

Our supernannies



DANA

An award to honour the UAE's best nannies has attracted an incredible 100,000 votes for 200 domestic workers. Organised by Rise, a start-up that seeks to help domestic workers build a better future, the Best Nanny award is intended to showcase the importance they play in the country's households. Whether they rescued a child from drowning or helped them with their studies, the scheme has thrown up all manner of heart-warming tales. Here we look at some of the 20 nannies shortlisted ahead of the finals on Saturday.

NAME: Dana
EMPLOYER: Veronica Smulders
AGE: 40
NATIONALITY: Filipina
TIME WITH FAMILY: Almost a year
NOMINATED FOR: Saved son

Veronica said: "Dana is proactive, with an incredible level of commitment and responsibility, organisation skills, motivation and love for my children and the family.

"Once we were at the club and the baby was at the kids' pool next to me. I turned one second away and he fell down and was drowning [a matter of three seconds]. Dana ran into the pool as I turned myself to pull him out. She is really caring and action-oriented."

NAME: Basma Sinsuat Abas
EMPLOYER: Alia
AGE: 48
NATIONALITY: Filipina
TIME WITH FAMILY: 8 years
NOMINATED FOR: Strength after tragedy

Alia said: "Losing her husband a year ago and having to take care of her seven children alone, along with her grandchildren, is a huge responsibility. But she raises us as if we were her own children. "I still remember the time she escorted me to the hospital when I fainted when no one else was home. She truly deserves to win the award."



BASMA

NAME: Eufemia Espiritu (Mia)
EMPLOYER: Tani De Geregorio Manzano
AGE: 35
NATIONALITY: Filipina
TIME WITH FAMILY: 9 months
NOMINATED FOR: Fire rescue

"I left the house early in the morning with our baby girl while Mia stayed home with my two-year-old son.

"An announcement was made via the loudspeakers in our building, followed by a fire alarm.

"She quickly grabbed our son and ran down the staircase with him.

"It was only when she arrived



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