



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

September 17, 2018

Representative Les Gara
Alaska State Legislature
1500 W. Benson Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Representative Gara,

I am pleased to inform you that you were nominated and selected to receive a 2018 Adoption Excellence Award in the category **Individuals/Professionals**. You were recognized by Amanda Metivier of the Office of Youth Empowerment Facing Foster Care in Alaska, for the extraordinary contributions you made in providing adoption and other permanency outcomes for children in foster care.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) established the Adoption Excellence Awards program in 1997 to recognize outstanding accomplishments in achieving permanency for America's children waiting in foster care. These awards honor States, child welfare agencies, organizations, courts, businesses, individuals, and families. To learn more about the program and to see a complete list of last year's awardees, please visit <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/adoption-excellence-awards>. The list of 2018 award winners will be posted in November. Please check the same website periodically.

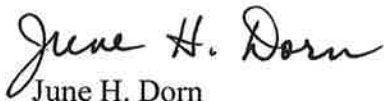
This year, the Adoption Excellence Awards will be presented to 12 recipients at a ceremony held on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201. The ceremony will take place at 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. during the Children's Bureau Celebration of National Adoption Month. In addition to presentation of the awards, this joint Children's Bureau and AdoptUSKids celebration will highlight our National Adoption Recruitment Campaign and launch the newest public service announcements that encourage the adoption of older youth from foster care. There will also be a virtual photo exhibit featuring children and youth available for adoption throughout the country. The National Adoption Month Celebration is by invitation only and will be attended by federal and state child welfare professionals and families.

I hope you will be able to travel to Washington, D.C. to receive your beautiful engraved award. Unfortunately, we are unable to furnish transportation or hotel accommodations for the November 13th event. If you are able to attend, please respond via email to me, June Dorn, at June.Dorn@acf.hhs.gov. When you respond, please let me know the number of people who will attend and their names. I must provide this information to the security desk at the event venue. All attendees over age 18 will be required to provide identification upon arrival at the Hubert H.

Humphrey Building. If you are unable to attend the ceremony, I would still appreciate notification. In this case, your award will be sent to you in the mail.

I plan to call you later this week so that we may speak personally and I can answer any questions you may have. Congratulations, and I look forward to seeing you on November 13th!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "June H. Dorn".

June H. Dorn

National Adoption Specialist

Children's Bureau

ACF/ACYF