



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager's Office



Date: July 16, 2012
Board Meeting Date: August 14, 2012
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager
Subject: Employee of the Month for August 2012

RECOMMENDATION:

Honor Veronica Pineda as Employee of the Month for August 2012 and authorize the President of the Board to sign the commendation.

BACKGROUND:

The Employee of the Month program was established in December 1984 to recognize and honor County employees who consistently demonstrate an outstanding level of performance.

Our Employee of the Month for August 2012 is Veronica Pineda, a Medical Office Assistant II in the Health System.

DISCUSSION:

Veronica has been employed with the County for over six years. She works in the Family Health Services' Prenatal to Three Program. In January 2012, Prenatal to Three was informed by the County Library that it would no longer be able to provide the board books which are a critical part of the Touchpoints Tote. These totes are provided to clients with educational materials to encourage healthy prenatal care, and growth and development of infants. Veronica oversees the Touchpoints Totes and was concerned about the loss of the books for our clients.

Veronica took initiative and researched where the Library had been receiving its books and found the resource FirstBook.org. This organization provides free or low cost books to programs serving primarily low income children. Veronica applied on behalf of Prenatal to Three to the First Book National Book Bank and the first application was successful. In March, Prenatal to Three received its first shipment of 120 books -Baby

Einstein's Moving Circles. The retail price for the book is \$8.99 and our program paid just 45 cents per book for shipping.

Veronica did not stop there. She realized through the National Book Bank that we could apply to various, regional book banks for additional books. To date, we have received seven more shipments for a grand total of 1,410 books. The approximate retail of these books would have been \$12,391. Instead, Prenatal to Three has paid only \$634 for all of these books. We have been able to expand beyond just the home visiting staff, to be able to also provide books to our countywide parenting classes.

Veronica is also pursuing the Book Banks for more Spanish language books and additional books for home visitors. Veronica has demonstrated outstanding initiative that has made a significant contribution to our program, our County services, and our clients.

Approval of the Employee of the Month contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of Prosperous Community by recognizing employees that foster innovation and excellence in the services provided.

Our County is fortunate to have Veronica Pineda as one of its outstanding employees.