

**RUBY BRIDGES, YVONNE SIMONS, AND JEANNE WHITE-GINDER
NAMED 2015 ACM GREAT FRIEND TO KIDS AWARDEES**
— ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS RECOGNIZES BRIDGES, SIMONS, AND WHITE-
GINDER FOR ADVOCATING THE POWER OF CHILDREN TO CHANGE THE WORLD
AT INTERACTIVITY 2015 —

Arlington, VA — The Association of Children's Museums (ACM) will present its 2015 Great Friend to Kids Award to Ruby Bridges, Yvonne Simons, and Jeanne White-Ginder on Friday, May 15, 2015, at a 10:30 a.m. ceremony at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown.

The Great Friend to Kids Award is presented annually to honor those who have made significant contributions to strengthening education and advancing the interests of children. Bridges, Simons, and White-Ginder were selected based on their own life work and their ongoing contributions to *The Power of Children* initiative of The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, this year's InterActivity host organization. The Award will be presented by Dr. William Adams, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Immediately following the presentation of the Award, all three awardees will join a moderated armchair discussion moderated by Dr. Jeffrey Patchen, president and CEO of The Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

Ruby Bridges made national headlines in 1960 when, at age six, she became the first Black student to attend a formerly all-White elementary school in New Orleans—an historic event that marked the beginning of desegregation in the U.S. In 1999, she founded the Ruby Bridges Foundation to promote the values of tolerance, respect, and appreciation of all differences through educational programs and service learning projects.

Yvonne Simons is the executive director of The Anne Frank Center USA in New York City, the oldest partner organization to the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam where Anne Frank was forced into hiding during the Holocaust. Since it was first published in 1947, Anne Frank's diary has inspired millions with its message of hope and bravery. Yvonne Simons brings the spirit of Anne Frank to stimulate public dialogue about contemporary issues of social injustice and educational inequity.

Jeanne White-Ginder is the mother of Ryan White, a hemophiliac who, in 1984 at age 13, contracted HIV/AIDS from a tainted blood treatment. Immediately shunned by his fearful community, Ryan and Jeanne fought for his right to attend school and live a normal life. Their efforts successfully moved the U.S. Congress to pass the Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act, named in Ryan's honor.

The award ceremony and armchair discussion will take place during the closing plenary session at the Association's annual conference, InterActivity 2015: *Bringing the World to Children*. The conference, which runs May 13-15, explores what it means to be a children's museum in a time of increasing global connectivity through sessions on pedagogy, making as a learning process, and civic engagement.

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Bridges, Simons, and White-Ginder are the 25th recipients of ACM's Great Friend to Kids Award. Past recipients include: Eric Carle (2013), Reggio Children (2012), Dr. Joe L. Frost (2008), Dr. T. Berry Brazelton (2006), UNICEF (2002), Hillary Rodham Clinton (1998), Peggy Charren (1994), Dr. Howard Gardner (1992), and Michael Spock (1991). All recipients are listed on the ACM website www.ChildrensMuseums.org.

Media are welcome to attend the award presentation and can obtain a press pass from the InterActivity 2015 registration desk on the second floor of the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown.

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About the Association of Children's Museums

In an increasingly complex world, children's museums provide a place where all kids can learn through play and exploration with the caring adults in their lives. There are approximately 400 children's museums around the world, which annually reach more than 31 million visitors. ACM provides leadership, professional development, advocacy, and resources for its member organizations and individuals. To learn more about ACM and to find an ACM-member children's museum near you, visit www.ChildrensMuseums.org.

About The Children's Museum

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is a nonprofit institution committed to creating extraordinary family learning experiences across the arts, sciences and humanities that have the power to transform the lives of children and families. For more information about the tourist attraction and museum, visit www.childrensmuseum.org.