

# CONGRATULATIONS

## DCFS ALL STARS

DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS

### December 2009

#### **Outstanding Support Service Staff**

*Luis Valdovinos, CSW III*

**Vermont Corridor**

In November of 2009, Mr. Valdovinos joined the Vermont Corridor as the new Wrap-around Liaison. Luis worked on an extremely difficult TDM, as the children presented with a variety of mental health issues, abandonment and experienced several replacements. Luis presented the Wrap-around program in an extremely professional and clear manner. His superb clinical skills were evident in his interactions with the clients.

Luis is able to elicit information from the clients in a professional and compassionate manner. Once his assessment determines the case meets Wrap-around criteria, he initiates the referral with the case-carrying CSW. In situations where the family does not meet the criteria for Wrap-around services, Luis seeks to link the family with the best mental health services available in their respective communities. He provides the assigned CSW and families with whatever referrals are necessary to address issues raised during the TDM including school resources.

On occasion, TDMs have resulted in children being placed outside Los Angeles County. Luis has proved very resourceful in locating and accessing services for those children in the new county. As a matter of practice, he regularly consults with CSWs to assess that the cases meet Wrap-around criteria. He provides other available alternatives through Wrap-around programs, including those families who had already reunified or are at risk of being separated.

Congratulations to Luis Valdovinos, the December 2009 DERA winner for Outstanding Support Service Staff.

## **Outstanding Direct Service Staff**

*Lenise Y. Petri, CSW III*

**Medical Case Management Service, Palmdale**

Lenise Petri is able to effectively work with challenging populations, difficult situations and limited resources. She identifies the needs of her clients, provides creative solutions while maintaining integrity and professionalism. Lenise started her career in DCFS as an Adoptions worker. As a product of the foster care system herself, Lenise understands first hand the challenges and difficulties our children and families face as it relates to attachment, separation and loss. She has used her personal experience as motivation, working tirelessly on behalf of our children and families. On one of Lenise's cases, she worked well beyond regular hours to facilitate visits and services for the child and the family enhancing the chances for successful reunification. Her non-judgmental approach to clients and their individual needs serves her families well. Lenise is a mobile worker, out-stationed in Palmdale where she and one other CSW manage the challenging cases of chronically medically fragile children. Since joining MCMS, she has demonstrated a level of concern and commitment rarely seen. Lenise works diligently and efficiently, to ensure the best interests of the child and promote our profession in a positive light.

She has faced several challenging cases, enduring three child fatalities on her caseload in one year. She managed to maintain clarity of mind and aggressively advocated to ensure that the families of the deceased children had the resources they needed to cope with their losses. Lenise Petri is truly deserving of recognition for her outstanding work on behalf of her clients and we congratulate her at the December 2009 DERA winner for Outstanding Direct Service Staff.