

Kudos: Maria DiBuono, Denise Hendzel and Samantha Holtz (September 2017 One Good Apple Award recipients)

Office of Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) staff members Maria DiBuono, Denise Hendzel, and Samantha Holtz were selected as the September 2017 DHS One Good Apple Award winners.

Maria DiBuono, resource service specialist at the CYF North Regional Office, was recognized for “going the extra mile” for caseworkers. Recently, Maria assisted in obtaining placement for a sibling group of six children where she provided “110% support during a highly stressful evening and did not leave until everything was settled.” Maria was also praised as a support to her entire unit – she shares her knowledge with the resource specialist team and is willing to assist her peers with tasks.

Denise Hendzel, client interaction specialist in the CYF transportation department, was recognized for her commitment to parents and children. Denise has demonstrated success in providing transportation for a teen who exhibited many concerning behaviors. Denise’s success has led her to become the designated person to transport this teen, an activity she has even done on her own time. Additionally, Denise has sought opportunities to further her knowledge of behavioral health to support her role as a client interaction specialist.

Samantha Holtz, caseworker at the CYF North Regional Office, was recognized for her timely response to information received over a weekend. Samantha quickly alerted her supervisor and service provider. Because of Samantha’s dedication and quick response, a dangerous situation was averted. Samantha has also done a great job engaging immigrant and international families on her caseload. She has demonstrated the ability to connect with appropriate services within the community and utilize kin for placement.

The One Good Apple Award recognizes DHS and Great Lakes Behavioral Research Institute employees who have exhibited exemplary work, directly or indirectly, in the field of child welfare. Any DHS or Great Lakes employee may submit a nomination for the award, and recipients are recognized quarterly.

If you have any questions regarding the One Good Apple Award, please contact Carrie Sousa at carrie.sousa@allegHENYcounty.us.