

3-30-2000

## Cooperman-Bogue KidsFirst Awards for 1999, at a Ceremony Held on 2000 : 03 : 30

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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## **2000 Cooperman-Bogue Awards Dinner**

# The Magical



**March 30, 2000**

# About Our Winners!

**Barbara Cook** has been a daycare home provider for more than 17 years. Nominated by a mother of one of the children in her care, she frequently serves as a mentor to other daycare providers, who call her for support and guidance. Barbara recognizes the importance of developing self-esteem in children, and uses every opportunity to praise, encourage, and motivate a child. Several years ago, a young boy was under her care from age 2 to age 5. His family life was not the happiest, and he had few positive people around him. Barbara nurtured him and made him feel special. She worked with him a lot to prepare him for school. Because of this one special person, that little boy was much happier and ready to meet the challenge of entering kindergarten.

**Kim Edelson** has been a child protection investigator for more than seven years. She frequently carries a caseload of at least twice the recommended amount, and no matter how late in the day a case is assigned her, she always follows through in making certain that a child's safety is not compromised. Kim consistently tries to identify the strengths of a family, and empowers them to use those strengths to improve their family relationships. Once, she sacrificed her own privacy by allowing the press to shadow her for a week. In doing so, the community became more aware of the difficulties of conducting child abuse investigations.

**Joan Miller** has been a social service counselor with the Pinellas County Health Department for six years. Working at the Northeast High School Health Clinic, she provides emotional support and guidance to students, frequently sacrificing her own lunch period to counsel students who come to the clinic with crisis situations. Education is a high priority on Joan's list. She likes to see her students' progress reports and encourages school completion. Her professionalism applies to all races, religions, and genders. Says school psychologist, Dr. Fran Mabee: "Mrs. Miller works to bring about positive change while enhancing personal growth."

**Elaine Torosian** has been with the Department of Veterans Affairs since 1986, working in a variety of settings including the delivery of direct patient care in psychiatric, geriatric, and substance abuse areas. With little more than administrative encouragement, Elaine made application to the state to establish a Domestic Violence Intervention Program. Hours of training, paperwork, and dealing with the process were mostly done on Elaine's own time in addition to her regular duties. Because of the nature of the subject, the population Elaine serves is often hostile, unresponsive, and being court ordered for treatment, not always motivated. Yet, she has received testimonials from couples regarding the positive impact her program has had on them and their children's lives.

# Program

**Social Hour ..... 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**Welcome ..... 7:00 p.m.**

*Myrtle Smith-Carroll*, Chair

Juvenile Welfare Board

*James E. Mills*, ACSW

Executive Director

Juvenile Welfare Board

## Dinner

## Emcees

*Blanca Estrada*

YMCA of Highpoint

7th Grade, Fitzgerald Middle School

*Jennifer Snell*

Childs Park Youth Initiative Council

Sophomore, Gibbs High School

## Special Appearance by:

***"The Great Hoodanny"***

A 14-year-old magician

with 25 years experience.

## Acknowledgement of Special Guests

## Video Presentation

## Awards Presentation:

*Thomas R. Moriarty*

Former Juvenile Welfare Board Member

Sr. Vice President, AEGON Equity Group