

## **Nancy Stuart Tonkin Advocacy Award**

### **About the Award**

The Children's Home Society of West Virginia Board of Directors is establishing the *Nancy Stuart Tonkin Advocacy Award* beginning in 2018 to annually honor an outstanding advocate(s) who: through leadership, determination and passion, has positively advanced the well being of children and families in West Virginia. The recipient(s) will exemplify the qualities Nancy Tonkin demonstrated in her life-long professional and personal efforts as an advocate for the well being of children in West Virginia. Advocacy, for purposes of this award, encompasses all of the means by which the child welfare system may be improved.



One or more award winners will be selected annually and presented with a cash award of up to \$1000 at the at the Children's Home Society Annual Meeting in November of each year.

### **About the Honoree**

Nancy Stuart Tonkin exemplified advocacy in her work with Children's Home Society and others. Nancy was successful in all her roles at Children's Home Society. She was an employee and used research to improve casework protocols. She was a Board Member, Board Chairperson, and Board Member Emeritus. Nancy was an effective recruiter of board members, supporters and volunteers. She was tireless in communicating the mission of CHS to the community and interpreting the community's reaction. Nancy Chaired the Board of Directors during the 100-anniversary year. Nancy was responsible for linking Children's Home Society with OMEGA and other organizations which resulted in millions of dollars of support for programs. Nancy lobbied for Children's Home Society and other child welfare agencies and was successful in improving foster care payments allowing the Society to significantly expand their foster care program. She was trusted and effective advisor to the Children's Home Society in all public policy matters. She was a strong advocate for permanency, child well-being and family support services.

**Nancy Stuart Tonkin Advocacy Award  
Children's Home Society of West Virginia  
Nomination Form 2021**

*Note: Answer questions as concisely as possible but take whatever space is needed to adequately present the case for your Nominee*

***Nominations must be submitted by September 3, 2021***

Name of Nominee:

Nominee E-mail:

Nomination Submitted By:

Position of Person Submitting the Nomination:

E-mail of Person Submitting the Nomination:

**Identify Category or Categories of Eligibility** (from attached list):

**Identify Advocacy Category or Categories** (from attached list):

**Provide Details on the nature of the advocacy efforts**, including how the case for need was developed, the vision for change, what actions steps were taken, and the resulting positive outcome(s) for children and families:

**Describe How the Nominee meets** the Selection Criteria (criteria attached):

Nancy Stuart Tonkin Advocacy Award  
Children's Home Society of West Virginia  
Nomination Form 2021  
**Attachment Page 1**

**Eligibility Categories**

- Current CHS employees.
- Past CHS employees with at least 4 years of service.
- Current CHS foster parent
- Past CHS foster parent with at least 4 years of service.
- CHS adoptive family.
- Current or past CHS Board member.
- CHS Director Emeritus.
- Current CHS volunteers.
- Past CHS volunteers with at least 4 years of service.
- Current CHS Advisory Board Member.
- Past CHS Advisory Board Members with at least 4 years of service.
- CHS contributor/supporter/donor.
- Current/Former Youth Served By A CHS Program.

**Advocacy Categories:**

*Advocacy, for purposes of this award, encompasses all of the means by which the child welfare system may be improved, including:*

- Policy analysis.
- Public and or media outreach.
- Education.
- Organizing others to become active child advocates.
- Strengthening alliances with partners and/or policy makers.
- Administrative or legislative policy changes.
- Efforts that have made a significant difference in the well-being of an individual child or group of children, or family.

Nancy Stuart Tonkin Advocacy Award  
Children's Home Society of West Virginia  
Nomination Form 2021  
**Attachment Page 2**

**Selection Criteria**

*Awardees will be selected based on the description and evidence provided, which shows how they contributed to improving the lives of WV children. The criteria for evaluating nominations may include, but are not limited to:*

- Knowledge and passion in framing issues, solutions and “making the case” for positive change.
- Actively champions issue(s) and plays a lead role in education and awareness and pushing the limits of debate.
- Collaborates with others to further child well-being priorities, programs, and issues.
- Remains persistent, visionary, and positive.