

President of Mokena firm receives award

[by Mokena Messenger Staff](#)

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Child Initiative International recently honored T.C. Leonard with its 2011 Humanitarian of the Year Award, given to a person or company that has helped CII at an outstanding level.

Leonard is President of Grant Staff, a Mokena based development consulting firm that provides not-for-profit organizations with grant writing, research, strategy, and marketing services. She also is a Certified Fundraising Executive with 20 years experience in development work.

“TC and Grant Staff have gone way above and beyond in their work for CII,” said the Rev. Phil Kilkas, CII’s Chairman of the Board. “Our relationship with Grant Staff has grown into much more than just a client consultant relationship and that is because TC truly understands, supports, and believes in what we do. She clearly sees the vision we have for the future of CII.”

CII began its efforts in Uganda, Africa in 2006 when Kilkas and CII Board Member Ray Zinkel visited the county during a Mission trip and saw the devastating living conditions of the county with nearly 1 million orphans.

“We believe that the children are one of the most important gifts – they just need a fighting chance. That is why Child Initiative International exists and we are thankful that Grant Staff is helping us raise the money that enables us to continue that work.”

Leonard expressed her appreciation for being recognized by the organization: “We are honored to be a part of Child Initiative International noble mission and journey. In the United States and around the globe, children are fighting seeming insurmountable obstacles such as disease, abuse, slavery, starvation, and feelings of being forgotten and loved.” Leonard said, “To be able to help amazing organizations like CII, who are saving the lives of children; that’s why I love what I do.”