

# NEWS NEWS



## Department of Human Services

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**Anne Marie Ambrose, Commissioner**

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### DHS Recognizes Crusaders in the Fight to End Child Abuse

Philadelphia, PA--On Tuesday, April 26, the Department of Human Services (DHS) hosted a ceremony to present the twelfth annual Children's Crusader Awards.

The Crusader Awards recognize those social workers who embrace the protection of children with unbridled zeal and devotion. This year, a special award was also presented to Matt Smith, general sales manager of the Beasley Broadcasting Group of Philadelphia, for dedicating his resources and energy to ensuring successful outcomes for older youth in care.

The event also highlighted DHS' ongoing efforts to prevent child abuse, neglect and delinquency in recognition of April's designation as Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month in Philadelphia. DHS Commissioner Anne Marie Ambrose noted that in the past year, the Department had achieved many outcomes that have resulted in improved child safety and well being including:

- An 11.8% decrease in the overall percentage of children in dependent and delinquent placement settings during calendar year 2010- an indication that fewer children are coming into care.
- The number of children in out-of-state placement decreased by 36.5% in calendar year 2010 ensuring that DHS can better monitor and ensure the quality of services delivered; and children and youth in placement can better maintain family ties.

Commissioner Ambrose thanked the three Crusader Award winners for going above and beyond the call of duty in their service to children and families. “The winners of this award are truly crusaders in their effort to not only protect children but to ensure they have the positive supports they need to succeed,” she said. The individual winners of the 2011 Children’s Crusader Award are:

**Terrina Brown-Littles**, a Youth Study Center II Information Officer, who has served at DHS for six years. Brown is well respected for effectively networking with other child welfare agencies and the courts, her participation in events to benefit youth at the YSC and efforts to motivate other staff by serving on the Employee Recognition Committee. “This award confirms to me that a little act of kindness goes a long way,” says Brown-Littles. “When you lend a helping hand, you touch many hearts.”

**Beth Hurd**, an Administrative Services Supervisor in the Revenue Enhancement Unit who has served at DHS for 18 years. Hurd is known for being extremely knowledgeable and for her willingness to assist social workers with necessary paperwork. “I have always tried to be aware that there is a child behind every paper that I process. This award reminds me that although I don't work directly with the families, my work makes a difference in their lives,” says Hurd.

**Andrew Jarzyniecki**, a Social Work Services Manager II, Intake Division who has served at DHS for three and a half years. Jarzyniecki was nominated by many of his colleagues for his ability to work as a team player and his positive approach to social work even in times of crisis. Equally appreciative of his colleagues, Jarzyniecki notes, “This award means that my co-workers have taught me exactly what I needed to know to do my job successfully.”

In addition, a special Crusader Award was presented to **Matt Smith**, general sales manager of the Beasley Broadcasting Group of Philadelphia for his leadership and enthusiastic efforts on behalf of older youth in care. Through his work with Beasley Broadcasting, which includes radio stations Wired 96.5 and XTU, he sponsored and raised awareness of the Back Pack Challenge, a campaign to provide necessary supplies to older youth in care who are heading off to college or high school. He also helped support Always Bet on Youth, an event that raises funds for the Achieving Independence Center, and has trained to become a mentor to a youth in care.

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*The Philadelphia Department of Human Services is the City agency charged with protecting children from abuse, neglect, and delinquency; ensuring their safety and permanency in nurturing home environments; and strengthening and preserving families by enhancing community-based prevention services. In partnership with community organizations, DHS provides services to strengthen the overall well being of Philadelphia children, youth, and families using a customer focused approach that is responsive to evolving community needs.*