

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: Haydee Paez



**Haydee Paez started out as an intern at Family Service Bureau of Newark in 2008 and now serves as Clinical Supervisor.**

**H**aydee Paez has spent the last decade working at Family Service Bureau of Newark (FSB), an affiliate of New Community Corporation. She started out as an intern at the facility, which offers behavioral and mental health services, and now oversees interns in her role as Clinical Supervisor.

Paez has developed training for interns, which includes going through scenarios they will encounter throughout their career as clinicians.

"We discuss boundaries, ethics, everything that is involved in being a counselor," she said. "Once they leave here, they have to use their judgement. So I teach them how to develop those skills so in their careers, they're able to function appropriately."

In addition to her work with interns, Paez serves as a program manager for grants, which means she's in charge of collecting data and writing and submitting reports. She also has a small caseload of clients that she serves as counselor.

"Haydee is highly professional, ethical and a team player at FSB. She goes above and beyond for the mission. She is a great support and works hard to ensure all services, goals and the mission are always on point," said FSB Executive Director Manuela Garcia. "She is a great clinician, supervisor and colleague. She does so much for her staff, the clients and for all of us at FSB. We appreciate all her hard work and dedication to the field and it is a pleasure working with her."

Paez credits "divine intervention" with bringing her to FSB 10 years ago. She was looking for a site to do her internship and saw a small slip of paper on a university bulletin board for social work that said FSB was looking for clinicians. She decided to call the number and explained she was a student in search of an internship. After a phone conversation, she was invited to become an intern.

"When I was reading NCC's mission, I was like, 'This is what I want. This is what I'm looking for.' And I was so excited," she said.

After completing the FSB internship and graduating, Paez continued working at FSB part-time for two years before coming on board as a full-time clinician. From there, she was promoted to a supervisory role.

This is a second career for Paez. She worked for 25 years as an administrative assistant at Kean University, where she completed her bachelor's degree. She completed her graduate studies at Alliance Graduate School of Counseling at Nyack College in Nyack, N.Y.

When her children had grown, Paez decided to continue her education for her own satisfaction. She chose to work toward a bachelor's degree in psychology because she wanted to help people and found individuals in her life coming to her for advice. After achieving her bachelor's degree, she decided to continue on in the field of family counseling.

Paez was born and raised in Colombia where she was a bilingual secretary. She came to the United States in 1981 with her daughter, who was 7 at the time. The pair joined her husband who had come to the U.S. the year before. They have since all become citizens.

In addition to her daughter, who is a physician's assistant, Paez has two sons, a lawyer and an IT technician, and a stepson who just retired from the Navy after 25 years of service. She has been married for 47 years.

"It's been a blessing and a pleasure to work all these years. I keep FSB in my heart," Paez said. "It's a commitment for me. Being a counselor is like a calling to help others. That's how I see it."

Her favorite part of her job is being able to make a difference.

"I'm here to make a difference, not only in the life of a client, but in the life of the people. That's my goal. That everyone feels that this is a safe environment where they can come and talk to me and that I'm available," Paez said.

In her spare time, Paez enjoys exercising to relieve stress and reading mysteries and counseling books to stay up to date in her field.