

**Nominee's Name:** Karen VonCannon

**Nominee's Title/Position:** Food & Nutrition Supervisor

**Department:** Social Services

**Nominee's Supervisor:** Donna Gigowski

**Reason for nomination:** Karen has served the residents of Chatham County for 15+ years while at the Department of Social Services. She has worked in several roles throughout her time and is currently serving as the Food & Nutrition Supervisor and Program Integrity Supervisor for DSS. While under Karen's leadership, not only did she supervise a staff of 8 employees throughout the entire COVID-19 crisis and the cyber attack on the County, but she has also helped recover thousands of dollars in fraud overpayments to the County and State of North Carolina over the past 4+ years. Karen is compassionate, caring, and diligent in making sure her employees know how valuable they are to her team and to the agency. She is quick to recognize a staff member's extra effort and does weekly check-ins with each employee. Karen goes above and beyond to make sure she is on top of the latest updates from the State and keeping her staff informed of the many changes handed down by the federal government for the Food and Nutrition Services Unit monthly. When our unit was short staffed, Karen jumped right in and worked cases right beside the rest of us, to help ensure as a team we did not fall behind on our duties. Most importantly, Karen understands that sometimes you just need time off and is always willing to find a way to make that happen for her staff with ever changing schedule. Simply put, she is an amazing leader, co-worker, and supervisor, she is such an asset to DSS and to the County of Chatham.