

# ***Champions for Children***

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## **Ellen Wagner**



has been selected to receive the Division of Specialized Care for Children's "Outstanding Parent-Partner Champions for Children Award" on July 19, 2007. This award recognizes parents who have had a positive impact on children with special health care needs by partnering collaboratively with DSCC.

For nearly 70 years, DSCC has served over one million families in Illinois. During this time we have had the privilege of working with many individuals who have been strong advocates for children with special needs. The Champions for Children Award is being given to Ms. Wagner to recognize her for her many outstanding contributions and commitment to children with special health care needs.

Ellen has been the sole parent partner on the Medical Home Quality Improvement Team of Children's Healthcare Associates for over 2 years, driving 1½ hours one way to attend meetings. As the mother of a youngster with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, she is committed to the concept of improving care through the quality improvement process. As a team member, Ellen helped create the practice's newsletters, worked with a website designer to develop the practice website, and willingly challenges the practice to be open to the experiences of families.

In addition, Ellen has represented the Illinois Medical Home Project (IMHP) on a national conference call regarding ways to increase parent participation in practices. As the only parent involved, she attended the IMHP facilitator training with the goal of becoming a QI team facilitator. Most recently, Ellen shared her experiences as a team parent partner by presenting at the second Learning Session for the IMHP Phase II practice teams. She has willingly shared her time and expertise as the parent of a CSHCN. Ellen has been a valuable asset for the practice and to the Illinois Medical Home Project, a partnership between DSCC and the Illinois Chapter of AAP.

DSCC is honored to present Ms. Wagner with a certificate recognizing her commitment and dedication to children with special health care needs. Her name will be placed on a plaque that is displayed in the reception area of the DSCC Central Office in Springfield, IL representing the 2007 Outstanding Parent-Partner for the DSCC Champions for Children Award.