

Monica Rohr



The Nomination for Monica began... *This is the story of commitment, caring, hard work, persistence and optimism. This is the story of Monica Rohr, who for two decades, has committed her heart, mind, body and soul to helping needy families, children and adolescents in Montgomery County reach their potential. This is the story of a tireless front line advocate/case manager/service broker, who always goes the extra mile. This is the story of an extraordinary person who day by day and year by year in large and small ways has truly made a positive difference in the lives of hundreds of children and families in our community.*

Monica currently serves as both a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator and Service Broker for the Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority (DMHA). The FSS program works with families receiving Section 8 housing assistance who wish to move from dependency to self sufficiency. Monica works with individual families to develop a five-year training and services plan, that spells out what the parent will do and what DMHA will do to enable the family to become self sufficient. Once the plan is developed, Monica assists the parent in obtaining whatever services are identified in the plan. Depending on the goals, the parent may require child care, job training, credit counseling, transportation, substance abuse treatment, etc. Monica follows up to make sure the parent is using the services, going to work or attending class. She also accompanies them when needed to specific appointments, serves as a sounding board, and provides encouragement. She works with approximately 75 families at any one time. An FSS graduate was in the process of buying her own home when she was interviewed by *Impact Weekly*. She said, *"I was successful because Monica started moving mountains. She gave me inspiration. She was the first person to start treating me like a human being."*

The second part of Monica's job is her role as DMHA's Service Broker. Because no one in the Section 8 or Occupancy divisions of DMHA is assigned to do social work, Monica is constantly sought out by DMHA staff and residents for help with accessing other human service programs or organizations. And she regularly intervenes on behalf of Section 8 recipients with DMHA staff who manage the annual recertification process. Monica is viewed as a "go to" person by the other service brokers; a great problem solver; very resilient; someone who always returns their calls; a mentor to new service brokers; someone who loves her work; and someone with a great sense of humor, who never takes herself too seriously.

The following quotes are but a few of the many submitted from service brokers and co-workers.

"Monica has the amazing capability to encourage us to help ourselves, a skill and quality not often seen."

"Not only does she make fast connections with people, she has genuine respect for individuals. Her "put it right out there" style makes clients and co-workers immediately at ease, which enables them to grow and develop."

"I have known Monica for a short time but you cannot fail to see her commitment to the people she serves. These people are not just a 'number' or a 'file' for Monica; she cares about the needs of each individual and will not stop until their needs are met."

"Monica does not know 'defeat.' If something doesn't work she will come up with another angle or another way through or around the system."

"I would feel humbled working with her if I wasn't laughing at her unique sense of humor and wit. Her personality is straightforward and easy but at the same time forceful – a powerful combination to bring about results. She is never condescending or "above" the people she helps out and I think this is one of her greatest assets. Her pride and happiness when someone is able to purchase their own home is genuine."

"Her energy is boundless and her enthusiasm contagious – you find yourself thinking all things are possible."