



Amplify Ideas | Advise Initiatives | Align Partners | Accelerate Change

Thank you for selecting me as the recipient of the 2023 National Safe Place Network HEROES for Youth Award. And a special thanks to Tammy Hopper for her unwavering commitment to find me. I'm sorry I can't be with you in person. While you all are learning in Louisville, I will be closing on a new house at the beach as a symbol of my newfound freedom.

True to my word, I did not retire when I left the Forum 18 months ago. I just escaped the pressures of executive non-profit management. I went on to become a founding partner in Knowledge to Power Catalysts, where I am very busy honing and sharing the ideas you are honoring me for today.

It didn't escape me that you chose to honor me on the 40th anniversary of the Safe Place program. Safety is the cornerstone of Maslow's needs hierarchy. But to help young people in immediate crisis move forward, safe places need to be places where young people can find caring adults who can help them feel they belong. What better way to express belonging than to have young people see the Safe Place symbol in the windows of the everyday organizations in their communities.

Congratulations on 40 years of growth, innovation, and service. Thank you again for honoring my work, which only exists because of the work you and thousands of others in the youth development fields have done committed to addressing and reducing youth problems in ways that lead to their being fully prepared and fully engaged.



Partners: Katherine Plog Martinez | Karen Pittman | Merita Irby

talkwithus@kpcatalysts.com | <https://kpcatalysts.com> | <https://changingtheoddsremix.com>