

CONGRATULATIONS

DCFS ALL STARS

DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

October 2008

Outstanding Direct Service Staff Award

Angie Robles, Supervising Children's Social Worker

Transition Coordinator, Youth Development Services Division

Angie Robles is being recognized with the Director's Employee Recognition award because of her outstanding personal contribution to the welfare of the most at-risk youth in Los Angeles County. Ms. Robles is currently assigned to the ILP program as a Transition Coordinator in the Covina area. Her professionalism and commitment to helping each and every at-risk youth is evident in the way she reaches out to the ILP youth seeking our services. It is because of her efforts that last fiscal year over 3,600 calls from former foster youth seeking ILP services, housing assistance, funds for books, supplies and other funds were answered. More recently, as we prepared to host Celebration II to recognize the 2008 High school graduating seniors at Universal Studios, Ms. Robles went over and above what is regularly expected. She took it upon herself to call around places like Pasadena, Rio Hondo, Citrus College, and others to ask for backpacks donations and other items. She worked on coordinating the pickup of these items and drove to many different places the day before the event to collect as many of the bags and items that she could. Because of her initiative, all the youth that attended received a bag with goodies such as an inspirational book, dictionary, calculator, etc. This showed great initiative, coordination, and teamwork.

Ms. Angie Robles is a true leader and an inspiration to peers and youth. She has made a positive impact in the lives of those around her and it's an honor to have Ms. Robles accept the October 2008 **DCFS ALL STARS** Director's Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Direct Service Staff.

Outstanding Support Service Staff Award

Sabrina Frank, Human Services Aid

Palmdale Office

Human Services Aid Sabrina Frank has continuously gone above and beyond her responsibilities as an HSA. As new CSWs often feel pulled in many directions all at once Ms. Frank makes their job so much more manageable. With the many difficult cases that CSWs need to handle they often need assistance with transporting children, delivering court documents and locating clients. Ms. Frank starts early and works late in the evening to assist all staff in her unit. In particular were two cases where court orders required children to be transported from different areas of LA for visitation, One child was in San Pedro and one child was residing in Inglewood. The children needed to be transported multiple times per week to and from the placement home to visits with family in Palmdale and Lancaster, approximately two hours each direction in traffic. Ms. Frank transported the children routinely, never complaining, but instead forming relationships with the children and their families. Ms. Frank often left very early in the morning to avoid horrible traffic and waited until late afternoon to return the children so they could have more time to visit with their families, returning home late and missing dinner with her own family. At all times Ms. Frank genuinely wants to have a positive impact, however small, on the lives of the children.

Ms. Frank is responsible, flexible and shows compassion for the families she has worked with far beyond what is required. She does not expect to receive any praise but instead states she “just loves the kids. You will never come across a more dedicated, hard working individual such as Sabrina Frank. She is a valuable part of the DCFS team and deserves to be honored with the October 2008 **DCFS ALL STARS** Director’s Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Support Service Staff.

Special Recognition Award

Elizabeth Gonzales and Shamar Walker, Public Health Nurses

Lancaster Office

Elizabeth Gonzalez, PHN, and Shamar Walker, PHN, are two brightly shining stars in the Lancaster office who recently performed heroically and inspirationally when they applied life-saving efforts to an ailing CSW who collapsed at her desk from sudden heart failure.

During the morning of Monday, November 2, 2008, when observing their friend and colleague fall from her chair, Ms. Gonzales and Ms. Walker immediately ran to her and began applying CPR while requesting that onlookers call for an ambulance. They never stopped applying chest compressions, and maintaining alertness as to her condition while awaiting the arrival of the Paramedics. They treated their colleague with kindness and dignity throughout this period and then facilitated the transition when the Emergency medical team arrived. As the Paramedics began delivering all of their services, Ms. Gonzales and Ms. Walker were able to provide the emergency team with information as to their colleagues medical status that helped them in providing the additional precise life-saving care and intervention and accurate communication with the receiving hospital.

When the Paramedics arrived, the CSW was in full arrest, and ultimately required defibrillating and intubation. By the time they left to transport the CSW to the hospital, she had a restored heartbeat and pulse, and was trying to breathe on her own.

When their colleague left, the entire Lancaster office fell silent. Some prayed, some cried, and some just remained quiet—but no sound was uttered for several minutes. Everyone knew that a life was now tentatively hanging in the balance. Everyone also knew, by the valor of Ms. Gonzales and Ms. Walker, that we are not alone.

The outcome remains uncertain as to the CSW who is in a coma. Nevertheless, the meaningfulness and importance of Ms. Gonzales's and Ms. Walker's efforts should not be assessed by the outcome, but by the humanity and efficiency with which it was offered. Had they not performed so selflessly and effectively, their colleague's family and friends would not have the opportunity to gather around her as they have.

For their inspiring responsiveness, their sensitivity, and calm demonstration of life-saving skill and dedication to their friend and colleague, the Department and staff of the Lancaster office is proud, grateful, and humbled by their outstanding service and would like to present Ms. Gonzales and Ms. Walker with the Director's Special Recognition Award.

An Outstanding Colleague Of Yours Could Be the Next Winner.

NOMINATE Someone NOW!