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### **OCI Employee Wins Prestigious Award**

*Wilmington, DE*— Jose Andrada, Dover Senior Center Case Manager, was awarded the Star Award at the Fourth Annual Conference for Direct Support Professionals held on May 14, 2009 at the Sheraton Dover Hotel.

The Star Award honors a direct support professional who makes outstanding contributions to the disability community every day, and is a shining example for others to emulate. The awardee fulfills the demands of his or her work with the highest level of integrity and demonstrates a strong sense of attachment to consumer satisfaction.

Jose has been employed with OCI for four years and has been a Case Manager in the Dover Senior Center program since its inception in 2007. He was instrumental in the program start-up and works directly with the participants every day, supporting people with multiple needs who require patience and love.

Jose has done an amazing job,” says Debbie Talley, OCI’s Assistant Director of Employment Services. “His non-stop energy, creativity and compassion are obvious displays of the genuine love he has for the participants. He deserves this award and recognition. We are excited for him and extremely proud!”

The Annual Conference for Direct Services Professionals is coordinated by the University of Delaware’s Center for Disabilities Studies. The purpose of the conference is to enhance and recognize the professionalism of the direct support professionals who enable thousands of Delawareans with disabilities to live more independent lives. The conference also provides direct support professionals with networking and skill development opportunities.

OCI is a not-for-profit organization that has been providing occupational skills training and employment services for Delawareans with disabilities for more than 50 years. As part of the ServiceSource Network, OCI serves more than 500 people with disabilities through various rehabilitation, employment and training programs. OCI has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) since 1985, and is the only ISO 9000 certified non-profit agency in the State of Delaware.

For more information about OCI or the ServiceSource Network, please visit our website at [www.ourpeoplework.org](http://www.ourpeoplework.org).

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