and even a special "reading buddy" from one of the elementary schools. But the winner this year, Patti Ahrberg, has shown her willingness to give of herself beyond measure. Ahrberg not only helped found the local CASA program in its early stages, but twenty years later is still fighting to be a voice for children.

The next Be the One award, the "Giving Spirit" award, was given to a supporter of The Saville Center whose generosity has made it possible for the growth of programs for abused children. Their gifts have allowed for improved services for children and an expanded role of the child advocacy center within the community. Mr. Bob McCracken and Ms. Karen Gallagher were honored for championing The Saville Center for over ten years, including giving financial support which helped develop the on-site medical examinations and victim advocacy programs.

The final award, the "Helping Hands" award, was aimed at the actual service provider, officer, case worker or clinician who provides hands-on protection and support while reducing trauma to children. The CARES Team, which is made up of individuals from child welfare, law enforcement, District Attorney's office, medical and mental health professionals and Saville Center staff, had several nominations for this award. The winner, Sgt. Jeff Watts with the Stillwater Police Department, has worked in law enforcement for the past 20 years. In 2005, he began working in the Criminal Investigations Unit and has investigated hundreds of crimes against children. In a speech, Watts noted that because of The Saville Center's child-friendly environment and services, "we are no longer traumatizing our children with our investigations."

Another message of the evening was the hope that *everyone* would continue to look for ways to "be the one" in the life of a child. This could be protecting a child from harm, volunteering with an agency that helps children, or even being mindful of small ways to encourage and support our community of children.

The Be the One fundraiser, which included outstanding live and silent auction items, many of which were donated by OSU Cowboy Football and honorary Co-chairs, Mike and Kristen Gundy, was a huge success. Executive Director, Brandi White, said that "proceeds from this event will help fund the existing programs at The Saville Center, including forensic interviews, pediatric sexual assault examinations and victim advocacy. Additionally, part of the money raised will go toward a brand new program, "The Counseling Cottage," which is currently being developed. This "Cottage" will provide trauma-focused mental health services to children with confirmed cases of abuse, as well as offering support groups and services for families and caregivers of child victims." To learn more about The Saville Center, visit [www.savillecenter.org](http://www.savillecenter.org)