



wisconsin department of
children + families

201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200

P.O. Box 8916

Madison, WI 53708-8916

Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

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Contact: Erika Monroe-Kane or Stephanie Hayden, 608-266-9000

DCF Secretary Recognizes Outstanding Milwaukee County Social Worker

Today Department of Children and Families (DCF) Secretary Eloise Anderson awarded the 2011 Secretary's Caring for Kids award to social worker, Nichole Ostrowski-Grasset, for her incredible commitment to the children and families of Wisconsin. Nichole was one of four social workers who received this year's awards.

Nichole's leadership and inventiveness have led to two programs that improve the lives of children and foster parents. In 2007, Nichole started the Hair and Skin Care program. This program is designed to help foster families who have a foster child of a different race or ethnic background. Licensed consultants visit the family in home and teach them how to care for the children's hair and skin by teaching techniques and which products to use.

Nichole also started the Ambassador program. Through this program, foster or adoptive families share their stories at public venues and work with the media to dispel the myths and negative attitudes about the foster care program. These ambassadors also act as mentors for new foster families.

"Social workers dedicate their work to helping people transform their lives," said Secretary Anderson. "The four outstanding social workers honored today, demonstrate passion, dedication, and professionalism as they improve the lives of children and parents. This will lead to stronger families, communities and a stronger Wisconsin."

For more information about professional social workers, please visit the DCF or the National Association of Social Workers websites at www.dcf.wisconsin.gov and www.nasw.org.

ABOUT DCF

The Department of Children and Families, created in 2008, is dedicated to protecting children, strengthening families and building communities. Since the formation of the Department, DCF has made improvements to better serve the changing needs of Wisconsin's families and to ensure a better future for parents and children.

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