

**CASA raised \$1.3 million to support its mission to help our children grow up drug free at its 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards Dinner.**



The event, held on April 7<sup>th</sup> at The Pierre hotel in New York City, was hosted by CBS's Julie Chen and Academy Award-winner Michael Douglas, and honored Kirk and Anne Douglas and Muhtar Kent, president and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company.

All three award recipients have worked tirelessly to educate others about substance abuse and protect the potential of all children, as well as improve the quality of life for all Americans through various philanthropic efforts.

The legendary Hollywood couple received CASA's inaugural Inspiration Award, and Kent accepted CASA's Distinguished Service Award.

"The pain doesn't go away," said Kirk Douglas, who wrote of his son Eric's death from a prescription pill overdose in his book, *Let's Face It: 90 Years of Living, Loving, and Learning*. "It remains a sad part of your life. The only way to ease the pain is to help others."

The dinner also spotlighted CASA's landmark CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> program through the story of Johanna Morales, who became the first person in her family to attend college. Morales was one of the first students at the CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Bridgeport, CT site—one of the initial five pilot sites in 1992.

**1.** Joseph A. Califano, Jr. and Muhtar Kent, president and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company. **2.** (From left to right) Kirk, Anne and Michael Douglas. **3.** CBS's Julie Chen and Kirk Douglas. **4.** FOX News' Bill O'Reilly, Muhtar Kent, Hilary P. Califano and Joseph A. Califano, Jr. **5.** Dr. Joseph Cahalan, vice president of The Xerox Foundation; Ursula Burns, CEO of The Xerox Corporation and CASA Board member; and Louis W. Sullivan, MD, President Emeritus of Morehouse School of Medicine and CASA Board member.

Photographs courtesy of Eric Weiss.