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City of Downey

Press Release

YMCA Employee Receives Mayor's Diakonia Award

Downey, CA, September 23, 2009



Katie Piazza, past City employee and now YMCA leader, was honored with the Mayor's Diakonia Award at the City Council meeting on September 22, 2009. Katie is a Site Director for the licensed child care center at Kamp Furman here in Downey, but it is Katie's volunteer service that goes above and beyond expectations. She genuinely cares about the children at the center and does anything to help brighten their

day. She also rescues dogs, buys clothes & toys for kids, volunteers in PTA at Rio Hondo Elementary (has no kids of her own), and is considered one of the most caring persons by her peers. Katie gives without expecting anything in return. "That alone makes her very special," commented Mayor Mario A. Guerra

"She is an extra-ordinary person who goes above and beyond the highest expectations. I have received many letters about her special gifts with others and her humble responses when praised. She recently took it upon herself to take interest in a little boy who had lost his mother in a car accident a year ago. She was always there to greet him with a smile and actually made sure he was able to go on a field trip to the Zoo recently. She even packed him a lunch and made sure that he had a special day. The little boys' heart was touched as well as ours. He felt special, loved, and safe and it meant so much to him and to us all."

"Katie is certainly one of the reasons this Award was created. She is the spirit of what it means to serve others. Small things with great love and she has gone far beyond and I am honored to be able

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to recognize her and encourage others to follow her example of serving each other in our fine city,” says Mayor Guerra.

The word Diakonia means “servant” in Greek. Mayor Guerra wishes to honor those who give back to the community and provide service to others. Nominations are currently being accepted for the Mayor’s Diakonia Award. For more information or to nominate an individual, please contact the City Council office at 562-904-7274, or you can email the Mayor directly at mguerra@downeyca.org.

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