

CONGRATULATIONS

DCFS ALL STARS

DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS

June 2011

Outstanding Direct Service Staff

Vanetia Williams, SCSW

Vermont Corridor

Vanetia Williams, a SCSW with the Vermont Corridor Office, maintains a positive attitude while always focusing on keeping our children safe. In May 2011, the Office of the Medical Director (OMD) was working with Vanetia in locating a placement for a 14-year-old girl who was assaultive and aggressive. All level-12 placement facilities had turned this youth down. Resource Utilization Management made over 100 calls with Vanetia personally contacting 26 D-Rate foster homes and still no placement was found. Over the course of the week, this youth spent 2 nights at Exodus Recovery Center and was back in the Vermont Corridor Office on a Friday morning with no placement options. Vanetia was contacted by OMD to get a better sense of the case and to offer support. She was composed and helpful, despite only getting a few hours of sleep the two previous nights, reporting back to her office by 8 a.m. Vanetia was successful in locating a D-Rate foster mother as well as a possible level-12 placement.

While working on this youth's placement, she was also dealing with a case involving a sibling set with scabies. Five CSWs in the Vermont Corridor office were also diagnosed with scabies, requiring the involvement of the Health Department. In the midst of these challenging scenarios, Vanetia remained calm, positive, and solution-focused and retained her sense of humor. Her leadership and poise illustrates how our Department is effective in changing the lives of the children and families we all serve.

Outstanding Administrative Manager

Shano Rogers, CSA I, Wraparound

Headquarters Annex

Shano Rogers is a CSA I in the Wraparound Quality Assurance/ Quality Improvement and is a wonderful example of a team player. She was asked to be the Division Chief's liaison in addition to her normal responsibilities. She accepted the additional responsibility enthusiastically and has proven many times to go above and beyond the original request. She attends all the various

meetings to help and even facilitates, or takes notes when needed. She also attended every parent focus group in all 8 SPAs and was instrumental in coordinating them. She thinks and acts proactively, she is patient and always willing to “chip in” wherever it is needed. She has great communication and organizational skills and fully understands the bigger picture and the vision of the Department.

Most importantly, Shano was instrumental in implementing Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) Wraparound in Los Angeles. She worked very hard with our Adoption Division, CDSS and our fiscal section in developing the policy, funding requirements, and protocol. AAP Wraparound in Los Angeles was delayed for several years due to the complexity of the rules and logistics, but Shano was able to navigate through them all and made it happen.

Lastly, Shano possesses an intangible quality that puts her co-workers at ease. She is a wonderful asset to Wraparound and the Department.

Outstanding Team Staff Award

Prom Prep “Pretty Girl Rock” Team

East San Fernando Valley DCFS Office

The San Fernando Valley Prom Prep "Pretty Girl Rock" team pulled off the biggest Prom Prep event ever for foster teen girls at Valley Beth Shalom on Sunday, April 10, 2011. This team is an amazing group of workers that has a passion for the work that they do—enriching the lives of families through effective caring. The team was instrumental in collaborating with the ACAC (Adopt a Child Abuse Caseworker) program with a faith-based and community partner to create a phenomenal event for 102 foster teen girls. Each girl left the event with three formal dresses, shoes, accessories, a complete make over, and before and after photos. This team contributed many hours, which made a huge difference in the outcome of Prom Prep. Their willingness to give freely of their valuable time and resources touched the lives of many at risk teen girls. This event was a huge success as evidenced by the confident smiles of the girls as they walked down the red carpet. A special thanks to the San Fernando Valley Prom Prep team.

Prom Prep "Pretty Girl Rock" Team

Octavia Johnson, ARA
Vicki Moore, CSA 1
Uzma Chaudry, ITC
Jackie Solomon, CSA I
Karen Giron, CSW
Mark Moton, H.S.A
Brad Hoffman, H.S.A

Violeta Zepeda, ITC
Lila Kemp, COA
Monica Rodriguez, CSW
Toni Marangelo, H.S.A
Gisella Angora, H.S.A
Edelyn Martires, H.S.A
Stophe Barlock-Paige, CSW
Dawna Yokoyama, RA (Acting DD)
Lovette Panthier, SCSW

Director's Special Recognition Award

Allen Withrow, Group Supervisor II

ERCP

For the past seven years, the DCFS Family Fun Day Picnic has become an eagerly anticipated annual celebration for DCFS staff and family. Each year, staff reconnect, picnic and relax with each other while their children are treated to a multitude of games, contests, and activities. A great deal of the event's success is directly attributed to the work of Allen Withrow, Group Supervisor II, with ERCP.

Since the initial Family Fun Day Picnic, Allen, who runs his own party rental business, donates equipment, transportation vehicles, generators, a sound system and organizes a crew to assemble the many booths. The kids have a ball. There's a radar gun to measure the speed of baseballs thrown; a football toss, air hockey tables, pool tables, an arts and crafts station, snow-cone, popcorn and cotton candy machines, when the kids need refreshments. With the precision of a summer camp director, he conducts potato sack races and a water balloon toss that leaves everybody laughing and ultimately drenched. He is at the park early in the morning so that when the first families arrive, things are in full swing with the activities he has planned. He is the last to leave, breaking down the physical equipment and transporting it home. His commitment to this event, DCFS staff and families has never waived and his efforts are the primary reason so many families and their children return year after year.

Allen joined MacLaren's Children's Center in 1986 as the Recreation Coordinator, and assumed sole responsibility for coordinating special events such as Celebrity Night and the MacLaren Olympics, where youth would compete with one another in athletic and non-athletic activities. Every year Allen would always make the holidays (Valentine's Day, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween, and Easter) special for the children of MacLaren by personally creating fun-filled events. When MacLaren closed, he wanted to continue entertaining children, so he purchased a truck and trailer and started doing events on the weekends for churches, camps, and group homes. And he's been making children laugh and smile ever since.

Allen, who holds a degree in Pastoral Studies, is highly regarded by his ERCP co-workers and the families they serve, providing timely solutions to the daily problems that arise. He provides assistance to ER CSWs, supervises children, and transports them to HUBs and to placements.

Allen knows how hard DCFS staff works each and everyday. On DCFS Family Fun Day, no one works harder than he to ensure that staff and their families have a memorable day filled with fun, laughter and camaraderie. Thanks Allen!

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

NOMINATE Someone NOW!