

CONGRATULATIONS

DCFS ALL STARS

DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS

April 2012

Outstanding Direct Service Staff

Becky, Merriweather, CSW II

Vermont Corridor

CSW Becky Merriweather tirelessly serves the children on her caseload. She has attended many of their birthday parties and purchased gifts for them; treated many of the girls to a "girls' day out," at which they receive manicures and pedicures; rewarded them with gifts when they've been good, and acted as a surrogate parent when necessary. Becky takes new CSWs under her wing, helping them find placements for children on their caseload. She is a wealth of information, instructing many CSWs on how to correctly process regional center paperwork.

On one of her cases, court did not order sibling visits for three young children, ages two, four, and nine placed in Palmdale, Altadena, and Rialto. On two Saturdays each month, Becky would make sure these children saw each other, maintaining their relationship until a permanent plan was in place. She would pick up one child in Altadena, then pick up the second sibling in Palmdale, and then transport both of them to Rialto for a three- hour visit with their younger sibling. CSW Merriweather funded these outings herself for a year and a half.

On another case, she convinced one of her caregivers who already had four children placed in her home, to adopt three additional siblings, so that all the children, ranging in age from one to nine years old, could stay together.

Since coming to the Vermont Corridor office, this CSW maintains a food drawer for children that come into the office to be placed. If the case-carrying CSW is not able to go out and buy food for children, this drawer is available so that no child will go hungry for hours on end. Becky replenishes the drawer every month making sure there is always something extra for the children. For these reasons and more, Becky Merriweather is deserving of the DERA Award for Outstanding Direct Service.

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

NOMINATE Someone NOW!