

## Employee of the Year – 2023

Anne Knabel began employment with the City on March 19, 2013, as a part-time Family Therapist. Anne was nominated as the Employee of the Quarter many times over the years and has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the City. In 2020 the student school groups that Family Therapists from Youth, Family and Senior Services (YFSS) department were facilitating at Hollywood Elementary School stopped due to COVID. After almost a three-year pause due to COVID, Anne started the Hollywood Elementary student school group again. When schools resumed in-person learning it was difficult for outside organizations to resume their support inside of the school due to different COVID guidelines and schools often moving to virtual learning throughout the year. At the start of the current school year, there was hope that the school groups could resume. Anne took the lead in reaching out to the school and worked closely with the school staff at Hollywood to ensure that the groups could resume and be successful. The groups started with trial sessions and after their success, there are now three groups being facilitated by YFSS staff which have been a great support to the students. Additionally, the family therapist and graduate interns who have been facilitating groups this school year are doing so for the first time with YFSS. Her guidance is valuable, and she is often the person called upon to answer questions that YFSS or school staff need to troubleshoot. Anne has also been a great support to those staff in helping them plan and facilitate their groups and manage the issues that often come up in school groups. These issues include anxiety, social skills, and peer relationships, to name a few. Anne's determination and leadership in getting the school groups up and running again have had a significant impact on the department by broadening the reach of services provided by the team. Her bilingual skills in English and Spanish are invaluable in helping us reach out to our Hispanic community. The impact of Anne's leadership on both city employees and the public has been significant. With Anne taking the lead on this project, both internal staff, school staff, and the interns are extremely happy to be able to call this a success. Families of the students are more familiar with the services that are provided by YFSS and use them as a resource to support their children. Anne now works full-time with the department, and we are happy to have her as part of the College Park team.