



Foster Parent Program



Calgary and District Foster Parents honour Social Worker of the Year

By Karen Tinevez

Dena Gumpinger has just begun her career but the ease with which she practices social work gives the impression she's been at this for some time. She recalls always being drawn to helping people and when deciding on her career path she knew that's what she wanted to do. And based on the professional and caring way she has helped foster parents in the Calgary and Area region she was named "Social Worker of the Year" for Region 3 by the Calgary and District Foster Parent Association and Alberta Foster Parent Association.



Gumpinger received her Social Work diploma from Mount Royal College in 1995, then returned to her home town of Camrose to begin her career with the Boys and Girls Club. Eventually, she joined Children's Services and moved to Calgary in November 2001. She was a case manager at the Southwood Office before taking her current position in Investigations at the Airdrie office. She learned of her award the same day she started her new job.

"I just couldn't believe it, [I was] really surprised and very flattered," she said.

She was recognized for being a strong advocate for the children on her caseload as well as involving foster parents in service planning.