

Great Friend to Families Awards

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Presented by Storie Street Grille and the Orthodontists & Pediatric Dentists Drs. Mayhew, Conn, Scheffler and Hardaway, the 4th annual Great Friend to Families award recognizes sustained contributions by an individual to the well-being of young children and their families in the High Country area. This year The Playhouse is presenting awards in two categories: Helping Hands and Helping Hearts. Helping Hands awards celebrates professionals who over the course of their careers have shown extraordinary dedication to improving the lives of children and families and Helping Hearts awards recognizes individuals who have touched the lives of children and families through generous philanthropy and/or outstanding volunteerism. The Helping Hands award winners are Jim Atkinson, Nancy Blair, Barbara Case, Heather Jordan, Crystal Kelly, Trish Lanier, Margaret Mullins, Gay Lynn Williams, Mary Willis, and Joan Zimmerman. The Helping Hearts are Susan Bolash, Christopher Clark, Kathleen Collins, Rebekah Cummings, Beth Darnell, Carolyn Garland, Betty Green, Jack and Karen James, Jo Anne Jenkins, Diandra (Lynn) Patterson, Bob and Wimsey Powell, Kim Roberts, and Catherine Wilkinson. A group of local leaders (Susan Jones of BREMCO, Ron Henries of the United Way, and last year's winners Dick and Joan Hearn) will choose from the Helping Hands and Helping Hearts awards one overall winner who will be further honored as the 2012 Great Friend to Families award-winner. This overall award winner, who will be announced at the luncheon, will receive \$500 to donate to the High Country nonprofit of their choice. The luncheon will feature music and reflections from distinguished songwriter and teacher Lisa Baldwin and will be catered by presenting sponsor Storie Street Grille. A past Teacher of the Year at Cove Creek School, Baldwin is a professional performer and songwriter and has created her own program for introducing very young children to the love of learning through music called Music, Minds, and Motion. Catered by Storie Street Grille, the luncheon will be from noon to 2 pm on Saturday April 21 at the High Country Home Builders' Plaza (755 NC Hwy. 105 By-Pass in Boone). Tickets are \$20 per person, of which \$15 is tax-deductible. [Click here to buy a ticket.](#) Proceeds from the event will benefit The Children's Playhouse, a nonprofit children's museum in Boone. For more information, see www.goplayhouse.org.