

“Celebrated in her Image”



"It has been difficult speaking of her in the past tense, I swear I can still hear her voice," explained Social Worker Jackie Vidal when reminiscing about her dear friend and colleague, Yocasta DelRosario, a DCF Supervisor who passed away in July.

Jackie was recently named the recipient of the 1st annual Yocasta DelRosario Humanitarian Award. This award was created by social workers in the Waterbury regional DCF office, who were looking for a way to honor their colleague while healing their broken hearts.

Jackie was extremely emotional when sharing this high honor, explaining how touched she was to be considered in the image of someone whom she admired so much.

Jackie has been employed by DCF since 2015. Before DCF, she served as a Liaison, providing support to licensed foster and adoptive families through her work at the Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families.

Often, through tears, Jackie explained Yocasta to be a bright light in the Waterbury DCF office, always making sure that her colleagues felt seen and heard. She had a way of making others feel safe and welcomed, going out of her way to check in on them.



Even families whose homes she would visit were left better than she found them. Yocasta established a trusting relationship and was genuine to her core. Happy, filled with joy and a ball of energy are just a few words of the many used to describe her.

Jackie who carries the nickname, “Mrs. Claus”, loves to coordinate holiday gift drives for families involved with DCF, spending the holiday season working closely with her colleagues, donors, and community members to bring holiday joy to children and their parents. Jackie was

honored with the Humanitarian Award by her colleagues because of her selfless efforts in the field of Child Welfare, and for her kindness, wisdom, and mutual respect for others – just a few of the characteristics used to describe Jackie’s work ethic and compassionate heart.

As shared by Maritza Acosta, Office Director in the Waterbury Regional Office, “Jackie was nominated and selected for this award due to her dedication, professionalism, eagerness to help her co-workers, and her ability to engage even the most difficult clients. She demonstrates a strong personal investment in her professional responsibilities and works tirelessly to ensure that the needs of the children, teens, parents and foster parents on her caseload are met. Jackie goes above and beyond her daily tasks and is always readily available to help make any situation better for families, whether on her own case or with one of her co-workers.”

Jackie is considered to be passionate, thoughtful, non-judgmental, empathetic, and respectful, a role model in her unwavering integrity in all areas of her work.

“Yocasta was simply, amazing,” explained Jackie, adding, “I just hope I can make her beautiful soul proud by carrying on her legacy.”

We believe that Jackie already has!