Cooperman-Bogue KidsFirst Awards for 1995, at a Ceremony Held on 1996 : 04 : 02

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.
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Cooperman-Bogue Awards Dinner
About Our Winners....

Jeffrey Williams is a Senior Delinquency Case Management Counselor with the Department of Juvenile Justice, Wildwood Service Center. At the time of his nomination, Mr. Williams was a Delinquency Case Manager. Prior to that, he worked as a teacher at Booker T. Washington School in Tampa, and as a counselor at Northside Mental Health. "It is clear that Jeff is in much contact with many people in our community who are in need," according to co-worker Steve Szabo, who nominated him. "He is a positive influence ... clients leave with more confidence and 'can do' attitude which leads to greater independence. This is the desired goal for a social worker, and Jeff is the best that I have seen in many, many years."

Kelly Twiss is Youth Services Coordinator for CASA, where she has been employed for more than five years. During the 10 years prior to CASA, she worked with children and youth of all ages and, in 1985, helped start the first preschool in the country for "cocaine babies" for Operation PAR. Ms. Twiss was nominated by Linda Osmundson, Executive Director of CASA, who wrote: "Kelly listens and communicates without blame and judgment, and believes that sometimes just being with a child can break through the protective wall they have built. She effectively speaks to diverse groups of all ages."

Ellie Ferro has been an OB/Pediatric Social Worker at Morton Plant Mease Health Care for more than four years, following graduation from the University of South Florida with a bachelor's degree in social work. Ms. Ferro was nominated by co-worker Jane Garamella, who wrote: "External customers (i.e., public health nurses, social workers and physicians, adoption agencies, etc.) as well as internal customers look to Ellie as a resource guide. She has established a high level of trust."

Joseph Hornstein has been employed with the City of St. Petersburg's Recreation Department since 1990. He was hired as a Recreation Aide (part-time during the year, fulltime during the summer). While his talents and abilities have been noticed by administrators, and he has been encouraged to "move up the ladder," he has chosen to stay in his position because he believes his greatest service and personal satisfaction come from the day-to-day contact and interaction with children. "Joe's efforts in going above and beyond to improve the quality of life in Pinellas have been an honor to observe," wrote his supervisor, Charles Boehme, who nominated Mr. Hornstein. "This man puts others first."

Fifty Years Of Putting Children First....

Fifty years ago, the residents of Pinellas County made a commitment to their children and to their future by establishing the Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) of Pinellas County. The first independent special taxing district for children's services in the nation, JWB still serves as a model, implementing a broad range of services to families and children.

JWB currently supports some 65 agencies offering more than 135 programs to Pinellas County residents. Emphasis is placed on services promoting self-sufficiency; concentrating on assets rather than deficits; involving the community and neighborhoods; reinforcing prevention; and supporting families.