

Tracy's Kids Red Carpet Fundraiser 2016

Tracy Council, MA, ATR-BC



Tracy's Kids Art Therapists (left to right): Jane Woo, Katharine Phlegar, Elizabeth Burks, Tracy Council, Jessica Girard, Catherine Rubin, Kristin Ramsey. (Not pictured Kathryn Martin and Courtney Martin).

February 10, 2016 marked the eleventh annual Tracy's Kids Red Carpet fundraiser at Gallery Place in Washington, DC. Tracy's Kids is a nonprofit organization that has grown out of the work begun by Tracy Council at Georgetown University Hospital's Lombardi Cancer Center in 1991. The work of Tracy's Kids makes a difference for thousands of young people and their families each year, and its DC Red Carpet event raises awareness of the profession of art therapy among politicians and the public.

Council's work, championed by Tracy's Kids Chairman and childhood cancer survivor Matt Gerson since 1998, serves patients in five hospitals: Lombardi and Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC; Pediatric Specialists of Virginia in Falls Church; Inova Fairfax Hospital in Fairfax, VA; Methodist Children's Hospital in San Antonio, TX; and New York

Presbyterian Hospital. Nine art therapists implement the Tracy's Kids programs, emphasizing an individualized Open Studio approach and serving some 10,000 young patients and their families.

Based in Washington, DC, the fundraiser brings together art therapy, politics and entertainment. Red Carpet Hosts such as Congressman Bob Goodlatte and Senator Patrick Leahy greet guests as they meet the art therapists and program participants, and enjoy a silent auction of patient artwork before seeing their choice of award-nominated movies.



Tracy's Kids Honorees (left to right): David Cohen, Tom Brokaw, Fred Upton, Diana DeGette, and Matt Gerson.

The Tracy's Kids Courage Award for 2016 was presented to Tom Brokaw, who spoke candidly about how cancer upended his life, and described his wish to take on the battle for the children he met at the hospital. Congressman Fred Upton and Congresswoman Diana DeGette also received the Courage Award for their bipartisan advocacy in passing 21st Century Cures, legislation to accelerate the development of cures and medical breakthroughs in the United States.