



We have several wonderful Associate Shout Outs today, all expressing deep gratitude for a colleague who shines so bright. I hope you enjoy reading them!

Jennifer Apalara (Teacher, Y Head Start Center in Freetown)

I have recently come to the conclusion that Jennifer Apalara has super powers. This is the only explanation for her extraordinary ability in caring for the children, families and associates in the Head Start program with extreme grace under pressure. "Tell me how I can help." "What do you need?" "I need this for my kids." She is proactive and prepared. Ms. Jen, as she is affectionately known, has created an environment in her classroom that promotes compassion for self and others, acceptance of all and an expectation to always do one's' best. Ms. Jen goes above and beyond in getting to know each family and in this process of relationship building, she ensures that each family's needs are addressed along their school readiness journey. I often tell her that I wish my children had a teacher like her in their life. (Submitted by Valerie McDougale)

Rachel Martin (Human Resources Operations Specialist)

Rachel has been an AMAZING addition to the HR team!! She has been so diligent and supportive in getting new candidates through the hiring processes and cleared to start. She is communicative, consistent, organized and consistent. We have been so happy working with Rachel and the results she is getting! KEEP IT UP RACHEL!! THANK YOU!! (Submitted by the Y in Pasadena's leadership team)

Rebecca Williams (Membership Services Associate, The Orokawa Y in Towson)

Becky is just an awesome person and she fits in here at the Y so well. She loves what she does and the members love her back. She goes out of her way to help and engage with members. Becky is great at remembering the names of members and their whole family. She greets people by name and they love that. Becky is a great help here at the Orokawa Y and we appreciate all her hard work. She is an important part of our team. (Submitted by Ashley Roberts)

If you have a colleague you'd like to "Shout Out," just fill out the nomination form linked here: [Y Associate Shout Out Nomination](#)

Thanks!

All the best,
John

John K. Hoey
President & CEO