

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Debbie Garduno

Community Support Programs Manager



Three years ago Debbie Garduno was working for Burt & Company as a receptionist when she applied for an Administrative Assistant/Receptionist position at Jewish Family Service of New Mexico. She came to work for JFS in August of 2007 and promptly made herself indispensable!

Debbie grew up in Grafton, North Dakota on the edge of town right across the river from the park. After graduating from Grafton High School, she attended Maryville State College, now known as Maryville State University in North Dakota, and earned a Legal Secretary Associate Degree. Fortunately for JFS, a family related job transfer moved Debbie moved to Albuquerque in 2002.

While providing administrative support and answering the phones at JFS, Debbie took on additional duties and responsibilities as the JFS programs grew. Everyone here was impressed by examples of Debbie's leadership, her unfailing positive attitude, and her ongoing success in engaging the community in JFS sponsored activities. This year Debbie was promoted to the new Community Support Programs Manager position, and now manages the JFS Food Pantry, Administrative Staff and Reception. She also provides motivation and direction to our valued volunteers and frequently does hands-on work in both those areas, Debbie also manages the busy JFS Housekeeping/Companion Program and spends a great deal of time talking with clients and potential clients about the variety of services offered by JFS. She handles all the scheduling for our growing staff of housekeeper/companions and provides exceptional customer service every day.

Debbie was nominated by her peers for The Bronze Bagel Award last year and said she was "Shocked, surprised, and honored." to be selected as the award recipient by members of the JFS Employee Recognition Committee. The staff at JFS is grateful that Debbie commits her talent to helping promote our mission, and chose her for The Bronze Bagel Award to recognize her contributions to JFS including leadership over and above the call of duty; team work; a positive attitude; dedication to the 18 Basic Jewish Values; and demonstrating exemplary customer service. The award is presented twice a year and award winners receive a Bronze Bagel Award, a \$25 gift certificate, recognition in the New Mexico Jewish Link, a recognition nameplate on the Bronze Bagel Award plaque, and the admiration and respect of their co-workers!

Debbie is very committed to her family, her church, and the greater community. She sings in the New Mexico Mass Choir, and she and her husband Rick participate as a Life Group Leaders at the Sagebrush Community Church. They breed Yorkshire Terriers and enjoy their five grown children and seven grandchildren with one more on the way! Debbie loves her job at JFS and when asked why she is here she responded, "I think the mission and vision of the agency is awesome. We do such great work in the community. Working at JFS also gives me an opportunity to learn. Learning about Judaism is intriguing." We are very grateful to have Debbie here at JFS, and so are our clients!