

SALUTING THE CARING FORCE

Knowles helps kids get through trauma

Ask Leslie Powell Knowles why she works on behalf of child victims and she'll tell you she never wanted to do anything else.

Knowles established the Child & Adolescent Trauma Program (CATP) at **The Women's Center**, in New Bedford in 1997, and has served as program manager for the past 16 years. CATP provides innovative and evidence-based treatment to child victims of sexual, physical and domestic violence.

"Leslie is an exceptional child trauma therapist who has a dedication to the work that is unparalleled," said Pamela MacLeod-Lima, executive director of the Women's Center. "She began work 16 years ago and has built the Child & Adolescent Trauma Program into a model program that has been recognized throughout the area for its excellence."

Since its inception, the CATP program has supported more than 1,400 victims, ages 1-18 and their non-offending caregivers. Knowles and her colleagues choreograph treatment to address symptoms of each individual child regardless of age, gender or type of victimization. Her team is constantly seeking new avenues to address the myriad issues that traumatized children present.

Knowles has published articles on treatment issues in art therapy journals and has presented at numerous conferences, workshops and trainings around the country, and she was among the founding members of community leaders to form the Children's Advocacy Center



Leslie Powell Knowles established the innovative Children & Adolescent Trauma Program to help young victims.

of Bristol County (CAC). The 10-year journey that led to the doors of the CAC opening is one of her proudest accomplishments; the center has brought together professionals from many different disciplines that are now closely collaborating to support child victims and to prevent child abuse in the country.

Knowles continues to attend trainings, monitor trends and current research to improve services and bring new skills to her work with both shelter and community clients. She also serves as board chair for the Children's Advocacy Center and plans to stay involved "forever."