

This Year's Super Nanny - The Real Deal!

New Orleans, LA

June 13, 2006

New Orleans, LA May 2006 - She doesn't have a cape or sporty hat. She doesn't speak with an English accent or send children to the "naughty chair." But, for 16 years Becky Kavanagh has been taking care of other people's children and she's been doing a better than prime time job. On May 23rd, Becky Kavanagh was named The International Nanny Association's Nanny of the Year at its 21st Annual Conference held in New Orleans.

What does it take to be Nanny of the Year? Officially, it takes at least 5 years of professional nanny experience; it takes education in the field of child care, a nomination from an agency or employer, and several references. Unofficially, it takes a whole lot of love and patience, not only with kids but with parents too. "More than anyone else in my life Becky has taught me how to be the father I hoped and dreamed I would be. For me she has been the "owner's manual" that children don't come with." said Paul Kunkel, Becky's employer.

A former lead preschool teacher and day care assistant director, Kavanagh has been a career nanny with the same family for over sixteen years. "Alec, who is 16 1/2 was 6 weeks when I started - Cassie, 19, had just turned 3." Becky recalls. She has been a member of the INA since November, 1989 and passed the INA Nanny Credential Exam. In 1998 Parents Magazine recognized Becky as one of their childcare award recipients.

"She has a presence that somehow always communicates a sense of her absolute confidence in us, not only at every dance recital and orchestra concerts, but every day. I have a deep and tremendous respect for Becky, and I consider myself profoundly lucky to have had her as my nanny." offered Cassie Peitzman, Becky's oldest charge.

Becky was nominated for Nanny of the Year by Mary O'Connor of Nannies from the Heartland, a Plymouth MN based placement agency in which Kavanagh works part time as a placement counselor. The selection committee had this to say, "Becky stood out because she has been with one family from birth to teen years. On top of this, she saw the family through divorce and the blending of two households, all the while staying very active in the nanny community and in home child care industry on a local, regional and national level. She is a totally selfless and giving person."

For the past two years, Kavanagh has served as the President of her local nanny group, Twin Cities Professional Nannies (TCPN). She has been an editor and contributor to the TCPN newsletter for over four years. She is an active volunteer in Girl Scouts as a troop leader for two troops, event chair and in the leadership level in Prairie Star Service Unit, and was awarded the Outstanding Leader and Valued Volunteer honor.

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