

# CONGRATULATIONS

## DCFS ALL STARS

DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

April 2009

### **Outstanding Administrative Staff Award**

***Diana Alcantara, Children's Services Administrator I***  
**Kinship Resource Center**

Ms. Diana Alcantara, Children's Services Administrator I, transferred from the ASFA Division to the Department's Kinship Support Division in September 2008 to perform the duties of a Kinship Care Liaison. Prior to Diana's transfer to the Kinship Support Division, she had been assigned to review, monitor, and track the Criminal Clearance Waivers for the ASFA Division County-wide. During her assignment within ASFA, Diana created and developed the current data base for receiving and tracking every waiver that was submitted to the Section.

After transferring to the Department's Kinship Support Division, as a Kinship Care Liaison, Diana was given the assignment to report to the Juvenile Court two (2) days a week and collaborate with the Clerks' Office and Youth Development Services, ILP Co-coordinator, to consult with relative caregivers who wish to file WIC 388 Petitions to re-enter the Child Welfare System. Since Diana's been stationed at the Juvenile Court (October 2008), she has been successful in averting 58 % (29 of 50 interventions) of the WIC 388 Petition filings of relatives by utilizing her social worker experiences and providing appropriate kinship support to the relative caregivers to strengthen their ability to provide a permanent home for the children in their care. She has also aided in reducing petitions filed by birthparents sent to her by the Court Clerks office by 67% (31 of 46 Interventions).

In addition, Diana has co-presented to Children Law Center on her duties and responsibilities regarding addressing the WIC 388 Petitions filed by relative caregivers who wish to reenter the Child Welfare System. Due to Diana's outstanding accomplishments and partnership with the Juvenile Court Services, CLC Attorneys, and County Counsel, the Juvenile Court has requested for her to be available three (3) days a week. Diana's diligence and excellence in preparing reports as a result of her detailed analysis has been instrumental in the Kinship Team having a greater understanding of the causes for disruption in relative care.

Diana has received many verbal commendations from Bench Officers, Superior Clerks' office staff and Court Services Staff for her outstanding work in

providing appropriate kinship support to relative caregivers and strengthening their ability to provide a safe, nurturing and permanent home for the children under their care.

Ms. Alcantara is being honored with of the April 2009 DCFS ALL STARS Director's Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Administrative Staff because her efforts have certainly been a benefit to a number of families and many children and resulted in youth avoiding unnecessary disruptions.

### **Outstanding Direct Service Staff Award** ***Lizette Bonilla, Supervising Children's Social Worker*** **Compton-West Office**

Ms. Bonilla must be very popular among her work colleagues! No less than six separate persons nominated Ms. Bonilla. Ms. Bonilla models, describes and instructs, while building on each individual's strength, both in new and seasoned workers. New workers are known to seek her out, due to her availability and support for all. Not only does she direct what needs to be done, but she stands by staff as they perform their duties. Her cordial, professional and welcoming style is appreciated by everyone, including her ability to walk with staff through difficult times in their work. She is able to provide insight and ease to a crisis and develop a smooth plan. Ms. Bonilla motivates her whole office to have great office spirit!

She is able to quickly grasp dynamics within families, and on a daily basis, highlights the importance of child safety, reducing detentions and getting children in a permanent situation as soon as is safely possible. Her previous work as an Adoptions CSW helps her to frame permanence for all children while always respecting each family member. Ms. Bonilla always provides compassion for staff and families alike and treats all with dignity.

For these reasons and many more Lizette Bonilla is named the April 2009 **DCFS ALL STARS** Director's Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Direct Service Staff.

### **Outstanding Support Service Staff Award** ***Nancy Tran, Secretary III*** **Out of Home Care, Telstar Office**

There are many stars in our constellation, but the brightest star deserving the title is Secretary III, Nancy Tran. Although Nancy is officially assigned to only one specific Section Head in the Out of Home Care Management Division (OHCMD), she willingly volunteers to assist and perform tasks for all members of the Division. Nancy never says: "it's not my job or it is not in my job description." Nancy is the epitome of efficiency and exactly what a support service staff member should be. She carries out her responsibilities willingly and energetically and always has a great attitude. Nancy works diligently and completes all work assignments in a timely manner, thereby meeting all deadlines. She has an

excellent work ethic and enthusiastically handles emergency situations. Nancy is very prompt in completing tasks and her assignments are always accurate.

Nancy is extremely resourceful as evidenced by the fact that she recently, single handedly organized the process for assigning, tracking and overseeing the approximately 133 Group Home and Foster Family Agency Program Statements necessary for finalizing the Department's Contracted placement mandate. She took full responsibility for the distribution process and because of her exemplary clerical skills the project was completed successfully and in a timely manner.

Nancy also works tirelessly in the role that she assumes in organizing and arranging the division's social events such as the annual BBQ, the yearly Christmas party, various fund raising activities, recognition luncheons and other planned events. She always expresses a great deal of care and concern for the foster children that the Department serves and demonstrated her thoughtfulness by voluntarily and enthusiastically organizing and coordinating an effort in which members of the OHCMD made voluntary contributions which were used to provide Christmas gifts for foster children placed in one of our contracted group homes. Nancy is respected by all levels of staff and Management and is always pleasant polite and cordial. She is very personable and has an excellent rapport with her colleagues, the monitoring staff and all levels of Management. For the above-mentioned and many other reasons Nancy is recognized and honored as the April, 2009 DCFS **ALL STARS** Director's Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Support Service Staff.

**An Outstanding Colleague  
Of Yours Could Be the Next Winner.**

**NOMINATE Someone NOW!**