

# Recognition Insider

## Marisa Rooney



Marisa Rooney is a Community Habilitation Specialist with CFS since July of 2013. She has worked with several individuals while attending college to become a Special Education teacher and she currently works with two young adults in our Community Habilitation program.

Marisa’s experiences prepared her for this field: they include personal (her twin has special needs), to professional (working as a teacher’s assistant at the Rosemary Kennedy school), to volunteering her summers with Camp Anchor (this is a town summer camp program.) She is kind and patient and these innate qualities shine through in her work. I feel Marisa has displayed the core competencies in her efforts with our individuals, especially in the following detailed areas:

### Competency Area F: Building and Maintaining Relationships

Marisa understands the need for people to have a sense of community and that this doesn’t always come naturally to those who have special needs or intellectual disabilities. Marisa has taken the initiative to introduce the individuals she works with to other service recipients. Marisa’s brother has special needs and she has introduced him to the individuals she works with. Her brother and his staff have met up on several occasions (bowling, museum, meals) with Marisa and her service recipients. Marisa supports friendships and/or relationships in her service recipients’ lives by helping them to stay connected with people who are important to them. She is involved and truly cares to get her service recipients involved in their communities. One of our individuals recently became engaged and she was there, lending support on her personal time, for both the proposal as well as the engagement party.

### Competency Area H: Developing Professional Relationships & Competency Area I: Exhibiting Professional Behavior

Marisa is always willing and responsive with her Supervisor. She engages in mutually respectful partnerships with everyone associated on her s recipient’s service team. She is actively enrolled in college and manages her free time to work with two service recipients, as well as hostess at a restaurant. Juggling these responsibilities requires her to be professional and very clear with her schedule. Although some weeks she may have more time to work with her service recipients than other weeks, she always makes sure to communicate her availability. She has been a constant in our recipients’ lives, which makes a big difference in the level of trust that is built into her relationships through the years.

*Continued on page 2*

### Special points of interest:

- > If you see someone who should be nominated for Employee of the Month mention it to their Supervisor.

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## *Marisa Rooney*

### *Competency Area G: Creating Meaningful Communication*

Marisa works with two very differently abled individuals and she has learned and developed strategies to communicate effectively with each of them, in very different ways. She focuses on each of their unique interests, considers their sensitivities, and interacts with both with the utmost respect. She is aware of discrepancies between chronological and developmental ages and she vividly empathizes with an individual's need to be treated as an adult. She is amazingly empathetic to this, as this is something she has been doing naturally with her twin brother all her life. She has been adapting situations and activities for her brother since they were babies- and this certainly shines through in her ability to communicate and adapt to what a person will respond best to. Marisa understands different modes of learning and has the compassion and patience to utilize this to her advantage in her work.

### *Competency Area S: Supporting Safety*

One of Marisa's service recipients must wear a helmet as a seizure fall precaution. Marisa is competent in following safety protocol and takes the time to consult with his family and her supervisor to ensure she is taking every precaution to keep him safe during their time together. She must pay very close attention to this individual's actions. As he will not communicate when he is feeling ill, she must pick up on non-verbal cues to assess when he may need to sit down for a few minutes or when it may be time to end a session early to take him home to lay down.

### *Competency Area V: Supporting Active Participation in the Community*

As previously noted, Marisa takes her individuals to various places to keep them involved within their communities. She makes effort to integrate them based on their individual interests and facilitates their participation and inclusion while they are out. She understands the importance of social capital and uses her time with our individuals to scaffold as many natural supports as possible into their sessions.

### *Competency Area J: Showing Respect for Diversity & Inclusion*

Marisa is the president of a student group at her college that focuses on diversity and inclusion. All students (whether they are "typical" or have "special needs") are invited to participate in this club. Marisa has collaborated with her supervisor at CFS and we have presented to the student group about various topics- transitioning into adulthood, waiver service options, access-VR and other avenues to work, etc. Marisa has assisted our LI Self-Advocacy group to link with the college and is working with our Innovative Planning Specialist to do a college campus tour for our Self-Advocates in the Fall.

In conclusion, I do feel strongly that Marisa is an asset to our agency as a DSP; specifically, with her dedication to our service recipients and willingness to learn and grow with each of them. She has an open heart and an open mind and I am so happy to have her as part of our Long Island team. I believe she should be acknowledged for her efforts as employee of the month.

*Danielle Powers*

*Community Habilitation Supervisor*



*“Marisa is an asset to our agency as a DSP; specifically, with her dedication to our service recipients and willingness to learn and grow with each of them. She has an open heart and an open mind...”*



## ***CFS Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon***

### ***Winner 2017 Employee of the Year***

#### ***Maria Asencion***

*Maria Asencion has been working with the agency since May 24, 2010 supporting the lives of each participant she has worked with. She has supported the emotional, physical and well-being of the participants she works with.*

#### ***Competency Area A: Supporting a person's unique capacities, personality and potential***

*Maria has demonstrated respect for each individual she works with; she gives each individual the opportunity to express them self without making judgments. She listens carefully with respect and interest. For Example she has helped an individual with her personal appearance by suggesting appropriate clothing that she may like. When making suggestions Maria uses a passive tone of voice which makes it easier for her to be open to accepting advice with a positive attitude.*



