



# MAC'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**Award Presentation to Joseph P. Kennedy III, on behalf of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy,  
by Hubie Jones at MAC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Celebration**

A critical component of MAC's multi-strategic approach is to enact laws that promote and protect the rights of children. And so when we thought about potential honorees for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we naturally considered those elected officials who have made a difference in the lives of the children MAC advocates for.

We did not have to look either long or far to find the giant of all legislative champions for children, Senator Ted Kennedy.

When the Senator and Vicky graciously agreed last spring to have MAC bestow its honor upon him at our event, we of course were painfully aware that he might not be with us when November 13 arrived.

And while we still feel great sadness in the wake of his passing, let us tonight remember and celebrate Ted Kennedy for what he meant to children in Massachusetts and throughout the nation—a legacy that brought hope and touched the lives of millions of children and that will last many lifetimes.

I am not going to recite here his every legislative accomplishment- it is a staggering record and parts of it are listed in your program.

Sometimes less is more.

Because the senator was such a lover of show tunes, we decided to pay tribute to him this evening through song and video. The Boston Children's Chorus has rejoined us and will sing a song familiar to us all, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

(After song)

Thank you so much Children's Chorus. That was just spectacular and beyond words.

We have an award from MAC for the Kennedy family in honor of the senator. It commemorates this event in a meaningful way, for no one more than he understood that advocacy for children is best accomplished through the eyes of a child, the heart of a parent, the caring of community and the laws of the land.

Accepting this award on behalf of Vicky and the Kennedy family is Joseph P. Kennedy III.

We are honored to have Joe with us tonight. Joe Kennedy is on his way to establishing a record of public service in the great tradition of the Kennedys.

Joe Kennedy has already established a commitment to children and to social justice. He recently graduated Harvard Law School. In his second and third years, he advocated for low income families at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau for 20 hours a week. He also worked for a pro-bono law firm helping Boston area families avoid foreclosure, and helped design and teach a program for at-risk youth in Jamaica Plain.

Before attending law school, Joe served in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic, where one of his achievements was helping a group of Dominican men — who were earning ten cents a day carrying tourists on their backs up a rocky cliff to see some waterfalls — to organize to earn better wages.

We know that each member in succeeding generations of the Kennedy family chooses his or her own path to public service. Joe, we are looking forward to crossing paths with you many times in the future.

On behalf of Massachusetts Advocates for Children, we would like to present you with this award for your uncle, Senator Ted Kennedy.