



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Bill Stouffer
21st Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 332
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

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Contact: Aaron Baker (573) 751-1507
Toll Free: (866) 768-3987

Sen. Bill Stouffer is Awarded National Family Advocacy Award

JEFFERSON CITY – State Sen. Bill Stouffer, R-Napton, recently received the National Family Week Advocacy Award for his contributions to state and local family advocacy efforts. Sen. Stouffer was honored with the award on Monday, Nov. 21, at the Foster Family Summit in Bridgeton, Mo.

“I am honored and humbled to be recognized for the hard work my staff and I have done on behalf of families,” Sen. Stouffer said. “Of course, those who truly deserve an award are the hardworking parents and guardians throughout our state.”

In the 2005 legislative session, Sen. Stouffer sponsored legislation to create an income tax credit for 50 percent of donations made to qualifying residential care facilities, foster homes and child-placing agencies. Although the legislation did not pass, Sen. Stouffer will reintroduce the measure in 2006.

“My staff and I are dedicated to making it easier for Missouri Baptist Children’s Homes and other youth-serving residential care facilities to raise funds to meet the needs of Missouri children,” Sen. Stouffer said.

Linda Ragusky, director of advancement for Missouri Baptist Children’s Home, notified Sen. Stouffer that he had been nominated for the award, which was given in honor of National Family Week, held each year during the week of Thanksgiving.

“The theme of National Family Week is that strong families are at the center of strong communities,” Ragusky said. “Sen. Stouffer models this theme every day as he promotes the well-being of children and families across the state of Missouri.”

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National Family Week was started in 1968 to give people across the country an opportunity to promote and support the concept of building strong families. For the past 30 years, the Alliance for Children and Families, a national membership group, has coordinated the event.

One prime example of positive family programs in the 21st District is Butterfield Youth Services of Marshall. The not-for-profit organization provides care to emotionally disturbed youths at its intensive care and residential care facilities in Marshall.

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