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TO: Lancaster Intelligencer Journal - PJ Riley
Sunday News – Helen Adams
New Era – Anaya Litvak
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**PA State Foster Parent Association – Awards Lancaster County
Children and Youth with Agency of the Year Award**

The Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency were recognized at the PA State Foster Parent Association Awards Dinner at the Holiday Inn in Granville, PA, with the “Agency of the Year” award.

“Lancaster County C & Y Agency has done an outstanding job of encouraging their Resource Unit to collaborate with the Resource Parent Association to improve what matters the most, the lives of children” said Kathleen Ramper, Executive Director for PA State Foster Parent Association as she and Gary Krentz, from Lancaster County, President of the State Foster Parent Association presented the award to Crystal Gingrich, Director for the Lancaster County Children and Youth.

The Lancaster County C & Y has been a great support to the state’s Resource Parent Association that has approximately 425 members in its body.

The Lancaster County RPA has made tremendous strides in many areas. Many local organizations meet resistance when they talk about change being needed to the system. The Lancaster County C & Y Resource Unit did not resist the RPA’s desire to make changes and even encouraged them to do so.

One of the most distinguished changes that happened resulted from their partnership with the American Bar Association as they introduced the “Foster Parent Bill of Rights” that became state law as the “Recourse Family Care Act”. This has become a model for the rest of the state. In addition, Lancaster County C & Y developed a court participation document for foster parents on their rights and how to participate in court that has also become a model across the state.

“We are tremendously honored for this recognition,” Crystal said as she expressed recognition for the loving and caring foster parents in Lancaster County, as well as the dedicated staff. “We need each other to do this difficult job and make a difference for children in their homes.”

Commissioner Shellenberger who attended the award dinner said, “ I am very appreciative of the work our Lancaster County Foster Parent Association and their positive relationship with the Lancaster Count C & Y Agency. They are well deserving of the award they received from the PA State Foster Parent Association.

For questions or more information call:

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