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**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**Winners of 2009 Butler Awards Announced at CAN Appreciation Reception**

Richard Troxell, Founder and Executive Director of House the Homeless; Carol Wright, Director of Education Programs for Skillpoint Alliance; and the Passages Collaboration were announced as winners of the 2009 Butler Awards at the Community Action Network Appreciation Reception on November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Mexican American Cultural Center.

Richard Troxell received the **Community Leader Award** for his efforts to end homelessness. Troxell co-founded House the Homeless and established what is now the oldest grass roots all-volunteer nonprofit organization made up of homeless and formerly homeless people in Texas. He is currently working on "Let's Get to Work," an initiative to give homeless individuals a path to self-sufficiency with jobs that pay a living wage.

Carol Wright received the **Bridge Builder Award** for her work over the past two decades to create career and educational opportunities for low income students in Austin. First with the Austin Chamber of Commerce and then with Skillpoint Alliance, Wright has forged partnerships between industry and education to improve young people's access to education, internships and jobs.

Kathleen Ridings, Director of Social Services for the Salvation Army, accepted the **Spirit of Collaboration Award** on behalf of the Passages Collaboration. The Passages Collaboration is a partnership of agencies that provide housing and support services to individuals and families who are homeless. Passages Collaboration partners include: Caritas of Austin, Family Connections, Foundation Communities, Foundation for the Homeless, LifeWorks, the Salvation Army, and SafePlace.

The Butler Awards were created in 2006 to honor Fred Butler's many years of service to our community on the eve of his retirement as the Executive Director of CAN. The intent was that the award would help to ensure that the traits Fred Butler modeled for our community as a leader, as a bridge builder and as a master at collaboration would live on and be recognized in our community.

(See attached photo of award winners – from left to right – Carol Wright, Richard Troxell, and Kathleen Ridings.)

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Carol Wright, recipient of the Bridge Builder Award; Richard Troxell, winner of the Community Leader Award; and Kathleen Ridings on behalf of the Passages Collaboration for the Spirit of Collaboration Award.