

2006 Employee of the Year



Maria Heifferon, Cultural Specialist for Dare County, was named Dare County Employee of the Year for 2006. She was presented the award at the January 2, 2007 meeting of the Dare County Board of Commissioners by Employee of the Month Committee members Mary Moynahan and Betsy Robinson.

"The choices we had to make were difficult," said Robinson of choosing the Employee of the Year, "When it came time to select a candidate for Employee of the Year, one person seemed to stand out. She has consistently risen to the challenge of any task that is asked of her. She is always available, even after hours," Robinson continued, "Her years working for Dare County have been our reward."

Maria has been with Dare County for 21 years and provides translation services for all county departments. Her primary job is working with the Health Department interpreting during patient exams. Maria also works within the Hispanic community in Dare County to help keep them informed as well as volunteering with the court system and Hotline thrift stores.

"Maria is a true professional. She always goes where she is needed, when she is needed," said Tom O'Neal, Dare County Human Resources Director, when presenting Maria with the Employee of the Month award back in October. "Her hard work has earned her the respect of her coworkers and the Hispanic community."

The Dare County Employee of the Year is chosen by the Employee of the Month Committee. The committee is comprised of the previous year's Employee of the Year as well as other Employees of the Month. It chooses the twelve Employees of the Month from the nominations of coworkers. The committee then chooses the Employee of the Year from Employee of the Month winners at the end of the year and it is awarded at the first meeting in January.

The Employees of the Month for 2006 pictured from left: Beth Edens, Telecommunications Supervisor for the Sheriff's Department; Spencer Gregory,



Event Coordinator for the Roanoke Island Mainland Division of Dare County Parks and Recreation; Jennifer Wooten, Friends of Youth; Rita Pledger, Office Manager for the Sheriff's Department; Jim Shimpach, Dare County Water Department; Maria Heifferon, Cultural Specialist for Dare County; Michelle Hoppman, Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator for the Dare County Health Department; Margaret Parker, Public Health Nurse II with Home Health and Hospice; Julie

Anderson, EMT Intermediate; and Captain John "J.J." Jones, EMT. (Not Pictured Christina Martin, Maternity Care Coordinator with the Dare County Health Department and Terry Wheeler, Dare County Manager)