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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Kids In The Middle Announces 2019 Champion of Kids Award Recipient

Non-profit honors St. Louis Pediatric Physician for Commitment to Children in the Community

ST. LOUIS (April 4, 2019) Kids In The Middle (KITM) announced that Dr. Ryia Ross-Peterson, Pediatrician at Mercy Clinic Pediatrics – Ladue, will receive the Agency's 2019 Champion of Kids Award. Dr. Ross-Peterson will be recognized at KITM's Annual Gala at Ameristar Casino Resort & Spa on April 13, 2019.

Dr. Ross-Peterson has served on the KITM Advisory Council for 25 years and is an integral part in helping KITM develop relationships with other area pediatricians. She was selected to receive the award because of her continued dedication to children in the community and KITM. Ryia has raised more than \$50,000 to help provide counseling services for children and families "in the middle" of divorce as well as sponsored the creation of a sand tray therapy room.

"It's an honor for Kids In The Middle to have the support of Dr. Ross-Peterson," says Scott Myers, of KITM. "Her passion for our mission and commitment to helping spread the word about what we do at KITM is beyond appreciated and she without a doubt deserves this award."

Ryia graduated from Saint Louis University School of Medicine, Magna Cum Laude, in 1991 and completed her Pediatric Residency at Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center – Pediatrics. She has been a practicing physician for nearly 25 years at Mercy Clinic Pediatrics – Ladue, known initially as Clayton Pediatric Associates.

The Champion of Kids Award will be presented at the 2019 Annual Kids In The Middle Gala: Dream The Impossible on Saturday, April 13, 2019, from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at Ameristar Casino Resort & Spa – St. Charles. Those that wish to honor Ryia may do so by purchasing a ticket to the event, purchasing a table or sponsorship, or sending a donation to KITM in lieu of attending. Tickets and sponsorships are available by calling (314) 909-9922 or visit https://www.kidsinthemiddle.org/upcoming-events/.

About Kids In The Middle

Kids In The Middle (KITM) helps children and families transition to a new way of life before, during and after separation and divorce, for the sake of creating healthier futures for all involved. Founded in 1977, KITM is a nationally accredited non-profit agency that provides comprehensive and confidential counseling, education and support services focused on the entire family. KITM is a proud member of the United Way of Greater St. Louis and receives funds from the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund. KITM is located at 2650 S. Hanley Rd. in St. Louis, Mo. For more information, visit www.kidsinthemiddle.org.