

## 2005 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO CHILDREN AWARD

### *Kathy Zadina - Columbus and Helen Raikes - Lincoln*



Kathy Zadina is a 2005 recipient of the NeAEYC Distinguished Service to Children Award. Kathy has been an exemplary leader for NeAEYC, the early childhood profession, young children and families. She became one of the trainers of the Management Training Program and was a key person in having

the program offered in the Columbus area.

She has continued her own professional development by attending UNO and earning an advanced degree.

Kathy is a strong advocate for NAEYC on the local, state, regional, and national level. At a Week of the Young Child brainstorm session, Kathy masterminded the Thumbprint's Quilt idea. The quilts were traveled across the state many times to be displayed at the State Capitol, conferences, businesses, and statewide events.

She has provided leadership in the Columbus area in an effort to work with businesses on the importance of early childhood care and education.

Kathy provides leadership, professionalism, support and stimulating projects for our early childhood profession. Her determination, gentleness, perseverance, and commitment to quality have made a difference for the young children in Nebraska.

Helen Raikes is a 2005 recipient of the NeAEYC Distinguished Service to Children Award. She has been a long-time member of the NeAEYC, and a tireless advocate on behalf of causes affecting young children and their families. Following are a few of the recent projects she has initiated or worked with closely:



- ♥ Working on a project to assess childcare quality characteristics of the early care and education workforce, and now to pilot Quality Rating Systems.
- ♥ Worked intensely with the QUINCE Project, a random assignment intervention to test intensive consultation models in family childcare.
- ♥ Co-authored the book, Beautiful Beginnings: An Infant Toddler Curriculum with Jane McCall Whitmer.
- ♥ Currently working on another book, Extending the Dance: Relationship-Based Approaches to Infant Toddler Care, with Carolyn Edwards.
- ♥ Serves on the board of directors of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation and the Susan A. Buffett Foundation.
- ♥ Working intensively with the Nebraska Coalition for Early Childhood Education and others to bring more resources to early childhood education in Nebraska.