

DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



March 2019

Kudos: Kristen DeComo-Jacobs, Kaylee Girdwood and Danielle Rogers (March 2019 One Good Apple Award winners)

Kristen DeComo-Jacobs, Kaylee Girdwood and Danielle Rogers were selected as the March 2019 One Good Apple Award winners.

- Kristen DeComo-Jacobs (multisystem specialist/manager of ITM) was recognized for her tireless efforts to find solutions for youth with complex needs. Kristen, in partnership with a strong support team of cross system peers, worked diligently over several years to coordinate resources to reach permanency for a child who was once deemed "unadoptable" by a psychiatrist. The child was recently adopted and is very happy.
- Kaylee Girdwood (caseworker in the Central Regional Office) was recognized for going the extra mile. She worked closely with a parent who was faced with a physical disability, and Kaylee assisted with school transportation during a time of transition from shelter to an apartment. Kaylee has also stepped up to assist her peers with attending court hearings and conducting placements.
- Danielle Rogers (caseworker in the South Regional Office) was recognized for her support of a teen who has been in the foster care system for an extended period and has very limited positive natural supports. Danielle worked to maintain visits between this teen and her sibling despite often forceful opposition of the sibling's foster parent. Danielle used her own time and resources to create a collage for this teen so that she can have a memento. She has gone above and beyond to respect and honor this teen's bond with her sibling.

The One Good Apple Award recognizes county employees and contracted staff who have exhibited exemplary work, directly or indirectly, in the field of child welfare. Any county employee or contracted staff 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. Additional information on the award is available on the DHS Intranet under Staff Resources.