

DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS

DCFS ALL STAR

SAM LABIB

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD WINNER

January 2008

Sam Labib is a very committed Children's Social Worker in the Wateridge office who is truly concerned about the welfare of the children he serves. An example of Sam's dedication and commitment to DCFS youth is presented in a letter the department received from Mary Ledding the chair of the Animagination Committee of Youth Opportunities United. Animagination is an overnight camp for DCFS youth who receive in-depth instruction in fine arts, with a specialty in either, painting, drawing, or sculpture. In her letter Ms. Ledding states "Sam Labib has volunteered as a counselor for the Animagination Art Camp for the past two years and I can truthfully say we could not do it without him. He is a source of endless energy, participation and counsel. Whenever there is a problem child we call Sam and he queries, consoles, and soothes the way. This year in particular there was a child that suddenly turned sullen and insisted on leaving. I encountered him and admit I was not up for the challenge. I turned to Sam and within minutes he had enabled the youth to express himself, calm down and even do some pretty amazing artwork while he waited for his caregiver to pick him up. I believe Sam has unique qualities of listening and interacting with students. He is positive, never saying a negative word and always inspiring with faith and guidance. If there is any task that needs doing, Sam is ready to volunteer. He never seeks praise for his work but is most generous in his praise for others. He never grumbles despite the circumstances. At both camps that past two years we experienced severe cold- it froze and there were icicles in the faucets and frozen water in the toilets yet Sam was always ready and full of warmth and energy. Sam is a most excellent example of what DCFS is and can be and I think he richly deserves to be recognized as a **DCFS ALL STAR!**"