

CONGRATULATIONS

DCFS ALL STARS

DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

December 2008

Outstanding Administrative Staff Award

Stephanie Clancy, Children's Services Administrator I

Adoption Recruitment, Covina Annex Office

Stephanie Clancy, Children's Services Administrator I, is the Program Manager for the Heart Gallery Los Angeles. She is an excellent manager whose work and efforts truly stand out. The Heart Gallery is a roving portrait gallery of children waiting to be adopted. Ms. Clancy has embraced the role of Heart Gallery Program Manager and has made the gallery a main staple of adoption recruitment throughout the county. Ms. Clancy is responsible for arranging photo shoots, framing the photos, creating bio cards for each photo, arranging to have the gallery on display at various community locations, insuring the website is updated, and responding to inquires regarding the children.

Ms. Clancy has made so much more of this position. She receives regular requests for the gallery at DCFS community and faith-based outreach events. Although it means putting up and taking down the gallery in a day, she never refuses to make the gallery available. She has even made last minute duplicates of framed photos to be sure that all requests are met.

Ms. Clancy has also help create 'Open Your Heart Sundays'. She works with the staff at churches or other places of worship and has the pastor or faith leader do a call to action sermon, then once the service is over, the congregation can view the gallery, have their questions answered, and sign up for orientations. These 'Open Your Heart' Sundays may seem easy, but they take a lot of planning and working with various members of the church. Many times Ms. Clancy must make flyers in advance to promote the event and follow-up with interested families. Ms. Clancy has had the gallery displayed in 15 churches during the last year, which means she has given up at least 15 of her Sundays to do this. Further, many of the churches have asked for the display on the Saturday before or over more than one weekend and Ms. Clancy is always ready to oblige. She does all this even if that means staying up late to mat and frame extra photos and make extra bios cards.

Ms. Clancy has collaborated with many community partners. She has worked with the Lakewood mall on two occasions to not only have the Heart Gallery displayed but to create whole recruitment days with the gallery as the focus. She also partnered with Penny Lane Foster Family Agency to have an outreach event at Mountasia Family Fun Center in Santa Clarita. No matter how far the event is, she never objects to the drive or to transporting a van full of photos and easels.

Ms. Clancy is always looking for ways to improve the Heart Gallery. She learned how to use Photoshop so that she can now create bio cards of photos and bios of the children. Multiple copies are attached to the display near the larger photo so interested

families can take a bio card with them. She has also worked with the Heart Gallery Board to create new brochures and an outstanding new website (to view go to www.heartgalleryla.org). Ms. Clancy is also responsible for the beautiful Heart Gallery calendars that are distributed the first few months of the year to prospective applicants, adoption agencies, and community groups. She has already made arrangements to do a photo shoot with our kids and the Los Angeles Dodgers for our 2010 calendars.

Ms. Clancy has been able to expand the benefits of the Heart Gallery beyond what was expected. She created the photo shoot days at various venues to make the photos interesting and to make it a special day for the children to be photographed and has had photo shoots at locations such as the Long Beach Aquarium, the Arboretum, and the Gentle Barn. Further, the Heart Gallery photos and bios are being used for Covenant Books which are small booklets of waiting children that are distributed to faith-based communities.

Ms. Clancy tracks all the families that come to the Department to adopt as a result of the Heart Gallery as well as how many children have been matched. Children that have been waiting years to be adopted are finding a family due to the Heart Gallery.

When Ms. Clancy learned a better way to display the photos, she researched and obtained new display panels. She is always coming up with new ideas.

Ms. Clancy's commitment to making the Heart Gallery LA one of the best in the Country and her dedication to waiting youth should be acknowledged and commended and therefore Ms. Clancy is being awarded the December 2008 **DCFS ALL STARS** Director's Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Administrative Staff.

Outstanding Direct Service Staff Award

Regina Jimenez, Public Health Nurse

Belvedere Office- Corporate Site

Regina Jimenez, Public Health Nurse, is a vital and integral part of the Belvedere office Emergency Response Team. Time after time her colleagues note the high quality of Ms. Jimenez' work. She regularly goes out with the ER CSWs.. She trouble shoots, writes excellent detailed contacts, and educates the parents and staff on the various medical issues we encounter. It is not uncommon for Ms. Jimenez to make her self available for consultation to units she is technically not assigned to.

Ms. Jimenez' abilities go farther than being a PHN. She understands the families and their needs. She goes above and beyond her position as a nurse and researches additional services the families may need (Public Health, Environmental Services etc). She has an excellent network outside of DCFS and has been able to get results/answers for the various needs - virtually immediately.

On several occasions, Ms. Jimenez has coordinated the medical training for a possible relative caregiver with the hospital on the same day of TDM making it possible to place a child with relatives who were properly trained. She is very knowledgeable on pediatrics and her willingness and ability to explain to the parents what the child needs has greatly assisted in developing a safety plan allowing for the child to safely remain in the care of parents. Ms. Jimenez quickly develops wonderful and appropriate rapport with our families.

The Belvedere office has experienced medical emergencies during the course of a TDM and Miss Jimenez has been called upon to promptly advise staff what to do. She could simply say "call 911" but instead gave sound advice on what to do. Coming from her, staff felt reassured and moved quickly on her instructions.

Ms. Jimenez is a great asset to the Belvedere Emergency Response section, DCFS and mostly importantly to staff and families. DCFS is very lucky to have such a high caliber professional and person working for our families. In the words of CSWs and SCSWs in the Belvedere office, "She's wonderful. She's Great!"

Ms. Jimenez is to be commended on her dedication and commitment to the families we serve. It's a pleasure to award her the December 2008 **DCFS ALL STARS** Director's Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Direct Service Staff.

Outstanding Support Service Staff Award

Ardalia Watson, Unit Clerk

Vermont Corridor Office

Ardalia Watson is a cheerful, dependable Unit Clerk in the Vermont Corridor office. Not only does Ms. Watson perform her regular duties but she always goes above and beyond what is expected of her, regardless of whether or not it is within her job description, and is always willing to assist others. Her assistance makes the work of the CSWs in her unit much easier. Whether the unit needs to locate a worker in an emergency, remind someone of their duty day, batch and send a report to court, send notices, put together transportation requests or just get help decorating their workspace Ms. Watson is always the one to come to the rescue. Despite the demands of her own job, Ms. Watson manages to complete all of her duties in addition to helping other units and training new clerical staff.

Ms. Watson has been described by her colleagues as the best unit clerk any worker could ever ask for. She takes on the responsibilities for three units and still has time to lend a listening ear to a stressed social worker.

Ms. Watson has definitely brightened up the Vermont Corridor office with her cheerful demeanor. She is an asset to office as well as the Department and is a very deserving recipient of the December 2008 **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!