

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 3, 2016



Talbert House Celebrates Great Fathers in Our Community
Griffey Sr., LaRosa, and Wallis honored as Fathers of the Year

CINCINNATI— Talbert House recognized Ken Griffey Sr., Buddy LaRosa, and Brad Wallis as 2016 Fathers of the Year at its eighth annual Fatherhood Celebration Luncheon, presented by the Hatton Foundation, on June 2 at the Hyatt Regency Downtown.

George Kenneth Griffey is known for his outstanding 19-year major league career, winning two World Series and appearing in all three All-Star games. Off the field, he is an accomplished father of three: Lathesia, known as “Ti”, and two major league ballplayers Craig, who played briefly for the Seattle Mariners, and future Hall of Famer Ken Griffey Jr.

Donald S. “Buddy” LaRosa opened his first pizzeria in Western Hills in 1954. Two years prior he married JoAnne Augustine. They have four children: Denise, Michael, Mark, and Tom; 13 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Buddy supports many schools and charitable organizations and is the founder of the Cincinnati Golden Gloves for Youth Boxing Program.

Brad Wallis is a graduate of Talbert House’s Fatherhood Project. In 2012 he came to the program as a father of a two-year old daughter and facing many personal problems. In March 2014, Brad was granted full, legal custody of his daughter and credits the Fatherhood Project for giving him the confidence to step up and provide what he felt was best for his daughter, as well as equipping him with the tools to be a better dad. Today Brad is a graduate of the University of Phoenix and working as a software developer, but most importantly a responsible, committed and nurturing father.

The event chaired by Jesse Mullins, Senior Financial Advisor at Watchpoint Financial Group, welcomed 600 guests and raised over \$300,000 for the Talbert House Fatherhood Project. The Hatton Foundation, the Farmer Family Foundation, Schiff Family Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Mercy Health, Midland Atlantic, and PLK Communities were among a long list of generous sponsors. The luncheon is held as an annual fundraiser allowing Talbert House to provide services at no charge to the fathers.

Talbert House thanks all those who supported the event, as well as the Fatherhood committee: Jesse Mullins, John Silverman, Andrew Limke, Taylor Uehlin, Mark Addy, Jeff Brokamp, Gary Fisher, Carol Goodman, Mark Gordon, David Hoguet, Peter Klekamp, John Krug, Dr. Mitchel Livingston, Gwen McFarlin, Alex Meacham, Bob Meacham, Greg Miller, Michael Pahutski, Julie Raleigh, and Ben Willingham.

###

Talbert House is a community-wide nonprofit that operates within five service lines: Adult Behavioral Health, Community Care, Court and Corrections, Housing, and Youth Behavioral Health. Children, adults and families benefit from these proven services. Each year, Talbert House serves over 37,500 clients face to face and an additional 28,000 are reached through prevention services throughout Greater Cincinnati. Talbert House’s mission has two basic purposes: to improve social behavior and enhance personal recovery and growth.