

# EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR - 2018 NOMINATIONS

A.

**Nominated by:** Donna Johnson, Administrator for CNCS Program Area

**Nominee:** Loretta Boerman

**Nomination:** Patience of a Saint.

Cool as a Cucumber.

Calm and Collected.

All this to describe an employee who spends a LOT of her workday on the phone with senior citizens.

They call for rides.

They call her, or she calls them to discuss rides they will be giving.

They call about time sheets, mileage sheets, pretty much anything you can think of.

HUNDREDS of them during the course of a month.

As if all this wasn't ENOUGH...during January, February, March and into April...THEN the TAX CALLS are happening ALSO!

People calling for appointments...and EACH ONE is read a LOOOONNNNGGGGG list of the items they need to bring.

People calling to CHANGE appointments. Some of them are NOT SO NICE EITHER!

Volunteers calling about paperwork, equipment, changes in THEIR schedules.

Endless...or so it seems.

And through it all Loretta Boerman marches on.

She ALWAYS polite.

She is ALWAYS respectful.

She is ALWAYS sensitive to the needs of whoever it is that is on the other end of the phone.

And if THAT is not enough...during this past year and a half in particular...Loretta has helped EVERYONE in the new National and Community Service Program Area at the drop of a hat...

...Loretta....Where is that form? Loretta....I need some random and obscure number, piece of data, report. LORETTA....What do I do about THAT?

PULEEEZE!!!

And seemingly instantaneously...SHE GETS IT TO YOU WITH A SMILE!

And if THAT is not enough...she can 'craft' ANYTHING out of ANTHING....SERIOUSLY! Take a look in her office sometime...amazing

She is a joy to work with and VERY much appreciated by our humble programs and our MANY, many volunteers!

Thank you SO MUCH Loretta!

## B.

**Nominated by:** Ryan Robbins, Administrator for the Home Energy Area

**Nominee:** Steve Watrous

**Nomination:** Steve Watrous has proven invaluable to the Weatherization Assistance program. During his tenure, he has served as Program Coordinator, Director, Auditor, Quality Control Inspector and Office Manager.

His dedication to the program and attention to detail has led him to become one of the industry leaders in NYS. Steve's level of decorum, customer courtesy, respect and professionalism has let him not only to become a leader in the WAP Office, but in the community. Steve is a past recipient of NYSWDA's award for program management. In addition to providing support to the Weatherization director, Steve handles many of the day to day functions that allow for our program's successes.

Thank you, Steve!

## C.

**Nominated by:** Ashley Chambers, Newark Building Coordinator

**Nominee:** Camie Jesmer

**Nomination:** At Newark Head Start it's not hard to come by great employees. They show their greatness in their work each day with children and families, by providing support, guidance and encouragement. However, one stands out in particular:

You can often find her greeting children off the bus, transporting families to appointments, supporting children and classrooms, fixing boo-boos, taking temperatures, fiving a bathroom break and always remaining positive. This past year presented some new obstacles in Newark, with the creation of a new classroom, it meant a larger work load,

but she never complained...let alone bat an eyelash. She has remained positive and connected to all of her classrooms and families, she embraces new employees with her knowledge and goes above and beyond to ensure everyone is on the same page for students and families. Newark Head Start is lucky to have Camie Jesmer as part of our team.

## D.

**Nominated by:** Maureen Parks, Success Center Director

**Nominee:** Richard Holton

**Nomination:** We would like to nominate Richard Holton for employee recognition. Richard works the third shift at the Transitional House. He often goes unnoticed because of his shift. Certainly, his work does not.

After Rich has monitored the shift all night, he can be found doing maintenance and repairs throughout the house. He takes on nasty things like cleaning the grease trap, unclogging sinks, fixing toilets, changing septic filters or changing faucets out in bathrooms. Richard also keeps supplies stocked in the house and monitors how much is getting used. He does the weekly grocery shopping and has kept things under budget with his thrifty shopping skills. He alerts staff when something does not seem right and checks the list for unnecessary items...eliminating them quickly.

Richard goes above and beyond filling in for uncovered shifts when we are in a pinch. He covers most holidays and other unusual shifts that are hard to fill.

Richard lives at the House and his presence is beyond valuable in being able to ensure the residents are provided with the best experience, best practice and a safe environment. Richard achieves this through his ability to be the ears and eyes of supervisors by ensuring we are in the "know" at all times.

