



THE ED BLOCK COURAGE AWARD FOUNDATION, INC.

COURAGE • COMPASSION • COMMITMENT • COMMUNITY • CHARACTER



The Ed Block Courage Award Foundation throughout the past has placed an emphasis on the “Five C’s” - courage, compassion, commitment, community, character - and the National Football League. Ed Block described character as an attribute of mind, blind faith without doubt, confidence, fearlessness and bravery, triumphant overall. The Courage Award recipients selected by his peers symbolize the elements of the “Five C’s.” By your appearance here today, you become a Courage House crusader. Vince Lombardi spoke of commitment and the difference between success and failure as not lack of strength; not lack of knowledge; but rather lack of will. Character rather than education is man’s greatest need and man’s greatest safeguard. Character is higher than intellect.

Block wrote “compassion is the soul of all religion. Compassion is not only the noble way of life, but a great guide for the truly noble of heart. Compassion manifests itself in the desire to help one’s fellow man, to eliminate the suffering of those who cannot help themselves.” Childhood is supposed to be a time of innocence. Unfortunately for countless children in our community this phase of their lives is a period of violence and fear. According to Childhelp USA, approximately 3 million reports of possible child abuse are made to child protective agencies each year. However, the actual incidence of abuse and neglect is estimated to be three times greater than the number reported to authorities. Consequently, child abuse is an epidemic that affects us all.

Courage, commitment, compassion, community, and character are molded by virtue of all who are present in the Courage House logo. As well as those here tonight to support awareness and the prevention of abused children. Serving the community and its needs, volunteers working with people of any religion or creed can bring positive change to children and families who receive care through the Courage House National Support Network for Kids. Thankfully, children in need are able to find support, safety, and compassion through a Courage House in their community. Your active involvement and work will heal, renew and bring love, hope and courage to our community and enable us to honor the commitment to the children who need all you can give.

My hope is to awaken awareness and prevention of child abuse, while working to break the cycle of abusive action taught by those who abuse. Hence, inspiring a better world. The Ed Block Courage Award recipients’ courage, compassion, character, community and commitment inspire The Ed Block Courage Award Foundation to establish a Courage House in every NFL city. The vision that was a recurring dream more than 30-years ago of a sports event to raise funds for abused children is today sanctioned by the NFL and the partners that formulate the logo of the *Courage House National Support Network for Kids*. There are a number of key people who have played a major role in sustaining the legacy of our organization and, more importantly, it’s *Courage House National Support Network for Kids*.

I ask that, once you read this, you place the legacy of the Courage Awards, the mission of The Ed Block Courage Award Foundation and the vision to help abused children in a very special corner of your heart.

Help Us Help Abused Children,

Sam Lamantia, Jr.
Chairman of the Board/CEO