

## 'Success by 6' awards presented

BY RORY HESLIN  
Staff Writer

The United Way Success By 6 Early Care and Education Awards were handed out recently during a dinner at the Eden Resort Inn & Conference Center.

Owl Hill Learning Center of Lititz received the Child Care Center Award.

"It's like an 'ah-ha' moment that people really see what you do and appreciate it," said Mary Ann Garrett, the center's executive director.

Nuvia Losada-Padron Family Child Care received the Family/Group Child Care Provider Award.

Lancaster County Career &



Cheryl Gahring



Mark Esterbrook

Technology Center received the Carol D. Hess Children's Champion Award.

Receiving the award meant a lot to Beth Ann Haas, CTC assistant director, because Hess "was so instrumental in bringing the early child care center to the CTC."

Cheryl Gahring, director

of child care services at the YWCA of Lancaster, received the Early Childhood Leadership Award.

Mark Esterbrook, Community Action Program chief executive officer, received a Special Recognition Award for his support of child care during the 2009 budget crisis.

Early child care is crucial, according to Gahring, who said up to 90 percent of a child's brain is developed by age six.

"Early childhood care is sometimes seen as 'baby-sitting' and this is a concrete example of how it is a profession," Gahring added.

This was the fifth year the awards have been given.