

CONGRATULATIONS

DCFS ALL STARS

DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

June 2008

Outstanding Administrative Staff Award

Jorge Garay, Children Services Administrator I
Pomona Office

Jorge Garay provides administrative support to the Pomona Office Regional Administrator and Assistant Regional Administrators. He works diligently to do the behind the scenes work required to move forward initiatives and support the day-to-day operations of the DCFS Pomona office. He's been very successful working with the community to promote strong partnerships. For example, he has dedicated many hours to the Pomona Office Breakthrough Series Collaborative involving a partnership with the Pomona Unified School District aimed at improving education outcomes for DCFS children. He enthusiastically wears many hats (coordinating events, researching issues, developing reports and presentations, etc.). He reaches out to his colleagues to share resources and strategies. No matter how busy he may be, he maintains a friendly and approachable demeanor.

Jorge Garay is a very worthy recipient of the June 2008 **DCFS ALL STARS** Director's Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Administrative Staff.

Outstanding Direct Service Staff Award

Rosella Yousef, Supervising Children's Social Worker
Torrance Office

Ms. Rosella Yousef is a remarkable supervisor! She has proven over and over again through her hard work and dedication to be a true "All Star". Ms. Yousef is always looking for a challenge. Where most SCSWs avoid difficult and complex cases Ms. Yousef often seeks these cases out. Her experience as a START SCSW has prepared her to take challenging youth and make a difference in their lives. It is remarkable to see how Ms. Yousef's and her unit consistently work with the most difficult children and achieve permanency for each one. The success that Ms. Yousef achieves is through the collaboration of resources, an immense amount of creativity, hard work and perseverance. She consistently

puts the five core strategies of Structured Decision Making, Concurrent Planning, Team Decision Making and Permanency Partners Program into practice to achieve the goals set.

Ms. Yousef always has the best interest of the children in mind. She is committed to finding permanency for each child whether it is an infant or a teenager with a multitude of problems. Under her guidance and supervision her unit has been able to work closely with youth in permanent placement and have been highly successful in returning the youth home to their parents or through adoption. Her biggest gift is in communication. She loves to get involved and talk to a youth in crisis to help them resolve the crisis at hand. She and her CSWs have taken their own time and money to raise funds so that they can take the youth on field trips to visit colleges, and activities such as Top Sail, Medieval Times, Lakers game and to the Break Zone. These activities and the personal connection have attributed to the youth's stabilization and higher self esteem. Some of the emancipated youth have returned and have given motivational speeches to the youth currently served by her unit. Ms. Yousef is extremely skilled in the collaboration of resources for each youth by bringing in the different agencies to wrap services around each child. The collaboration is so effective that the success rate at stabilizing the youth has been extraordinary.

The runaway population is a very difficult set to work with. To address the increasing runaway problem Ms. Yousef suggested that a CSW should be dedicated to work with the runaway youth and she volunteered to supervise this CSW. Of the twenty-six chronic runaway youth assigned to her unit: ten were found, placed and stabilized; ten were found stabilized and jurisdiction was terminated; and, only six remained chronic runaways. The success in recovering the runaway youth has been so successful that the Runaway Adolescent Project requested Ms. Yousef to provide a written document outlining her strategies and to make a presentation to the Runaway Adolescent Project staff. Her CSW was later recruited by the Runaway Adolescent Project to carry on the same strategies there.

Ms. Yousef is also involved in the Faith Based Committee where she has become a committed member. With the Committee she is working in establishing the Birthday Club for the Torrance Office where each youth will be able to receive a birthday gift. Twelve churches will participate in this venture by holding toy drives and filling each request by choosing the toy and wrapping the gift for the child. So far three churches, including her own, have had their toy drives and the birthday room is filled with toys. The Birthday Club is ready to go! In seeking the challenge Ms. Yousef has improved outcomes for many of the children under her unit's supervision. Had she not taken the challenge the lives of these children would have been very different. She is a true "All Star", an outstanding supervisor, set apart from everyone else.

Rosella Yousef very much deserves the June 2008 **DCFS ALL STARS** Director's Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Direct Service Staff.

Outstanding Support Service Staff Award

Carole Darin, Unit Clerk

Dependency Investigation, West Los Angeles Office

Carole Darin has been the Unit Clerk for the Dependency Investigations Unit since September, 2001. Carole is an integral part of the unit. Carole is approachable and enthusiastic about learning new skills to better support our DI unit. For example, Carole works closely with the DI's in establishing control logs to ensure the DI's receive Court documents in a timely fashion. Once trained, Carole is able to manage her new responsibility and she improves it to fit her ability and the DI's needs. Carole's help in obtaining minute orders or copying Court reports is invaluable because she understands the importance of presenting a professional product whether it is a Court report or Notice of Hearing and she puts the time and effort necessary in producing a product one can be proud of. No matter what Carole will stop what she is doing to help a CSW. Through out the years, on several occasions, Carole has stayed after hours without pay to ensure that DI staff is able submit their Court reports timely. Carole is also a great motivator. She provides unit members with positive feedback and is constantly emphasizing our strengths. When we find ourselves at our wit ends Carole reminds us of how important we are to the children of Los Angeles and validates the mission of our Department. Carole is not only an efficient Unit Clerk, she is an exceptional woman with constructive and encouraging words for the DI's.

Carol Darin is an asset to the department and a very deserving recipient of the June 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!

(Insert link to nomination form)