

CONGRATULATIONS

DCFS ALL STARS

DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

February 2009

Outstanding Direct Service Staff Award

Guadalupe Lopez, Children's Social Worker III

Compton West Office

Using one word to characterize Guadalupe Lopez that word would be "phenomenal." She is a hard-working, compassionate, caring, intelligent, organized, and ethical social worker. She enjoys working with her families and is able to provide them with useful resources and has been able to successfully terminate over 30 children's cases from DCFS supervision in the past two years. Recently, Ms. Lopez once again demonstrated her commitment to working with her families when she worked efficiently on a sensitive case. She was informed that several teens in a family were involved in dangerous activities on the website "myspace.com". Ms. Lopez took the information seriously and collaborated with the foster family agency social worker. She was able to ultimately address the concerns with the entire family. Ms. Lopez took several hours to research the children's web pages and provided the police with critical evidence that is now part of a criminal investigation. She was able to provide the children with a level of comfort and was able to get critical information from them about the case. Due to her work and dedication, the Court was made aware of the activities and took measures to protect the children.

Despite the challenges and crises her families present, Ms. Lopez maintains her professionalism at all times. She has developed a strong rapport with the children on her caseload, and she actively engages her parent clients. Ms. Lopez is able to recognize a family's needs and is able to celebrate their successes.

Ms. Lopez is truly a CSW who enjoys her job. She is currently a lead worker for her unit and has proven time and time again that she is willing to share her knowledge and help fellow co-workers. As the lead worker in her unit, she assists her SCSW in training new CSWs. Ms. Lopez is a team player who will also assist co-workers outside her unit with questions and directions.

Ms. Lopez has remained humble in her work and brings a true sense of class to the profession of social work. Ms. Lopez shies away from attention, but deserves the recognition of her co-workers and DCFS for an outstanding job in one of the hardest jobs around...Social Work. Ms. Lopez is an excellent example to her colleagues and is a very deserving recipient of the February 2009 **DCFS**

ALL STARS Director's Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Direct Service Staff.

Outstanding Support Service Staff Award

Jihao Lee, Intermediate Typist Clerk

Wateridge Office

Jihao Lee resolves a multitude of problems daily for everyone in the Wateridge office. She instructs staff on correctly locating the proper documents on CWS/CMS which is updated constantly. She instructs staff on how to properly fill in the correct information for Reports, County Surveys and endless other forms that she knows how to immediately locate. She knows how to resolve computer malfunctions and make the computer work properly. She retrieves vital information for the Court Reports immediately and overall makes the ENTIRE office function efficiently. Everyone from Administration to Clerical relies on Ms. Lee.

Ms. Lee volunteers in church activities and also does volunteer work with "Spark of Love" organization in conjunction with the Los Angeles Fire Department to give donations and gifts to families in need. She does all of this and much more than words can describe. Even though there is a constant demand on her time Ms. Lee has the most helpful and supportive attitude.

Ms. Lee's knowledge, assistance and attitude make working at Wateridge office a joyful experience. The office staff is very appreciative of her. Ms. Lee deserves to be recognized and honored with the February 2009 **DCFS ALL STARS** Director's Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Support Service Staff.

Outstanding Team Award

Monica Leveque & Luis Pereira

Adoption Supervising Children's Social Workers

Compton West Office & Metro North Office

Monica Leveque and Luis Pereira, SCSWs, are being honored for their outstanding teaming efforts and their commitment to ensuring high quality of services and timely permanency to children and families in the true spirit of Concurrent Planning. In addition to their busy workload, Ms. Leveque and Mr. Pereira teamed to develop the curriculum, together with community partners, for a special training entitled All Families Matter: Working Effectively with LGBT Adoptive Families which they presented to the entire Adoption & Permanency Resources Division. This training was designed to provide participants with a general understanding of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, including the unique complexities facing LGBT parents and their children. They also instructed their colleagues on how to modify the adoption process, so that it addresses the specific needs of LGBT families.

Ms. Leveque and Mr. Pereira together trained 479 staff as part of the requirement for meeting the benchmarks for earning the All Children, All Families seal from the Human Rights Campaign. The seal acknowledges that the APRD is a welcoming and culturally competent agency in working with LGBT resource families. Thanks to their drive and dedication these benchmarks were met making APRD the first public adoption agency to have received this honor. Through their teaming and focus on providing services to children, Ms. Leveque and Mr. Pereira go above and beyond the call of duty.

Feedback from colleagues who attended the training was exceptionally positive. One colleague commented as follows, "I gained a wealth of information and knowledge that will assist me in improving my work with all of my families. Further, I believe that I am not only a better Social Worker because of the training, but I am a better person."

Ms. Leveque and Mr. Pereira are willing to step up to the plate in order to assist their colleagues in making APRD a more open agency, so that children will find permanent families through the increased options for potential adoptive families. For these reasons and many more, Ms. Leveque and Mr. Pereira are more than deserving of the February 2008 **DCFS ALL STARS** Director's Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Team.

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

NOMINATE Someone NOW!