

Child Welfare Best Practice Awards



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The winners.

The Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA) has announced the winners of the prestigious 2012 Child Welfare Best Practices Awards. Checks of \$1000 were presented to 10 individuals providing direct service. Senior level professionals from three agencies will also be honored at the event, which was held on March 29th at the New York City Administration for Children's Services Children's Center. For the first time, an award of \$4000 was

presented to a team that demonstrates successful and effective collaboration on an initiative that yields positive outcomes for children and families. This team award goes to the Fathers Stepping Up team from Catholic Guardian Society and Home Bureau.

"The Council is proud to recognize the achievements of outstanding workers in child welfare. The men and women that we honor provide a range of different services and support to New York's most vulnerable children and families and come from 11 different agencies. They exemplify the best practices in pursuit of permanency and well-being for children, youth, and families." said COFCCA CEO Jim Purcell. " We are especially pleased about the new team award, which this year recognizes the efforts of the staff at Catholic Guardian Society and Home Bureau to enhance parenting success for fathers of children in their foster care program."

The honorees come from a variety of not-for-profit agencies serving families, children, and teens from New York City.

The 2011 Best Practice Individual Award Recipients were as follows:

- Janill Cabrera was nominated for her outstanding work while as a Family Support Worker at The Children's Village.
- Stephanie Espier is a Family Preservation Worker at Episcopal Social Services (ESS).
- Jenel Fabien is a Case Planner for the Foster Boarding Home Unit at MercyFirst
- Nickesha Francis is a WAY Scholarship Counselor/ Aftercare Caseworker at The Children's Village

- Donnette Hall is a Resident Supervisor at the Jewish Child Care Association.
- Robin Harper is a Case Planner at Graham Windham.
- Barbara Ann Lipiro is a Permanency Unit Counselor at Good Shepherd Services.
- Brian Lyons is a Campus Administrator for the Residential Treatment Center at Andrus.
- Abigail Reichley is a Foster Care Social Worker in the Teen Unit at Children's Aid Society.
- Svetlana Rosenblatt is a Case Planner at New York Foundling.

The 2011 Best Practice Senior Management Award Recipients were as follows:

- ZeinabEyega is the Executive Director and founder of SautiYetu – Center for African Women and Families.
- Katherine (Katie) Stoehr is the Vice President for Family Permanency Planning Services at Graham Windham.
- Vivian Troche is the Youth Development Coordinator at Good Shepherd Services' Marian Hall Group Home.

The 2011 Best Practice Team Award Recipient was Fathers Stepping Up at Catholic Guardian Society and Home Bureau. Following the vision of Foster Boarding Home Director Wallace Seay, the team is committed to addressing the systemic exclusion of fathers in planning for their children in care, preparing for fatherhood without Child Welfare intervention, educating staff and implementing policy or program changes that enhance parenting success for fathers who have children in care.

The Child Welfare Best Practice Awards are funded by the Child Welfare Fund and administered by the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies

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