

## HART Shining Star Awards

The HART shining star awards is a new initiative to honor the exceptional work being done by DCF staff, HART Committee Members, and community providers in CT whose focus is on eradicating human trafficking as well as empowering victims of this crime. These awards will be announced quarterly in the Newsletter.

Our recipients this quarter are:

### *Leadership Award*

*Melanie Kmetz*

*DCF HART Liaison/Program Manager*

*“Melanie's leadership skills, organization and ability to work collaboratively with the community has been a tremendous asset to the Department of Children and Families and meeting the needs of the vulnerable youth in our community. We appreciate Melanie's passion for this work, and we agree she deserves to be acknowledged for her years of advocacy on behalf of the children in Region 1”.*

*Kenneth Cabral, M.Ed.*

*Regional Administrator*

*Region 1 Bridgeport/Norwalk*

### *Community Award*

*Erin Williamson*

*Survivor Care Program Manager*

*Love 146*

*"Erin's skills, experience, passion, tenacity and personality have made her a dynamic addition to the Love146 team specifically, and to the children and agencies she serves. We are thrilled and honored that she has been named as the community's "Shining Star" in this season of our joint work for trafficked and exploited children".*

*Stephanie Goins, PhD*

*Executive Programs Director, Love146*



From left to right: Melanie Kmetz, Erin Williamson, Tammy Sneed, and Yvette Young



Tammy Sneed and Melanie Kmetz



Tammy Sneed and Erin Williamson