

Ms. Aponte is an experienced Social Work Case Aide who has consistently shown care and compassion for the children and families here at the Department. Ms. Aponte takes initiative, she is self-sufficient, and a solid team player who is willing to assist whenever she can. Ms. Aponte volunteered to become trained to search protective orders for staff, and she is utilized by SW staff for interpreting (Spanish) in an emergency only and follows up on collaterals/phone calls to community providers. Ms. Aponte will also occasionally assist the Intake clerical staff during emergencies. Ms. Aponte is the only SWCA assigned to Intake and always does her best to assist the children and families that are impacted by crisis and hardship.

Ms. Aponte continues to be a valued member of the Intake team. While assigned to Intake, Ms. Aponte continues to meet the work demands and is always open to challenges. She faces each day with a smile and compassion for her coworkers and our families.

When Covid-19 forced our office to close, Ms. Aponte was ready to help in any way she could and has remained consistent in her commitment to the Bridgeport area office and our community of families we serve. Early on, during uncertain times, she volunteered to go to Central Office several times as needed to pick up PPEs and the locked “confidentiality” bags that were given to intake staff. Ms. Aponte has come to the Bridgeport office to assist staff or has gone to their residence to ensure they were equipped with PPE and any other items that were needed due to the COVID crisis.

Throughout the pandemic, Ms. Aponte has not hesitated to assist with conducting supervised visits virtually and in person when appropriate, placements of children, with legal work as she collaborated with OA staff regarding this and transportation of confidentiality records needed by all staff. Elsie has been unwavering in her commitment to helping our staff and families.

Ms. Aponte goes above and beyond her duties for the Bridgeport community and it is with great honor that we nominate her for the Dr. Janet E. Williams Humanitarian award.