



County of Los Angeles  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

**LA County Social Workers Honored for Life Changing Work with Prestigious Cornelia Funke Awards.**

(LOS ANGELES, December 15, 2014) — On Thursday, December 18, at 6 p.m., internationally acclaimed author Cornelia Funke will honor five social workers from the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for their outstanding efforts on behalf of children and families. This unique awards presentation will be held at the Children's Medical Village lobby, located at 2010 Zonal Avenue in Los Angeles. Funke has personally financed these awards worth \$5,000 each. The money is to be used to provide a weeklong retreat for the honored social workers to rejuvenate and refocus on the job of protecting children (see profiles of social workers below).

Cornelia Funke is a multiple-award winning children's author best known for her books "Dragonrider," "Thief Lord" and "Inkheart," which were made into major motion pictures. Cornelia grew up in Germany and after graduating college worked as a children's social worker in Hamburg, Germany. She also sits on the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles County Violence Intervention Program and dedicates herself to helping abused and neglected children. Her compassion, unyielding generosity, and support of those committed to the safety and well-being of Los Angeles County's children has led her to create this award.

"I want to show my gratitude with this award to all the men and women in this city who walk into the darkness for us. I want to show my respect to all the ones who fearlessly face the shadows of our society and reach out for the weakest - the children who learned about fear and pain far too early and live lives that would break most of us. The winners of these awards devote their life to bringing light into their darkness. They made it their job to heal the wounds others caused, to bring joy where there was just pain, support and love to children who never experienced either. There is no nobler task in our society, and none is harder. I wish I could do

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

more and I hope there will be others who make this work more bearable by showing the social workers of LA that we all know what we owe them.”

Led by Dr. Astrid Heger, the Violence Intervention Program has served as the primary hub for all child abuse cases in Los Angeles County, establishing a multidisciplinary family advocacy center that provides medical, forensic, mental health, advocacy and supportive services to victims of child abuse, neglect, sexual assault, domestic violence, elder abuse and dependent adult abuse.

**The social workers profiled below will be available for interviews before and after the reception. If you plan to cover the event, please contact Neil Zanville or Dominique Robinson with the DCFS Office of Public Affairs at (213) 351-5886.**

### **Krystal Boulden**

Krystal Boulden is the lead member of the DCFS Child Fatality/ Critical Incident Notification Team and personally handles some of the most challenging calls to the Child Protection Hotline. She expertly coordinates all pertinent information and generates referrals so emergency response staff can immediately respond in timely manner—often the difference between life and death. Her professional demeanor, investigative skills, and compassion ensure that these sensitive situations are handled with the best interests of the children in mind.

### **Lisa Galvez (Bilingual-Spanish Speaking)**

Lisa Galvez is extremely knowledgeable in immigration issues and has successfully helped many youth obtain legal status in the country. She does whatever is necessary to help these vulnerable youth stabilize and move forward by processing legal documents, obtaining social security cards and legal identification, and researching grants and scholarships that will allow them to pursue a college education. On numerous occasions, Ms. Galvez has traveled to other countries to reunify families. When that is not possible, she works closely with parents to provide a permanent plan that will best meet their children’s needs. Many of the youth she has helped along the way have stayed in touch with her long after leaving foster care.

### **Delmi Madrigal (Bilingual-Spanish Speaking)**

Delmi Madrigal is a passionate advocate for medically fragile youth. She established the first ever teen support group for diabetic foster youth in Antelope Valley. When there was no one available to visit with a one-year-old fighting pneumonia, Ms. Madrigal went to the hospital so she could physically hold and comfort the child. Recognizing that a two-year old girl appeared lethargic and malnourished, she immediately had the child hospitalized who was diagnosed with failure to thrive. Her quick assessment and actions helped save the child’s life. While working overtime to ensure this child was safe, Ms. Madrigal missed her own daughter taking her first walking steps. Her response: “I missed my daughter’s first steps, but I saved another child in the process.”

## **Alaynnase (Sy) Yi**

Alaynnase (Sy) Yi's compassion and assessment skills have proved extremely effective in working with families in crisis and providing them with the services they need to stabilize. She is extremely resourceful in securing clothes, shelter, and household appliances for her clients. She forms an empathetic relationship with the youngsters on her caseload by taking them on "lunch outings". She supported a sixteen-year-old obese youth by exercising with him and establishing a school regimen to monitor his progress, resulting in his loss of 60 pounds. Ms. Yi worked closely with a single illiterate father of two young children in obtaining housing, connecting him to community resources, establishing bank accounts, and enrolling him in a literacy program with child care. Her support allowed the father and his two young children to remain together at home.

## **Arolyn Burns**

Arolyn Burns, a 15-year DCFS veteran is always willing to volunteer her services to help others in need. She has provided trainings for staff on evaluating the emotional and behavioral needs of abused children and works with community partners on early intervention programs for developmentally disabled children. Ms. Burns is the Domestic Violence Liaison for the Association of Batterers Intervention Programs. Following the aftermath of the Hurricane Katrina disaster in 2005, she volunteered to assist at the Cajundome, an evacuee shelter in Louisiana, which became a center of relief for thousands.

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