

# SOLID GROUND'S 2017 EMPLOYEE AWARDS

## ACCOUNTABILITY AWARD

### Karen Ford, JourneyHome/Rapid Rehousing Program Coordinator & Data Specialist

Karen works hard to listen and to act in alignment with our mission, vision and values in the ways she leads the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) team, handles the JourneyHome data information, and responds to people who call on the phone and ask for assistance. She goes above and beyond her job and has really helped preserve the integrity of the program through many different contract and leadership changes.

**Nominees:** **Individuals:** Gabriella Aguayo, Tamara Bauman, Vanessa Cobbs, Bellen Drake, Cecile Henault, Shelly Holmes Parrish, Mary Kay Olson, Tamara Brown Spiller, Sintayehu Tollosa, Sandra Williams **Team:** JourneyHome



## INTEGRITY AWARD



### Kathleen Penna, Lettuce Link Program Manager/Hunger & Food Resources Co-Director

Kathleen uses good communication practices and skills to keep her team informed and together as they navigate a year of potential change. She is a skilled meeting facilitator who upholds honesty and respect in face-to-face and written communications, and she has provided important leadership as H&FR has gone through the transformative Leading For Impact process. She also did an amazing job making the fundraising ask at our inaugural Farm to Table event.

**Nominees:** **Individuals:** Gabriella Aguayo, Theresa Curry Almuti, Celestine Berrysmith, Steve Cockle, Dee Hillis, Charlie Nitsche, Erika Rountree, Carla Wagner **Teams:** Finance, Homelessness Prevention & Housing Stability Project

## COLLABORATION AWARDS

### Carolyn Taggart, Executive Assistant

Carolyn supports every department at Solid Ground with tact and diplomacy. During challenging times, she speaks and acts calmly. She organizes and supports events with an eye to supporting all parties, accurately reports on meeting discussions, and is always ready to tackle the next hurdle or bump. She is very flexible, always smiling, and willing to work with any staff on any issue, concern or committee needed. She participates with energy and positive attitude for special projects and events like All Staff Meetings, Summer BBQs, Holiday Parties and agency fundraising events. She is motivated by what is in the best interest of Solid Ground and inspires others to work together across programs and departments.



### Solid Ground Transportation (SGT) Dispatchers:

Doris Bisset, Benjamin Boitano, Meri Jankovic-Pjanic, Jon Rosson & Brent White



The Dispatchers are the heart of SGT Operations. They hit the ground running at 3am, working with maintenance to ensure the vehicles assigned are ready to roll and all the routes are covered. Throughout the day, they work with Operators and Supervisors handling scheduling, dispatching, break down, and emergencies. When they leave at midnight, they make sure everything is ready for 3am the next morning to do it all again. They are the calm in the storm even when everything seems to be falling apart around them.

**Nominees:** **Individuals:** Nicole Basta, Angela Bertrand, Laura Black, Danielle Caldwell, Karen Ford, Colleen Goodwin, Jan Hancock, David Hlebain, Shelly Holmes Parrish, Linda Maser, Kathleen Penna, David Daniel Reed, Liz Reed Hawk, Erika Rountree **Teams:** Communications Department, Housing Stability Project, Hunger & Food Resources, SGT Operations

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

### Vanessa Cobbs, Tenant Counselor

Vanessa is on fire for social justice; her passion and energy are limitless. An active member of our Advocacy FLT, she raises her voice for justice every day. From phone banking for vital legislation, to advocating for LFO and TANF reform in Olympia, she made invaluable contributions to Solid Ground's social justice work in 2017. This fall, she joined the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance Public Policy Committee. She is fearless and unafraid to speak up to uphold our social justice values.

**Nominees:** **Individuals:** Nicole Basta, Cynthia Linder **Team:** Benefits Legal Asstc.



## RESPECT AWARD

### Gordon Pun, Facilities Manager



Gordon works with the program participants we serve in many capacities, from the residents in our Family Shelter units to the visitors to the Headquarters building. In all cases, he treats others in a trauma-informed way, dealing with difficult tasks to hold all of us accountable in our dealings in a gentle and a compassionate manner. He stays and does what needs to be done in order to make people feel valued and listened to. He still holds them accountable, knowing that all people can make choices within their abilities – a tenet of harm reduction. If Gordon is involved, all are treated with respect.

**Nominees:** **Individuals:** Kevin Barber, Tamara Bauman, Celestine Berrysmith, Vanessa Cobbs, Bellen Drake, Ellena Floyd, Dee Hillis, Gino Laren-Giacalone, Shannon Rae, Katie Scott, Katie Showalter, Joanna Tarr, Sintayehu Tollosa, Kari Ware **Teams:** Homelessness Prevention Case Management, Hunger & Food Resources

## COMPASSION AWARDS

### Cecile Henault, Solid Ground Transportation Operations Manager

Cecile is a naturally compassionate person. She always puts herself in other people's shoes, feels their pain, and tries her very best to accommodate everybody. She is careful when dealing with others and is sensitive to their cultures and differences. SGT has over 100 drivers and staff, and Cecile listens with care and compassion to each and every one. Her door is open, and she offers support and empathy that goes above and beyond.



### Sand Point Housing Managers & Staff:

Oliver Alexander-Adams, Sarah Armentrout, Byron Botler, Tamara Brown, Cheryl Coop, Darlene Finney, Suprina Ford, Charlissee Hammon, Dee Hillis, Cynthia McGee, Sandra Mears, Rose Nakano, Amadanyo Oguara, David Olivera, Corey Perrien, Roberta Petersen, Juniper Rayan, William Ross, Kelle Standley, Susan Walsh, Tonette Winston, Kendra Young-Arrowood & Areej Z. Zaitoun

Solid Ground's Sand Point Housing campus experienced the tragic death of a resident in June 2017. Through the crisis and difficult summer, the managers and staff at Sand Point kept in the forefront residents' needs and well-being. This was and continues to be enormously challenging, with so much media and community attention – but Sand Point staff have continued to work almost round the clock to assure residents get the specific help and resources they need to move from crisis to recovery.

**Nominees:** **Individuals:** Tamara Bauman, Danielle Caldwell, Jill Granberg, Alma Hadzimuratovic, Barb Hart, Victor Murad, Katie Showalter, Carolyn Taggart, Sintayehu Tollosa, Arturo Velasquez **Teams:** Benefits Legal Assistance, JourneyHome, Office Support, Sand Point Family Housing

