

Madison Sosolik

Teacher, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Madison is an exceptional educator and mentor, deeply compassionate and effective in her teaching. She uses a structured routine to teach skills like handwriting, counting, and reading comprehension. Madison emphasizes social skills, encouraging polite engagement and communication. She leads initiatives like a 'Coffee Cart' to improve transition skills and contributes to the school by updating bulletin boards and enhancing the library. As a respected leader, she participates in various committees, valued for her commitment and positivity.



Leslie Albrecht and Christopher Holland

Sr. Non-Commissioned Investigators, Department of Health and Senior Services

Investigators Leslie Albrecht and Christopher Holland submitted a case involving a 23-year-old developmentally delayed female victim abused by her grandfather. Their investigation uncovered a history of abuse and identified two additional victims. The perpetrator was arrested and charged, highlighting the commitment of Albrecht and Holland to protect vulnerable individuals. Their heroic efforts exemplify determination in addressing difficult crimes and ensuring accountability for perpetrators.



Meghan Basinger

Public Information Specialist III, Missouri State Highway Patrol/Department of Public Safety

Meghan managed the Missouri State Highway Patrol's social media. On August 25, 2022, she received two emails from someone expressing severe depression and suicidal thoughts after a crash but did not reveal their identity. Meghan worked with leadership to identify the individual and crash location, allowing authorities to intervene and provide resources. Despite not having in-depth mental health crisis training, Meghan recognized the woman's need of aid and took the appropriate actions, contributing to the prevention of a potential tragedy.



Stacy Kempker

Executive Assistant, Department of Health and Senior Services

Stacy has been highly dedicated at the Division of Community and Public Health (DCHP) by leading and training administrative staff. She provided essential tools for remote work during the pandemic and set up temporary workstations for COVID data entry. Stacy also helped the Bureau of Vital Records with high workloads and staff shortages by offering technical support and organizing office space effectively. Stacy's contributions and remarkable organization were vital to the success of many initiatives.



Les Hall

Sr. Maintenance Worker, Department of Transportation

On March 15, 2022, Les and crew from the Charleston Maintenance Facility, arrived at a business parking lot for clean-up. Suddenly, the crew heard screaming and witnessed a father holding his child as an aggressive dog lunged at them. Les placed himself in harm's way to distract the dog, giving the father opportunity to safely place his child out of the dog's reach. Law enforcement was later able to subdue the aggressive dog thanks to Les's actions. Les humbly stated he did not see his actions as heroic, but just as what any father would do. Les is a prime example of a dedicated public servant.



Nicole Robinson

Social Services Unit Supervisor, Department of Social Services

Nicole is committed to helping older youth in foster care gain the skills and support they need to become successful adults. She balances being firm and gentle, earning their trust through her genuine care. Nicole helped a youth facing instability, find love and stability, leading to an adult adoption. Another youth, initially unmotivated, secured two jobs, enrolled in college, and saved significantly for his future after working with Nicole. Nicole empowers youth by involving them in decisions about their lives, advocating for their independence, and remains a reliable support system even after they leave care.



Jill Crossland

*Sr. Nutrition Specialist, Department of
Health and Senior Services*

Jill started her role with the WIC program and DHSS in September 2019, encountering challenges like electronic benefits and the COVID pandemic, which led to shortages of baby formula. Despite staff shortages, she effectively managed formula shipments and improved the request process for local agencies. Jill's mentoring and support have built teamwork and trust, highlighting her leadership and dedication.



Dorthella “DJ” Patrick

Social Services Specialist, Department of Social Services

DJ consistently works long hours caring for high-needs older youth who often run away, threaten harm, and require hospitalization. She rarely takes time off and tends to work long days, helping other workers facing similar challenges. DJ finds temporary placements for youth, including locating a family in California for one youth during Christmas time. She is dedicated to her work, even returning from retirement, and deserves recognition.





September 2023

Justin Peabody

*Corporal Criminal Investigator, Missouri State Highway Patrol/
Department of Public Safety*

Corporal Peabody demonstrated outstanding dedication in solving three missing person cases. He traced a missing 65-year-old man to South America through an email and ensured his well-being. In the other two cases, he was able to locate missing youths, after building community trust and gathering information from their friends and acquaintances. Peabody's diligent efforts made a significant impact on the victims and their families.



Missy Pyatt

License Offices Bureau Administrator, Department of Revenue

Missy became the Acting Director of the License Office Bureau during a difficult period, revitalizing the bureau with her enthusiasm and expertise. She established the slogan “Helping License Offices Succeed,” assessed staff performance, reorganized regions, increased staffing, and created a comprehensive training plan. She developed a fair contract compliance program, improving inspections and communication. Missy also organized the first License Office Conference since 1998, attracting over 250 attendees. Her leadership resulted in improved operations, reducing wait and processing times, showcasing her commitment to customer service and effective leadership.





November 2023

Sergeant Adam Johnson and Corporal Johnathan Roberts

Missouri State Highway Patrol/Department of Public Safety

On May 14, 2023, Sergeant Johnson and Corporal Roberts rescued two individuals from the flooded North Fork River, which was significantly swollen due to heavy rain. They first saved an adult female clinging to a submerged tree, who showed signs of hypothermia, and took her to safety. They then returned to rescue a male subject in a similar condition. Both were later hospitalized for treatment. Sergeant Johnson and Corporal Roberts's actions undoubtedly prevented serious injury or death.





December 2023

Gail Ward

Social Services Specialist, Department of Social Services

Gail handled a case involving a family with food concerns and a father with Multiple Sclerosis. Gail spent countless hours cooking for them, assisting the father, and attending doctor appointments. She made multiple visits to the family and even reached out to find additional care for the father on the family's behalf. Gail is always willing to assist colleagues, showing her dedication and hard work.

