

## Child Welfare Professionals of the Month Awardees January – June 2016

Those who work and volunteer at Florida Foster Care Review often see firsthand the many deficits and challenges at play in our child welfare system. We serve as a safety net by identifying gaps and issues for each child we review and seek solutions to ensure children's safety, well-being and permanency. However, we also believe that case managers, attorneys and other professionals who go above and beyond the call of duty, despite the lack of resources and often large caseloads, deserve recognition.

Every month, FFCR recognizes an outstanding case manager or other child welfare practitioner with our Child Welfare Professional of the Month Award. FFCR's team of expert review specialists – the staff members who oversee the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) process – select the awardee on the basis of their professionalism during CRP hearings, excellent presentation skills, thorough documentation, knowledge of their clients' needs and exceptional efforts to provide quality services to children and families.

During the first half of 2016, FFCR recognized the following six child welfare professionals for their extra-special efforts:

### Desiree Hall - ChildNet Broward



Desiree Hall works diligently for all the kids on her caseload. Desiree truly cares for their well-being and goes above and beyond what is expected of a case manager. Her motivation is not based solely on compliance but more on her desire to ensure the children's safety and well-being.

Desiree previously worked in Miami-Dade for the [Children's Home Society of Florida](#).

### Vanessa De La Paz - OurKids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.

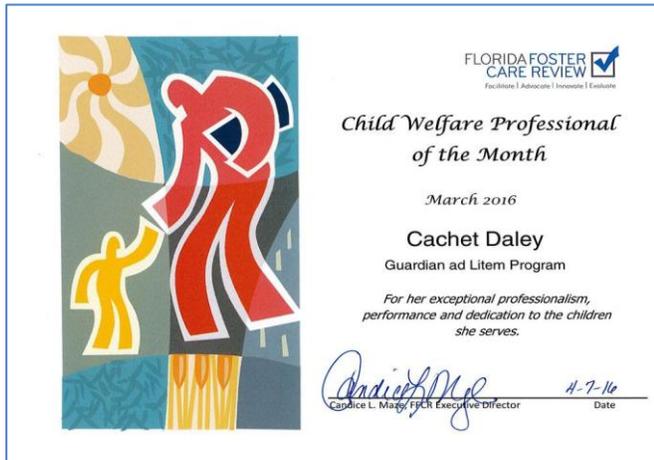
Vanessa De La Paz is a great Independent Living Transition Services (ILTS) worker, very hands-on with the Extended Foster Care youth on her caseload. She is careful to provide her transitioning young adults with as much support as they need and



would like. Vanessa frequently thinks outside of the box to locate services for the young adults assigned to her. She is always prepared for CRP reviews and consistently urges the young adults to take ownership of their cases by participating in reviews.

The young adults assigned to her often see her as a mentor, not just the ILTS worker.

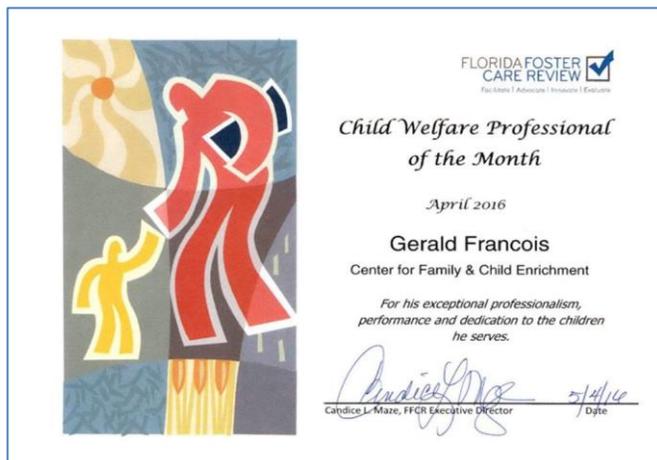
### Cachet Daley - Broward GAL Program



Cachet Daly is a committed [Guardian ad Litem](#) who consistently goes out of her way to advocate strongly for the children she represents. She always attends CRP reviews and is very prepared and knowledgeable about the children assigned to her. Her action-oriented, solution-based approach makes her a powerful advocate. Cachet recently traveled to Orlando from Miami after her GAL child was placed there, in an effort to ensure a smooth transition.

Cachet worked previously for the Guardian ad Litem Program in Miami-Dade.

### Gerald Francois - Center for Children & Family Enrichment



Gerald Francois is a Case Manager at the [Center for Family & Child Enrichment](#). He always comes to CRP reviews with a good understanding of the case, prepared with his personal knowledge as well as supporting documentation. In those instances when Gerald has not obtained specific reports and/or attached certain documents to

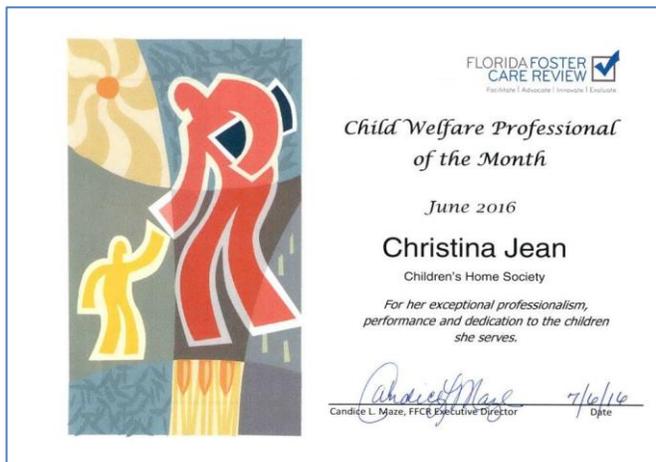
the agency's Judicial Review Social Study Report, he ensures that the CRP receives the requested documents shortly after the review.

### Katherine Zubizarreta - Department of Children and Families



Katherine is a [Children's Legal Services](#) attorney and division chief. Katherine is supportive of the CRP's mission and is always quick to respond to our emails and provide assistance in whatever capacity necessary. She's very receptive to the CRP's concerns and recommendations, and is always willing to help when CLS coverage is needed. During CRP reviews, she is an active participant who brings crucial information and insights.

### Christina Jean - Children's Home Society



Christina Jean is a supervisor at the [Children's Home Society of Florida](#). She comes prepared with case details in order to accurately portray the case's status. She is very professional, thorough and always willing to support her case managers when they are unable to attend a CRP hearing. We can count on Christina to take note of issues requiring follow-up and to make sure those issues are addressed after each review.