

# CONGRATULATIONS

## DCFS ALL STARS

DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS

### March 2010

#### Outstanding Support Service Staff

*Michael Tarpey, HSA*

**Palmdale**

Human Services Aid Michael Tarpey continuously goes above and beyond his responsibilities as an HSA. Michael provides support in any number of areas making the jobs of ER CSWs more manageable. He never hesitates to drop everything he is doing to help out anyone in need. He assists with transporting children, delivering court documents and locating clients. He starts early and works late in the evening to assist ER workers. Recently, Michael volunteered in the afternoon to deliver important Court documents needed at Monterey Park by 4 p.m. Even without traffic, Monterey Park is about an hour drive from the Palmdale office, much longer in the afternoon in rush hour traffic. Michael waited for the required reports, helped copy them and then delivered them to Court, somehow getting the documents there 15 minutes early. The entire time Michael had a smile on his face and brought so much ease to a stressful situation. Michael routinely transports children, never complaining, but instead forming relationships with the children and their families. At all times, Michael genuinely wants to have a positive impact, however small, on the lives of the children. Michael has been responsible, flexible and shown compassion for the families he comes in contact with far beyond what is required. His hard work and positive attitude are outstanding and serves as a model for others to emulate. He is a valuable part of Palmdale office and deserving of the March 2010 DERA award for Outstanding Support Service Staff.

## Outstanding Administrative Manager

*Jerry Aoki, Information System Manager I, ISD*  
**Downey**

Jerry Aoki, a former employee of the Sheriffs Department, began working for the DCFS IT Section about 2 years ago. In a short time, Jerry has done an outstanding job leading the engineering group through some very difficult projects. These projects were completed in a very short time frame with a high rate of success, vital to the department and mandated from state and CEO's offices. Additionally, these projects were listed as critical items regarding compliance deemed high priority and subject to penalties. Such projects included the deployment of McAfee anti-virus state mandate, deployment of Laptops CEO mandate, and salvaging of unused equipment to agencies that have a need as nonprofit. His leadership and approach to teaming made these assignments possible. Jerry was asked to leave his supervisor position to act as a DCFS IT Manager at BIS for the Department's engineering and customer support groups. Jerry is dedicated to providing CSWs and support staff with a better working environment regarding IT where it is really needed, at the desktop. With the Department in dire need of new desktops and facing a budget crisis, it appeared that there was no way to meet the demand for better computers. Jerry Aoki fathered the idea of providing means through shared resources by communicating with other county agencies which opened the door to the donated PC project. Because of his efforts, other county agencies gladly donated computers to our Department to replace those computers that were failing and otherwise would not have been replaced. Jerry inspires people to come together and has truly commendable leadership qualities and vision. Because of the work done by Jerry and the IT Department, CSWs and support staff are better able to serve their clients, the children and families of the Los Angeles County. Congratulations to Jerry Aoki, the March 2010 DERA award winner for Outstanding Administrative Manager.

## **Outstanding Direct Service Staff**

*Carmen Roman, SCSW*

**South County**

Last year, the South County office held its first Faith Based Family Fun Day event drawing a crowd of about 1,000 guests from the Long Beach area. This event brought together about thirty local churches that provided resources for the participants and most importantly, connected families with services. SCSW Carmen Roman was the person responsible for making this first annual event a total success.

The second annual South County Faith Based Council Family Fun Day event on May 15, 2010 featured the local churches that participate in the Faith Based Council and the DCFS Adoptions Section. The event provided free food and entertainment with close to thirty booths providing resources for families. Carmen again organized this event offering numerous resources to the local families in a time of need and promoting foster care recruitment. Carmen accomplishes all of this while supervising her ER unit.

The South County Faith Based Council has connected many families with resources offered by the many local churches that are involved in this council. In addition, many families have been assisted with clothing, furniture, monetary donations, gift cards and many more items. Participating churches and their families provide gifts for South County foster youth during the Christmas season. The South County Faith Based Council has evolved thanks to the leadership and perseverance of SCSW Carmen Roman, our March 2010 DERA award winner for Outstanding Direct Services.

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

**NOMINATE Someone NOW!**