

Janet E. Williams Humanitarian Award 2023 Recipient and Nominees

Dr. Janet E. Williams served as the agency's Medical Director for several years. She was known for her devotion to Connecticut's children and families, the compassion in how she interacted with others and the teachings she imparted to staff across the agency.

An active presence in her community, Dr. Williams gave back in unique ways.



To honor her legacy, the Dr. Janet E. Williams Humanitarian Award is given to a DCF staff person who has demonstrated a strong passion for children and families, shown an unyielding concern, and has taken action towards the advancement and betterment of those on their caseload, or within the Black community.

Congratulations to **Yolanda Chapman-Smith** for receiving the 2023 Janet E. Williams award! Yolanda was nominated for using her voice, platform, and influence as a Black woman in leadership, both internally and within the community, through advocacy for racial justice and equitably responsive systems within the Black community.

Congratulations to all of the Nominees:

- **Elena Conde, Social Worker, Danbury Office** - Nominated for her work and advocacy in schools by being a liaison and advocating for more extracurricular activities for lower income families.
- **Elizabeth Wyatt-Friedman, Social Worker, Danbury Office** - Nominated for always supporting and bringing to the forefront racial injustice issues that present themselves on her caseload.
- **Shante' Powers-Gaskins, RRG Supervisor, Region 4** - Nominated for her commitment to racial justice through advocacy in schools, the community, and always working to ensure inclusion of Black and Brown staff within DCF.
- **Teresa Jenkins, Social Work Supervisor, Norwich Office** - Nominated for her involvement, support, and advocacy in wider Black communities through fundraising for youth scholarships through her local church and more.
- **Dr. Brett Rayford, Former Superintendent of Solnit North** - Nominated for being a trailblazer in racial justice work across the State of Connecticut, connecting many to resources and community conferences created by Dr. Rayford to ensure justice for youth, families, and the wider Black community.

- **Winston Taylor, Social Work Supervisor, Norwich Office** - Nominated for his dedication, 29 years of service, and work of supporting Black families within and outside of DCF as well as through ministry of supporting those who are incarcerated.
- **Lorraine Thomas, Social Work Supervisor, Norwich Office** - Nominated for her mentorship of young women and always approaching every situation with compassion.
- **Jacqueline Vidal, Social Worker, Waterbury Office** - Nominated for her dedication and support of identifying culturally competent providers to meet basic needs that are culturally sensitive to the children on her caseload and in the community.
- **Raven Wright, Clinical Intake Coordinator at Solnit South** - Nominated for being a champion for the LGBTQ+ community, hair care education for Black youth, and educating providers of how they can be clinically supportive to youth and families.