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**NY TIMES # 1 BEST SELLING AUTHOR, LAURA SCHROFF TO SPEAK
AT THE CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN AWARDS LUNCHEON**

Austin, TX– October 25, 2016- Helping Hand Home for Children is pleased to announce that NY Time’s #1 bestselling author Laura Schroff will be the featured speaker for the 17th Annual Champions for Children Awards Luncheon presented by Don Hewlett Chevrolet Buick. The event will be held on Tuesday, October 25th at noon, at the JW Marriott Austin. Proceeds from the event benefit Helping Hand Home for Children. It is the mission of Helping Hand Home to provide a nurturing and therapeutic home for children who have suffered unimaginable abuse and neglect.

Laura Schroff is a bestselling author and a passionate and compelling voice on the power of small acts of kindness and mentorship. Laura inspires others to give back through her book, *An Invisible Thread*, which brings to life the inspiring true story of an 11-year-old panhandler, a busy sales executive, and their unlikely friendship which started almost thirty years ago. Schroff will be available to autograph copies of her books, including her latest book, *Angels on Earth* which releases the day of Champions for Children, on October 25th.

Ron Franklin will serve as masters of ceremonies for the 17th year. The Chairs for this year’s Champions for Children awards luncheon are Tracey Bury and Susan & Gary Farmer. Helping Hand Home will honor Austin community caregivers and volunteers for their exemplary work with children’s causes. The 2016 Honorees include: Harrison Cheung, Volunteer, Partnerships for Children, Holly Engleman, Principal, University of Texas - University Charter School, Representative Elliott Naishtat and Jessica Robledo, Austin Police Department Assistant Chief.

This year’s Philanthropic Honorees are longtime Austinites Jan and Bobby Jenkins. They have been tremendous supporters of the Austin community for decades. As owners of ABC Home & Commercial Services, the Jenkin's have instilled a culture of philanthropy among their employees. For more information about Champions for Children or Helping Hand Home, please contact Julie Freeman, Director of Development at 512.600.7891 or by cell at 512.773.5605 or jfreeman@helpinghandhome.org.

About Helping Hand Home for Children: Since 1893, Helping Hand Home has transformed the lives of thousands of children by providing a nurturing and therapeutic home for those who have suffered unimaginable abuse and neglect. Our goal is to protect and restore the lives of victimized children so that those without hope may reclaim their futures. Through our Residential Treatment Center, onsite charter school and a growing Foster and Adoption Program, we combine loving care, professional treatment and innovative services that deliver real results. For more information about Helping Hand Home for Children, please visit www.helpinghandhome.org.

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