#### ***Competency Area O: Promoting positive behavior and supports***

*Maria recognizes achievements made by her participants even if they are not big improvements. An individual she works with has a hard time keeping her apartment clean. Maria has encouraged the individual to make small efforts to complete her chores so that she lives in a healthy environment.*

*Community Services Supervisor*

*Melissa Livanzo*



*CFS Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon  
May 23, 2018  
Crowne Plaza Times Square*

*Arlando Giraldo Celebrating Supervisor of the Year*



*Crotona IRA Celebrating Team of the Year*



## *CFS Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon*

*Raniyah Funn Celebrating Admin of the year*



*Celebrating Nominee for Supervisors of the Quarter Carolyn Giambastiani & Marie Romain (left to Right)*



*Celebrating Supervisors of the Quarter Lakevia Tember, Virginia Roman, Lakenya Bryant  
(left to Right)*



# CFS Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon

## Nominees & Winners of Employee of the Month



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# CFS Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon

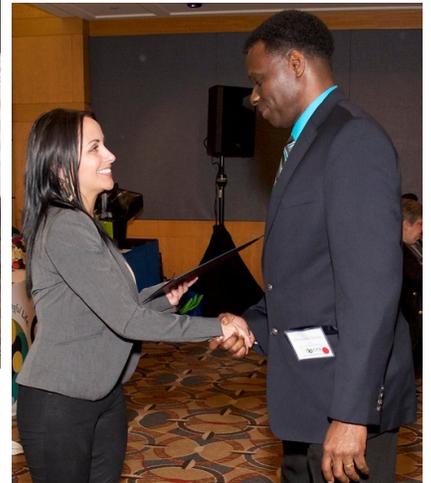
*Maria Torres Celebrating 5 Years*



*Myles Surland Van Tams Celebrating 5 Years*



*Celebrating 5 Years*



*Carolyn Giambastiani Celebrating 5 Years*



*Lady Martinez Celebrating 5 Years*



*Janelle Jones Celebrating 5 Years*



*Laura Heras Celebrating 5 Years*



## CFS Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon

*Fay Simon Celebrating 10 Years*



*Lauraine Proefriedt Celebrating 10 Years*



*Kristen Nelson Celebrating 10 Years*



*Danielle Powers Celebrating 10 Years*



*Mike Mazzocco Celebrating 10 Years*



*Peter Juhas Celebrating 10 Years*



*Radhina Hernandez Celebrating 10 Years*



## *CFS Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon*

*Tranet Hymon Celebrating 15 Years*



*Janet Beckford Celebrating 15 Years*



*Amanda Williams Celebrating 15 Years*



*Donna Saunders Celebrating 15 Years*



*David Lieb Celebrating 15 Years*



## *CFS Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon*

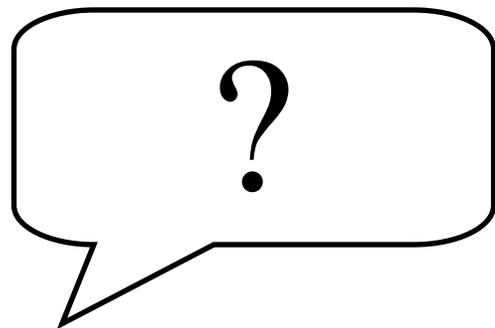
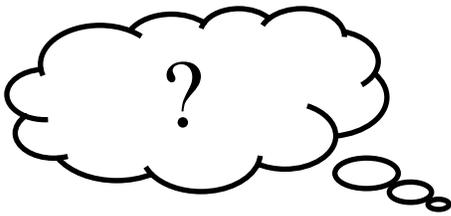
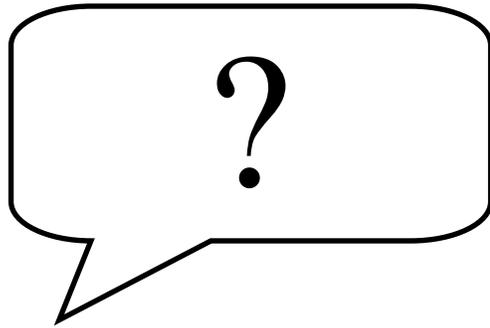
*Minnie Owens Celebrating 20 Years*



*Nadine Latham Celebrating 25 Years*



*CFS Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon  
Caption This*



*email Annmarie at  
AMalcolm2@cfsny.org  
with your thoughts for a  
prize*



# Employee of the Month – 2018

The Center for Family  
Support Inc.

<i>January</i>	<i>Klon Myers</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>Adriana Ruggiero</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>Uwvie Adobo</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>Marisa Rooney</i>

## Employee of the Nominees– 2018

### January

Maria Paulino	Com Hab
Janet Beckford-Simms	Arlington
Allison Birot	Livonia
Jesus Mendez	Com Hab

### February

Eliza DeArmas	Home Care
Laila Straker	Crotona

### March

Bryajn Eppich	MSC
Dyanna Harris	Com Hab
Janelle Jones	Crotona

### April

Magdalena Bonifaccini-Rendon	Home Care
Anthony Ennab	Com Hab
Gale Rogers	826 178th

### Admin of the First Quarter Nominee

**Kimberly Castrogiovanni**

### Admin of the First Quarter

**Lakisha Grady**

### Supervisor of the First Quarter

**Yiranny Almonte**

### Team Spirit

### Community Services

**Vera Ikeagu**

**Joan Marquez**

**Charlette Rattigan**

**Rachel Cadet**

**Jen Solis**

**Anndrena Bernard**