**CHARITY EVENT SPEECH**

**FOR**

**JANE DABNEY**

Hello everyone!!! It’s wonderful to be here today, recognizing the incredible work being done by Child Advocates. It’s also a great honor to be acknowledged by an organization that has meant so much to me and to those in need, throughout our community. I want to thank so many people for their enthusiasm, commitment, and support of an organization whose mission and mandate is to advocate for those whose voices cannot yet help themselves. To Wendy Burks, my close friend and chair of this event, thank you for doing a magnificent job of organizing and coordinating today’s festivities. Along with your team, you’ve shown us that with commitment and attention to detail, we all can feel celebrated and nurtured, and, after all, isn’t that what really counts when supporting others? To my friends, family, colleagues and community here today, thank you. Your encouragement and support mean the world to me... forget about being the wind beneath my wings... you’re the fuel that feeds this fire!!

Everyone has a story and usually has a reason to do what they do to try and make the world a better place... for someone... some **THING**... some **cause**. I am no exception. Growing up in a very humble background, my parents were the two most powerful influences in my life.... my father, tragically addicted to alcohol, and my mother, a Chinese immigrant... one who came to this country with practically nothing... but was magnificent In caring for me... **no matter what**. She was my greatest champion and advocate, and through her relentless resilience and protection, I was able to grow and thrive.... and **care**. I stand here before you as an exemplar of the concept of “nurture versus nature.” I am here because someone cared .. and **dared**.. to protect me... to make sure my needs were lovingly and adequately met... **no matter what**.

I take those lessons and that cloak of compassion with me. I became a court appointed child advocate because I know that every child deserves a chance.... **no matter what.** I’m here today to enjoy these festivities with you, but please... make no mistake... we’re here for a truly vital purpose. The food is delicious... that helps!!! The fashion show is swoon-worthy... that doesn’t hurt either!!! The atmosphere is alive with the electricity of the holiday season... but most importantly, we’re here to honor and advocate for the kids that need us most. This season is about generosity... sharing... and **GIVING**... of your selves... your compassion... and your understanding that we are all here as advocates, in one way or another. There are too many children who don’t deserve the “hand” they’ve been dealt in life. To be able to nurture and support those caught in the system is **really** the gift... “Give me the child... I’ll show you the adult” paraphrases a decades-old sentiment. I, and **WE**, at Child Advocates, are dedicated to making sure children know that people care... that they are not just a case number. It is through your tireless generosity and participation that this work lives, so **PLEASE**!!! Enjoy yourselves!!! **Work it** for those raffle prizes!!! Have a fabulous meal!!! Dream, along with your friends, of which Kobi creation will wind up in your life!!! And most of all, **give**...and **know** that you make a difference in so many lives. Thank you all!!