

CONGRATULATIONS

DCFS ALL STARS

DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS

March 2012

Outstanding Support Service Staff

Toni Marangelo, HSA

San Fernando Valley

As a Human Services Aid, Toni regularly makes positive contributions towards the Department's goal of increased safety for DCFS children.

On Toni's first day of work in 2008, she volunteered to tidy up and organize items in the Children's Room. She has a great disposition, always seeing to the children's specific needs. Toni truly believes that each child and family member deserves the best possible service we can provide. She has earned the respect of her office as her actions are congruent with her philosophy. Her level of commitment to our children has not waivered through the years.

Toni wants the children to leave the office feeling that they are uniquely important, and worthy of love and respect. She does everything she can to make them feel good about themselves. Toni buys water bottles, juices, and even toys for the children she supervises. One weekend, Toni could not resist buying a toy train set. She buys snacks, water, and juice with her own money as the Cash Aid only refunds expenses for lunch or dinner.

Toni is extraordinary in her readiness to serve our families when her assistance is requested for supervising or transporting children or adult clients, regardless of the distance, or time of the day. Her enthusiasm and support for our children and families is appreciated by all.

Outstanding Direct Service Staff

Rocio Pleitez, CSW III

West San Fernando Valley

As a CSW and MSW student, Rocio Pleitez achieved extraordinary success on an extremely difficult case involving a family with three teenage children, one of which became severely mentally impaired. On the day that Rocio was assigned to this case, she was informed that one of the children, Vanessa needed to be placed in respite care by the end of the week. Vanessa had been hospitalized on a 5150 the day before. Rocio participated in a teleconference regarding the youth's hospital discharge planning. After securing placement, Rocio maintained regular contact with the youth's therapist and together, they made monthly

conjoint visits to the foster home to monitor the youth's progress. Subsequently, Vanessa's mental health deteriorated, requiring repeated hospitalizations, and a higher level of care, which prevented her from returning home.

Rocio dialogued with the psychiatric hospital, advocating for a Temporary Conservatorship (T-CON) order, since Vanessa would not voluntarily agree to be placed in a level-14 facility. With the assistance of Dr. Cantor, the co-located DMH liaison, Rocio addressed the mental health needs and assessments requiring attention.

Finally, In January 2011, a TCON order was issued for Vanessa. Rocio was successful in obtaining approval from the DMH committee to place Vanessa in a Level -14 facility, at which time full conservatorship was awarded.

Despite being on a part-time schedule, Rocio maintained necessary contact with all parties involved on a regular, sometimes daily basis, even when she was not in the office. After several IEPs, LAUSD agreed to provide AB 3632 Outpatient Services for Vanessa. In June 2011, Vanessa was placed at an AB3632 residential placement in Van Nuys.

In November 2011, court terminated jurisdiction over Vanessa, whose situation had stabilized in an appropriate residential treatment home, under the supervision of the DMH. CSW Rocio Pleitez's steadfast commitment resulted in this child receiving the services necessary to move toward successful emancipation.

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

NOMINATE Someone NOW!