

A Place of Our Own and Los Niños en Su Casa 2009 National Child Care Provider Honorees



A Place of Our Own and Los Niños en Su Casa are pleased to recognize 17 individuals who are truly committed to the care of children under the age of 5. This year's honorees all exemplify the challenging and rewarding nature of what it means to be a child care provider today. They have opened their homes and their hearts to provide the very best care to our country's youngest citizens. These every day heroes encourage us to make sure that all children are given the best possible start in life. These honorees have been recognized as "Child Care Provider of the Week" on the award winning PBS series, A Place of Our Own and Los Niños en Su Casa.

Yvonne "Bonnie" Stewart-DeLancy
Washington, DC

Bonnie Stewart- DeLancy's love for teaching began as a child. However, it wasn't until she had her own child that she was given the opportunity to put that passion into practice. After 17 years in child care, Bonnie says her love for working with children is as strong as ever. **Read More . . .**

Youngshin Gittings
Atlanta, Georgia

In Youngshin Gittings' Atlanta, Georgia home, you'll not only find children that are happy and excited - but also actively engaged and showered with love. Acting as a second mother to these children is truly an honor that Youngshin takes very seriously. **Read More . . .**

J-Lane and Daniel Zamora
Carrizozo, New Mexico

In south central New Mexico lies the rural town of Carrizozo. It's a small community which houses a little over one thousand residents, including child care providers J-Lane and Daniel Zamora. As one of only two providers in the state of New Mexico offering a pre-school program, the Zamora's go above and beyond to provide quality child care. **Read More . . .**

Hildy Blanco
Houston, Texas

From wild animals to domestic pets, child care provider Hildy Blanco is giving the children in her care a complete "creature experience." Motivating children to have compassion for animals and for each other are the main life lessons Hildy instills in the children she cares for in her Houston, Texas home. **Read More . . .**

Connie Williams
Del Rey Beach, Florida

In Florida, you'll discover plenty of special sites and, more importantly, special people, such as Del Rey Beach resident and child care provider Connie Williams. **Read More . . .**

Melissa Huber
Austin, Texas

When it comes to child care, a great source of pride for Austin, Texas is one of the city's very own caregivers -- Melissa Huber, a woman who is making a big difference in the lives of preschoolers. **Read More . . .**

Joyce Reynolds
Corpus Christi, Texas

Something as simple as taking a walk to their future school is just one of the many ways child care provider Joyce Reynolds helps children get a head start on life. **Read More . . .**

Christi Morse Gilbert
Indianapolis, Indiana

Inside Christi Morse's home-based program in Indianapolis, you'll find a bright, vibrant and charming place for preschoolers to play and learn. As a former elementary school teacher, Christi says she witnessed too many children entering grade school with a lack of basic social and cognitive skills. **Read More . . .**

Mai-Thanh Nguyen Dovich
Seattle, Washington

Many families in this Pacific Northwest community say they've struck gold in finding such a heartwarming and caring teacher as Mai-Thanh Dovich. **Read More . . .**

Norma Gabriel
Brooklyn, New York

From listening to a budding musician on the front stoop, to getting in a little workout indoors, Norma Gabriel says her goal every day is to create a well-rounded educational experience for the preschoolers in her care. **Read More . . .**

Noel Fattah
Cleveland, Ohio

In Cleveland, Ohio, beyond the smiles and laughter, there's actually lots of nurturing and learning going on thanks to childcare provider Noel Fattah. For the last thirteen years, Noel has opened her family home to teach and care for little ones. **Read More . . .**

Kris Dory
Laramie, Wyoming

Some very lucky children in the foothills of the West Rocky Mountains get to spend their day with child care provider Kris Dory. Here at Kris' house, the children have learned to expect the unexpected. **Read More . . .**

Celeste Joyner
Baltimore, Maryland

Every day at Celeste Joyner's home-based child care is filled with fun, exploration and dreams. As a certified Universal Pre- K teacher and trainer, Celeste says she takes teaching young children very seriously, which is why she puts so much effort into helping the children experience a world outside of their own. **Read More . . .**

Gilda Flores
Anchorage, Alaska

For many in Alaska, Winter can feel like a long frigid season of sunless days, but the children in Gilda Flores' care may not take much notice to the weather. That's because every day at Gilda's house is packed with fun. **Read More . . .**

Corrine Bressler
Toledo, Ohio

Outside of Toledo, Ohio is a special place where preschoolers can go to engage in important conversations, take in hugs all throughout the day, and, most importantly, find out more about themselves and the world around them. **Read More . . .**

Michele Choloply
Sicklerville, New Jersey

Child care provider Michelle Choloply is a full-time minister, soccer mom and safe haven for children of all ages. However, she feels that the most valuable part of her day is spent working with preschool-age children. **Read More . . .**

Jade Stanford
Los Angeles, California

Three years ago, Jade Stanford opened Get a Life Child Care, a nurturing family environment that helps alleviate some of the stress children go through during a family illness. **Read More . . .**

Congratulations on behalf of

