



Summit County  
**CHILDREN SERVICES**  
*Building Families . . . Building Futures*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Summit County Children Services ■ 264 South Arlington Street ■ Akron, Ohio 44306

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Summit County Children Services Awards Caseworker  
and Supervisor of the Year**

**AKRON, Ohio** – April 2021 – In celebration of Social Work Month, each March Summit County Children Services (SCCS) hosts an event to honor their dedicated caseworkers and casework supervisors. This year the virtual recognition ceremony took place on Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> with the chosen theme ‘Resilience’.

Ms. Christen Smith-Misja and Ms. Jamie Pastorius were honored as the 2021 Caseworker and Supervisor of the Year by agency staff and administrators. They both received several nominations from staff for going above and beyond in their everyday work and dedication to working with children, families and agency employees. There were twenty-one caseworkers and sixteen casework supervisors nominated for these awards.

Ms. Smith-Misja, Intake caseworker, with over 4 years of service to the agency, helps to assist new hires and student interns by taking on a leadership role. She is known for being a dedicated, skilled and humble teacher who is passionate about advocating and making a positive impact on the lives of children and families. She has taken the initiative to become very knowledgeable in the area of intimate partner violence and has provided a training to her department on this subject matter. Ms. Smith-Misja always has a positive attitude and excels in her ability to engage and assess child safety.

Ms. Jamie Pastorius, Protective Services Supervisor, was recognized as the Supervisor of the Year. She brings a wealth of expertise and knowledge with twenty-five years in the field of child welfare. Ms. Pastorius encourages and fosters resilience within her unit while bringing solutions and constructive feedback to her staff. She is known for her strong professional commitment to social work values and ethics and instills them with her team. Ms. Pastorius helps her staff not only build on the strengths of the families served, but with themselves. She has been described as dependable, empathetic, and competent, while remaining mission focused.

Ms. Smith-Misja and Ms. Pastorius are both committed to the safety, permanency and well-being of all children served in partnership with families and the community.

For more information about SCCS, please visit their website at [www.summitkids.org](http://www.summitkids.org)

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