

CONGRATULATIONS

DCFS ALL STARS

DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

May 2008

Outstanding Administrative Staff Award

Nayat Mutafyan, Children Services Administrator II
Service Bureau 2 Administration

Ms. Nayat Mutafyan is an "All Star" for many reasons. She is known for her exceptional work ethics. She is the type of manager that leads by example, is glad to assist her subordinate staff and never gives the impression that she is above performing any duty. Ms. Mutafyan takes on multiple roles all at once in the absence of senior and subordinate staff and is still able to meet deadlines, lead an Administration Team, and complete her own work. Ms. Mutafyan's work ethic, commitment to achieving the Department's objectives, and genuine concern for the children we service are just a few of her exceptional attributes. Ms. Mutafyan's attitude, leadership, and interpersonal skills inspire others to aim for the highest work standard. It is a valuable learning experience for anyone who is fortunate enough to work for such a motivated and driven individual. It is with much respect and appreciation that Nayat Mutafyan be awarded the May 2008 **DCFS ALL STARS** Director's Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Administrative Staff.

Outstanding Direct Service Staff Award

Denise Belon, Children's Social Worker III
Adoptions, West Los Angeles Office

As an Adoptions Children's Social Worker III, Denise Belon has assumed a model leadership role in providing "Concurrent Planning" Services within the West Los Angeles Office. She has accomplished this by developing effective cooperative relationships with her Regional colleagues and by collaborating as early as possible in the life of the case so that the child's permanency track is cultivated. Ms. Belon lays all the foundation work for the adoption (i.e. Home study approved, full disclosure complete, services and funding secured), prior to the Termination of Parental Rights. In this endeavor, she goes above and beyond the call of duty in assisting her Regional colleagues with prompt information about the evidence of adoptability sections of the 366.26 court report,

with courtesy documentation of home visitation contact in CMS/CWS, with client referrals for evaluations and additional services during the adoption process and for re-determining the appropriate foster care rate/adoption assistance payment. Her team spirit is appreciated by all.

Denise Belon, has cultivated a uniquely close working relationship with the co-located Regional Units to which she is assigned. Well before the Concurrent Planning Re-design had been implemented in the WLA Office, Ms. Belon already exhibited "Concurrent Planning Consciousness" and performed a considerable amount of "gratuitous work" without "case load credit" by conducting outreach and deporting herself as an ambassador of "Concurrent Planning"; she made herself readily available for individual case consultations, Family Team Decision Making meetings, and regularly attended her colleague's unit meetings. Thus, when CP Re-design was rolled out in July, 2006, Ms Belon had a significant head start and was able to integrate theory and practice fluently.

Denise Belon embraces the Paradigm shifts that we are making in a most exemplary manner. A small sample of the type of work that Ms. Belon is doing in response to the new paradigm shift of adoption work under CPR is the case of 'Terrell W.' Terrell W. was labeled as a "severely disturbed" 11 year old boy, residing in a Residential Treatment Facility, when Denise was assigned to conduct the CPA. In this particular case, Denise made the types of permanency efforts we envisioned, by performing all of the relevant tasks on the "Unattached Checklist", and then some... She "activated" adoptive planning and she visited Terrell, developed a rapport with him, and engaged him in adoptive planning (though initially, he was negative on the idea of "Adoption"); she worked on a life-book with Terrell, she referred Terrell for Adoption Promotion and Support Services, and she basically got his whole treatment team at the Facility working on a discharge plan of Adoption. After mining the entire case file to re-discover significant family connections and learning from Terrell the meaning of his sibling ties, Ms. Belon engaged the interest of the Adoptive caregiver of one of his older siblings to further cultivate the sibling relationship, with a more frequent and intensive visitation schedule; as a consequence, the caregiver began to give serious thought to bringing Terrell into her home as well. Because of Denise Belon's diligence and willingness to do whatever it took to find Terrell permanence, she ultimately succeeded in having Terrell placed for adoption with his older sibling.

Ms Belon truly makes a difference in the lives of the children she serves. She defines best practice in her daily efforts and actions, by her teaming and her pro-active interventions. Ms. Belon very much deserves the April 2008 **DCFS ALL STARS** Director's Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Direct Service Staff.

Outstanding Support Service Staff Award

Michelle Fenison, Human Services Aid
Vermont Corridor Office

Michelle Fenison is an excellent role model for all Human Services Aids in the department. She is very conscientious and an extremely hard worker. She is always ready to support Regional Operations by assisting with any tasks she is asked to do. In addition to her duties as an HSA, she attends meetings for her superiors, assists with all the Regional events and is back-up to other Regional Operation functions.

Ms. Fenison is amenable to taking on new projects and always does so with a pleasant demeanor. She is always willing to accept assignments that go into after hours service delivery and will consent to working on the weekends when the need arises. She handles emergency requests without complaint and is always available to offer her assistance and ideas to internal and external event planning for the Vermont Corridor office.

All of her colleagues are very please to be able to work with Ms. Fenison. She is an asset to the department and should be recognized with the May 2008 **DCFS ALL STARS** Director's Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Support Service Staff.

Outstanding Team Award

Tiffany Alexander, Agnes Alvares, Otto Astorga, Rob Dennis, Serena Dong, Hector Lopez, Mary Jane Basye, Karen VanSant, Beverly Yates
DCFS Walkers for March of Dimes

"DCFS WALKERS FOR MARCH OF DIMES" participated in the 2008 MARCH FOR BABIES a 5K Walk/Run fundraising event. The March of Dimes' mission is to help give all babies a healthy start in life; their goal is to end premature births. "DCFS WALKERS FOR MARCH OF DIMES" raised over \$3,000 that will help fund researchers looking for answers to preterm birth and other threats to infant health.

"DCFS WALKERS FOR MARCH OF DIMES" generously donated their time and energy to support this most worthy charity. "DCFS WALKERS FOR MARCH OF DIMES" are to be commended for their support of healthy children and families and therefore are being awarded the May 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!