

MERITORIOUS AWARD

MARIE C. REYES

Westchester County Department of Corrections

Marie Reyes began her with the Westchester Department of Corrections in August of 2008. In 2007, prior to working in Corrections, Ms. Reyes was President of the Westchester County Foster and Adoptive Parents Association. Marie advocated for the rights of the Children in care as well as the families who love them and provide them with a safe and stable foster home. One of the accomplishments she is most proud of is establishing the availability of important background information for adoptive parents for their children. As a Foster and Adoptive parent herself, she loved talking to recruit families about her experiences and helping them ease their fears about the process.

In 2008, Marie joined the Westchester Department of Corrections, where she signed up for the Youthful Offenders Program and continued her work with the youths. She works directly with Minors 16 to 17 as well as young men aged 18 to 24. The YOP program gives these young men stability, purpose, education, as well as therapeutic programs to help them deal with such issues like drug addiction, anger management, alcohol abuse, parenting classes, and one on one counseling available as needed.

Marie believes that given the strength and patience to work with these youths, and provide guidance while they are young, then perhaps we can stop them from being statistics.