



West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation Announces 2011 Jackson Award Winners

The six winners of the prestigious Jackson Awards have been announced by the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation. Award categories include: The Arts, Community Service, Education, Health Care, Leadership and Volunteer Service. All winners will be honored at the Charity Gala on November 12 at the Carl Perkins Civic Center.



EDUCATION **Rayna Bomar**

"Rayna loves education and is especially fond of high school students. She wants every student to have a solid education and sees no reason that every student shouldn't succeed in receiving just that. She was instrumental in developing and working with the Madison Academic Magnet High School Forensic Debate Team. She was also a founding member and recruitment chairperson for Madison Academic Support Group—a group dedicated to raising funds for academic endeavors. Beyond that, Rayna served as president of Project Graduation in 2010 which raised more than \$30,000 and has served as a tutor to students of all ages. She's a motivator and a defender of the overlooked and those that might fall between the cracks."

Rayna Bomar began working at Madison County Juvenile Court Services two days after graduating from college with her bachelor's degree and quickly realized that many, if not most, of the problems that her clients encountered were school-related. She also recognized that she needed to be able to better communicate with school personnel if she was going to make a difference for these young people. Therefore, after earning a master's degree in counseling, Rayna went back to graduate school and earned a second master's degree in special education.

While employed at Juvenile Court Services she helped develop the Resource Center which was the first alternative school in Madison County. After graduating from law school she continued that work as a volunteer teaching a course to first time minor offenders and by presenting workshops to the Jackson Area Council on Young Children and various preschools on legal issues related to early childhood education.

She has served as a room mother, field trip chaperone, school volunteer and tutor from the time her son, Sam, was in elementary school through his high school career. Rayna's biggest impact can be felt in the work she has done at Madison Academic Magnet High School. In 2006 Rayna attended the organizational meeting of the Madison Academic Parental Support Group—she was one of four people present at the meeting. Because of Rayna and the efforts of others, the Parent Support Group has grown to include a large percentage of Madison parents, and over \$35,000 has been raised and distributed to the school and its organizations.

Beyond her work with the Parent Support Group, Rayna served in developing and coaching the forensics debate team at the school, has served on the SACS accreditation committee for two different school years, chaired a project graduation which raised more than \$30,000 and assisted in developing a uniform closet to benefit low-income students at Madison, Jackson-Central Merry and Tigrett schools.

To honor the memory of her son, Sam, Rayna, her husband Hugh and many family and friends have established the Sam Bomar Memorial Scholarship Fund. Each year a \$1000 scholarship is awarded to a senior graduating from Madison Academic High School and an additional \$1000 scholarship is awarded to a senior graduating from another high school located in Madison County.

A selfless supporter for youth in our community, Rayna Bomar, the 2011 recipient of the Jackson Award for Education.