

Distinguished Service Award To An Individual Within The Field Of Juvenile Justice Service In The State Of Pennsylvania

I would like to nominate Jacqueline (Jackie) Froehlich, Deputy Director of Operations at Bucks County Youth Center (BCYC), for the Distinguished Service Award. For over 40 years, Jackie has helped to assure that the residents of our facility have been properly cared for and nurtured. This has included years of work on our county budget; the care of the physical plant, operations and property; and her oversight of our food service program.

Jackie began her career with BCYC in the administrative and fiscal department dealing with budgeting, purchasing and bill paying. This encompassed the juvenile detention facility as well as four county operated group homes. It also included training of group home house parents on how to manage their household budgets and standard operating procedures. Whenever renovations, cleaning and painting of the facilities was required; she was always one of the first with a cleaning rag or paint brush in hand.

In the late 1990's when we were transitioning to a brand new 60 bed facility, Jackie was extremely instrumental in helping with the design, décor and furnishing of the 50,000 sq. ft. facility that is routinely complimented on its design and appearance. Since that time she has overseen building operations and has helped assure that it has maintained a comfortable and homey setting despite being a secure facility for delinquent children.

Another part of her legacy is bringing the school lunch program to BCYC. Over the past 10 years the center has benefitted both nutritionally and financially from this implementation. Our residents and staff have enjoyed healthier food offerings with lower fat and sodium content as well as fresh fruits and a salad bar that rivals any fine restaurant. Financially speaking, the center receives tens of thousands of dollars in school lunch reimbursement annually. Our School Lunch audit by the state earlier this year showed 100% compliance with no violations. Jackie has taken this another step further by becoming involved in the School Nutrition Assoc. of PA (SNAPA) and even served as President of this volunteer organization made up of school district food service administrators. She has generously shared her knowledge of these systems with several other JDCAP facilities and school districts who also benefit from the School Lunch Program.

BCYC enjoys a large gardening program that was started and continues to be coordinated by Jackie. This includes growing of fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs that are used by the center. The garden program has been implemented into our programming by teaching our residents all aspects from planting to harvesting. On a daily basis, meals are prepared here utilizing ingredients from our gardens that residents and staff helped to cultivate.

It should be noted that she is completely hands on with planting, weeding and everything else that needs to be done to have successful gardens.

Jackie never loses site of the fact that our residents are kids. As such, she makes sure that holidays and other special occasions are recognized for our population. Cup cake decorating, gingerbread house making, summer cookouts and holiday decorations are a regular part of BCYC programming.

Jackie's passion and dedication extend well beyond BCYC. She involves herself in numerous charitable causes that include caring for elderly and infirmed persons by making them meals and visiting with them. Over the past several decades, she has crocheted baby blankets for BCYC staff members expecting their first child. She also participates regularly with her faith-based community through various work service projects.

Jackie's career has been thoroughly dedicated to the residents of BCYC. She conducts her personal and her work life to the mission of doing what is in the best interest of the child. She has helped to ensure that our residents feel comfortable and cared for during an incredibly distressing time in their lives. She is most certainly a huge part of the success we enjoy as a child serving agency. It is for these reasons that she is deserving of the Distinguished Service Award.