

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria government is committed to its values of respect, responsibility, teamwork, communication, diversity and leadership and has instituted a City Star! Award to honor individual employees or groups of employees who exemplify the City's Values; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to honor Darlene Cannady, a Therapist in the Geriatric Program at Mental Health, Mental Retardation & Substance Abuse; and

WHEREAS, Darlene has been a dedicated City employee since 1995, serving as Therapist I since 1997, and providing intensive case management and supportive counseling to mentally ill adults, age 60 and up; and

WHEREAS, to ensure completeness of care, Darlene regularly deals with the clients' housing concerns, benefits, entitlements, and family members, as well as the challenges that come with serious mental illness and dementia with behavioral problems; and

WHEREAS, Darlene has not only consistently provided outstanding care and service, she has successfully assisted clients with very difficult cases in finding safe and appropriate housing when they were homeless; and

WHEREAS, when Darlene had to spend time out of state for family reasons, she was able to maintain her clients' high standard of care and delivery of services, providing updated lists of client needs and appointments to her colleagues even when she was away, so that not one client in seven months ever missed an important appointment; and

WHEREAS, Darlene's clients appreciate her efforts to improve their quality of life, and in one case when a client could no longer keep track of the most basic daily details, Darlene set up in-home companion care, transportation and meals, monitored his considerable medical care, and kept him safe in the community, prompting the man to say, "Darlene is my angel;" and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council wants to recognize Darlene Cannaday for her compassion and commitment to those community members most at risk;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim that the City Stars! Award for the month of January be bestowed on:

"DARLENE CANNADAY"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Alexandria to be affixed this 13th day of January 2009.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk