COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY AWARD
Nomination Form

As a group seeking to assure that adolescent females in the juvenile justice system receive equitable services, the Iowa Task Force for Young Women recognizes that it takes committed professionals at all levels of service provision and policy-making to create meaningful, comprehensive, and lasting change in how girls are served. To honor these efforts the Task Force annually recognizes a **Service Provider**, an **Administrator** and a **Policy Shaper** who demonstrate the characteristics of Courageous Advocacy.*

The Task Force also recognizes a **Courageous Girl or Young Woman**, age 10 to 24, who has demonstrated determination in overcoming adversity in her life and/or in challenging sexist treatment of girls in her community.

Leaders who exemplify Courageous Advocacy engage in the following behaviors:

1. Challenging the process.
These leaders recognize that the traditional model of juvenile justice does not adequately meet the needs of most adolescent females. They realize that girls' unique needs have historically been overlooked and are still too often dismissed. Rather than silently acquiescing to a process that fails to serve girls well, they challenge the attitudes and policies that work against the holistic empowerment of girls.

2. Inspiring a shared vision.
For some professionals, recognition of the value of meaningful and effective services for girls is preceded by a personal re-examination of one's values about girls and women and their life experiences. Leaders recognize this and create safe opportunities for personal reflection among their peers. Through this process and across differences of culture, gender, and race/ethnicity, they encourage a common vision for appropriate and gender-responsive services for girls.

3. Enabling others to act.
Leaders who exemplify Courageous Advocacy share the resources and contacts necessary for others to engage in action that facilitates change towards equitable services for girls. Through collaboration and coalition building, they enable others to develop the reciprocal relationships necessary for system change.

4. Modeling the way.
These leaders know that necessary system changes cannot happen by continuing to do "business as usual." By modeling new ways of individual and group interaction, they demonstrate the value of shared power and shared investment in mutual relationships. These leaders are reflective and able to self-redirect when old habits of traditional hierarchical relationships challenge their progress. They know that system change happens when myriad small changes combine, and they value the small changes that may otherwise go unrecognized by the larger power structure.

5. Encouraging the heart.
Knowing that system change can be a slow process with setbacks and discouragement, leaders utilize opportunities to uplift others in their work. They speak and act with empathy about girls' lives and encourage compassion rather than fear in the attitudes and policies of the juvenile justice system. Leaders who exemplify Courageous Advocacy encourage others to find the often deeply personal motivations for their professional involvement in girls' lives, reconnecting them to the humanity of improving girls' lives.

*Courageous Advocacy is a leadership model adapted by girl-advocate Linda Albrecht and described in Guiding Principles of Promising Female Programming (OJJDP, 1998)

Name of Nominee_____ **Phone**_____

Address, City and Zip of Nominee_____

Please circle category of nomination: *Service provider* *Administrator* *Policy Shaper* *Girl/Young woman*

Your Name_____ **Your Phone**_____

Your Address, City and Zip_____

Please return five copies of your nomination materials (this form, a narrative, your adult nominee's resume and any letters of support) before **March 12, 2010** to Kathy Nesteby, Dept. of Human Rights, Lucas State Office Building, 321 E. 12th St., Des Moines, IA 50319. Please call (515) 281-6915 or 1-800-558-4427 or email kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov with questions.