

## **NJACCRRRA Honors Leaders in Early Care and Education**

At the July 2011 NJACCRRRA Annual Retreat, the NJACCRRRA membership presented three awards to recognize leaders in the field of early care and education. NJACCRRRA created these awards in 2008 to formally recognize those who go above and beyond in furthering the field of early care and education. Each year since, the membership has nominated individuals and organizations that played a key role in driving innovative and effective solutions to some of the challenging early care and education issues facing New Jersey. These awards are designed to salute and applaud those individuals and/or organizations for significant accomplishments in the early care and education field, as well as their commitment and contribution to the community.

The 2011 recipients include:

**Circle of Collaboration Award**- awarded posthumously, in honor of Nanci Fasanella, to the NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF) for her significant collaboration efforts on behalf of early care and education. Nanci and the Department of Children and Families worked in partnership with all the Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies on the statewide replication of the Strengthening Families Initiative. Under Nanci's leadership, DCF vigorously implemented this innovative child abuse prevention model through the state's early care and education network. DCF has been steadfast in their approach and has consistently funded this initiative for four years. They acknowledge the important role the CCR&R's have in the program's success and have truly exhibited a collaborative effort. Nanci's dedication and passion to this program is greatly missed.



**Leadership Award** - Linda Kriegel for her significant contributions to the field of child care resource and referral. Linda was director of the Bergen County Office of Children for 11 years. She served as President of NJACCRRRA from 2002 through 2005. During Linda's tenure she was always able to initiate conversation and build consensus. Much of what Linda accomplished in the field of CCR&R in New Jersey will continue to have a positive influence in the future.



**Emerging Leader Award**- Susan Bresch, director of the Burlington County CAP CCR&R, in recognition of her persistent commitment and contributions to child care resource and referral. She is a contributing member of NJACCRRRA bringing a fresh perspective to the table. Susan's dedication to ensuring NJACCRRRA's success and sustainability is applaudable. As an active member of both the Nomination and Marketing Committee, Susan has demonstrated the core traits of a leader; ambition, drive and forward-looking. Among her many contributions was developing and managing the NJACCRRRA Facebook page. Susan displays a desire for knowledge and readiness for growth.



***Congratulations to all of our award recipients!***