

Solid Ground's 2014 Employee Awards

LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER:

Celestine Berrysmith, Housing Stabilization Case Manager

Celestine was hired in November 2012 and has really flourished as a leader at Solid Ground. She has taken steps to innovate on behalf of her program and clients, which has helped move programming forward. Her creativity, care and “soft skills” improve the tenor of staff meetings and positively impact the whole agency. She performs her work and moves it to the next level thoughtfully, and integrates the Anti-Racism Initiative (ARI) and equity at every step.



Celestine Berrysmith

Leadership Award Nominees: Humberto Alvarez, Barbara Bohannon, Alma Hadzimuratovic, Cecile Henault, Dee Hillis, Jack Hutchins, Gordon McHenry, Jr., Chris Meinhold, Shelly Parrish, Connie Ritchie, Jon Rosson, Roshni Sampath, Kim Tully, Kari Ware & Kira Zylstra

RACIAL JUSTICE AWARD WINNERS:

Sabrina Jones, Food Resources Coordinator

Sabrina was hired in July 2012 and has kept things moving ever since! Integral to restarting our Anti-Racism Committee (ARC) after a hiatus, she takes care of many of the logistical tasks to help meetings happen and run smoothly. She is a big picture thinker, has played a key role as Undoing Racism White Caucus facilitator, and represents the White Caucus on the Anti-Racism Initiative (ARI) Steering Committee.



Sabrina Jones

Carla Wagner, JourneyHome Case Manager

Carla joined Solid Ground in October 2005 and has consistently contributed to the agency's Anti-Racism Initiative (ARI). More recently she has stepped up, pushing herself out of her comfort zone to lead more directly. She has made a positive impact in the Black Affinity Group and in lifting the ARI work in her program. Her insights, courage and ability to keep engaging in the ARI in new ways are truly inspirational.



Carla Wagner

Racial Justice Award Nominees: Celestine Berrysmith, Barbara Bohannon, Jack Hutchins, John Rosson, Roshni Sampath & Clay Smith

SERVICE AWARD WINNERS:

Kevin Barber, Deputy Finance Director

Kevin was hired in October 1997, and he works behind the scenes to keep Solid Ground finances on track. He has a great sense of humor, and his willingness to help programs and employees through difficult financial tasks is greatly appreciated.



Kevin Barber

Ellena Floyd, Solid Ground Transportation Payroll/Administrative Assistant

Ellena has worked with Solid Ground Transportation (SGT) since January 2011. She is the primary go-to person at SGT for payroll questions, and she completes her work with exceptional accuracy and extraordinary grace.



Ellena Floyd

Sara Robbins, Family Assistance Benefits Attorney

Sara joined the Solid Ground community in 2002, first as a Broadview Case Manager and then briefly as a Rapid Re-Housing staff member. In 2010, she settled with the Family Assistance program as a Benefits Attorney. She is knowledgeable, patient and kind to everyone she works with, and clients are very grateful to be referred to her!



Sara Robbins

Service Award Nominees: Humberto Alvarez, Bonnie Barrett, Barbara Bohannon, Karen Ford, Alma Hadzimuratovic, Barb Hart, Cecile Henault, Lisa Honsberger, Jack Hutchins, Chelsey Loeffers, Ivan Marrero, John McBride, Dale Mosley, Aden Nardone, Elizabeth Nguyen, Mary Kay Olson, Shelly Parrish, Judy Poston, Gordon Pun, John Rosson, Christina Shimizu & Kari Ware

SOLID GROUND TEAM AWARD WINNERS:

JourneyHome: Becky Armbruster, Sungea Dawson, Karen Ford, Stacey Marron, Linda Maser, Victoria Meissner, Carlos Ospina, Kaelen Quintero, Connie Ritchie, Katie Showalter, Carla Wagner & Kira Zylstra

Over the past several years, the JourneyHome program has undergone major changes in management, funding resources and restrictions, and more. Through it all, they have served clients in crises with compassion, steadiness and sheer perseverance. They have stayed nimble with all the policy and procedural changes in their program. Moreover, they have pushed back on funders to shape their pilot programs, encouraging the use of a stronger anti-racism lens to view the regulations and expectations of funders. This team has held together – with each other and their clients – through a lot of change. By working together, they have helped move the system toward services that better meet clients' needs.

Solid Ground Team Award Nominees: ConnectUp, Contract/Budget Analyst Team, Family Assistance, Finance, Human Resources, Office Support, Solid Ground Transportation (SGT) Operations Team & the SGT Drivers



JourneyHome team members with Gordon McHenry, Jr.: L to r: Stacey Marron, Becky Armbruster, Kaelen Quintero, Carlos Ospina, Connie Ritchie, Katie Showalter, Linda Maser, Carla Wagner & Kira Zylstra (Not pictured: Sungea Dawson, Karen Ford, Victoria Meissner)