

The Chief



Civil Service LEADER

THE CIVIL EMPLOYEES' WEEKLY

General Display • Schools & Instruction • Legal Services • Legal Notices • Classifieds • Organizations

News of the week December 25, 2009 Search Archives Search

- News of the week
- Editorial
- Editor's "Razzle Dazzle" Column
- Letters to the Editor
- Professionals' Column
- Civil Service Exam Stories
- News Archive
- Services
- Advertiser Index
- Who We Are
- Contact Info
- Email Us
- Subscribe
- Place a Classified
- Advertising Information
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Unsung Civil Servants Get Honors for Public Service

100-Year Association Awardees
By DAVID SIMS



HER DAY TO SHINE: Sharraine Franklin (third from left) was the top prize-winner at the Hundred Year Association's public service awards ceremony, receiving \$6,000 from Con Edison for her work as a Public Health Educator. She travels to under-funded clinics to share techniques on dealing with critical health problems, so that patients can 'move from just having the information on different health tactics to actually take action to improve their lives,' she said.

The Chief-Leader/Andrew Hinderaker

Outstanding civil servants who work tirelessly for the city out of the spotlight were given their chance to shine Dec. 16 at the annual Public Service Awards of the Hundred Year Association, which presented \$22,000 in cash prizes to 10 city employees.

In addition, 15 academically talented children of civil servants received \$30,000 in college scholarships from the organization, made up of businesses and companies that have operated in the city for more than 100 years.



AN AMBASSADOR TO STUDENTS: Douglas Cruz, a School Safety Agent at Columbus High School in The Bronx, accepts a 100-Year Association Award from this newspaper's publisher, Edward B. Prial, for his after-school work educating children about law-enforcement careers.

The Chief-Leader/Andrew Hinderaker

Public Health Educator Cited

The top employee prize-winner, Sharraine Franklin, is a Public Health Educator in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene who travels to high-need areas of the city to advise clinics and doctors' offices on the best ways to help patients suffering critical problems. She received a \$6,000 award from Consolidated Edison.

"We work with medical providers, we bring information to help improve their practice," she said. "We target areas of high disparity: the South Bronx, east and central Harlem, and Brownsville and Bushwick. We bring clinical tools to help them work with their patients, to move from just having the information on different health tactics to actually take action to improve their lives."

Some of the issues Ms. Franklin has worked on include hypertension, obesity, influenza, depression and breastfeeding. "I get to meet a lot of different people, which is great, but I get to help them also," she said. "When I come with the tools, the information, they're so pleased, because the areas that we target are so deprived, usually they don't have a lot of resources. They'll be able to bring these resources to these providers."

This newspaper presented a \$3,500 award to Douglas Cruz, a School Safety Agent who works at Christopher Columbus High School in The Bronx and spends time after school educating children in the Law Enforcement Explorers.

Outline Potential Careers

"We teach them about different careers in law-enforcement, different agencies, the FBI, the Police Department, the School Safety division," he said. "We teach them about the lifestyle of a police officer, what they go through, and we teach them what they go through on the street."

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His work has a noticeable impact on the aspiring law-enforcers. “They’re very inspired; a lot of them want to become police officers, or FBI agents. Three kids that graduated went to John Jay, one went to a military academy upstate,” he said. “This is my fourth year. I’m going to continue on for a long time, I’m only 30 years old.”

Henry Ehrhardt, the Deputy Director of Community Affairs in the Department of Sanitation, was lauded for his efforts to make information about scheduled pickups and trashcollection problems more easily accessible to the public, receiving \$2,500 from the Bank of New York Mellon.

“We mapped out all the sanitation routes and sections, so people didn’t have to use lists and maps to tell people what their collection days were,” he said. “We’re working with 311 to create a system that maps out service requests and complaints related to snow and other critical kinds of issues. It’s almost real-time, and it gives you a very clear visual overview of where the areas of concern are in the city.”

Getting Men to ‘Dad Up’

A Community Coordinator in the Administration for Children’s Services, Melvin Alston, was awarded \$1,000 by Hagedorn & Company not only because of his work involving community organizations in foster care and child support, but for his founding of Harlem Men Stand Up, a group that supports men raising children.

“Our interest is basically to help young men find resources and get themselves together, and get their families together and be a pillar of the community. One way we do that is to help them find resources,” he explained. “We also help ex-offenders reentering society. . . trying to keep them from recidivism.”

Among the other winners at the ceremony were Hope Henry, a School Safety Agent in the Police Department, who received \$2,500 for her work in after-school and weekend programs at M.S. 53 in Far Rockaway. Evette Robinson, a Director at the Department of Small Business Services, received \$2,000; she assists people looking for information about business incentives and permits issued by the city. John Tweddle, the Gardener at Carl Schurz Park, received \$2,000 for his leadership in a horticultural transformation project there, as well as hosting programs for community groups and children with special needs.

Others Honored

Kristen Eng, a Program Producer at the Fire Department, Brendan Johnson, a Police Officer, and Oksana Lvova, an Associate Staff Analyst at the Office of Payroll Administration, all received \$1,000.

The Hundred Year Association, which was founded in 1927, has given out more than \$1.5 million since it began its award program. Recipients are civil service employees whose salaries do not exceed \$73,000 per year.

Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott gave remarks at the ceremony, noting that he was the son of two city employees, his mother in the Human Resources Administration and his father at the Housing Authority.

“Thank you for all your creativity, for looking at your job not just as a job but as a career,” he told the assembled winners. “I would encourage all of you . . . to always keep in my mind the importance of working in government.”

The College Scholar Award winners were Tiffani Branch, Arielle Maugé, Riddhi Doshi, Igor Eyzner, Kendra Windsor, Ashley Barronette, Ariel Elyahu, Jordan Glassberg, Scott Gordon, Lauren Grieco, Andrew Guinan, Kevin Huang, Sasha Ortiz, James Salem and Michelle Urman.



Chet Lukaszewski, P.C.
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Success Through Knowledge, Experience and Litigation Prowess

3000 Marcus Ave. Suite 2E7
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