Richard is extremely valuable to the success of our program and for that reason, he deserves recognition.

## E.

**Nominated by:** Emmalea Burnell, Parent Education Program Director

**Nominee:** Lara Duckett

**Nomination:** We, Wayne CAP Parent Education Program Staff, would like to recognize Lara Duckett for her hard work and dedication.

Lara is a caring individual who is very passionate about her position as a Family Educator. Lara wears many hats within the agency and goes above and beyond to keep the lines of communication open. Lara comes to work on time and always has a positive attitude. Lara is a dedicated team player and continues to help others. Her duties

go beyond the work place. She serves as a liaison for the Agency on the Sodus Chamber of Commerce. Lara welcomes excellent new staff to the WCAP family and is excellent trainer. Lara is very knowledgeable of the curriculums, different resources our agency offers to our community and local resources.

Lara is a true definition of a team player and continues to show that every day.

## F.

**Nominated by:** Julie Fuller, Early Childhood Education Director

**Nominee:** Stacey DeGroff

**Nomination:** I'd like to nominate Stacey DeGroff for employee of the year. She's been a Head Start director for less than two years and has handled a big load on her shoulders.

Truthfully, it is not a secret that we have struggled with turnover, being extremely short staffed, and with lower enrollment – through no fault of hers. Many Head Start programs are in the same boat. Stacey has strived for the quality of our program and has stood up for the quality of our staff against the struggles and against the bureaucracy of the federal head start program and administration that has called her on the carpet.

When we lost three administrative staff she took on those job responsibilities as well as her own. Many a person would have thrown their arms up in defeat, yet Stacey carries on. She comes to work before dawn. She brings work home. She has an excellent rapport with children, staff, and families. Stacey gives 100% and remains positive and professional to staff. She's the heart of our program.

## G.

**Nominated by:** Kelly McDougall, HS Education Specialist

**Nominee:** Julie Fuller

**Nomination:** I am nominating Julie Fuller for Head Start Employee of the Year.

Julie is fully dedicated to her staff and the children we serve at Head Start. Julie is one of the hardest working women I have had the privilege to know and work with. Julie truly cares about her staff, the children we serve and their parents. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Julie over the past few months and I have grown as an employee because of her support and guidance. Julie's title is Education Coordinator, but that title encompasses many roles and Julie excels at each of them.

When needed, Julie works in classrooms as ratio, she teaches CDA class, she supervises a center as well as all education specialists, she has been very active in the implementation of our Practice-Based Coaching, she organizes and presents educational trainings to staff, the list goes on... Julie is a unique woman who works her tail off to make sure our Head Start program is the best it can be and that our staff are the best they can be.

On a personal note, I am thrilled that I have had the opportunity to get to know and learn from such an amazing person. Julie deserves the Head Start Employee of the year because she personifies what we should all strive for as employees of Head Start.

# H.

**Nominated by:** Stephanie DeBoardere, HS Education Specialist

**Nominee:** Amy Thatcher

**Nomination:** At the Sodus center Amy has been a great support in several components of the program when we were struggling with staffing.

She assisted in the class rooms of HS and EHS in providing break coverage, ratio, and additional support when the HS room was having difficulty while also completing the requirements of her own position.

Amy also made sure that the communication was kept between the Sodus class rooms, parents, and the administrative staff to support the Sodus site.

Amy also assisted with preparing lunch and doing dishes when there was not a kitchen aide. I would like to nominate Amy for not only serving the program in her own component but also supporting the program at Sodus in every aspect when the program was struggling.

I.

**Nominated by:** Stephanie DeBoardere, HS Education Specialist

**Nominee:** Cortney Simmons

**Nomination:** I would like to nominate Cortney Simmons for Employee of the Year.

In the time that the program had a need, Cortney assisted enrolled families and children to continue receiving services.

Cortney transitioned to the Toddler room in Sodus, starting the year without having an Assistant teacher. Several different staff were put in the room to assist with coverage.

Cortney provided a descriptive schedule and roles for each person coming in, so they would be aware of what needed to be covered. She ensured that all staff were prepped for class room activities, including the subs.

Cortney also moved from the classroom to cover the home base position in Sodus due to an open position, so that families could receive services.

Cortney also assisted with the kitchen prep, doing dishes, and cleaning the building.