Community Humanitarian Award
Nomination Essay

Explain the reason(s) why you have nominated this individual for this award. Provide details and examples of how the nominee has applied his or her knowledge and expertise to help others within their community in a humanitarian effort. You can use as much space as necessary to answer the question completely. Refer to the judging qualifications on Page 1 for specifics on what to cover. There is not a minimum or maximum word count.

I am nominating James Michael "Mike" Cohen based on his outstanding contribution to our Community. After serving his country in the United States Army, Mike returned home and began working with our youth. He has served as a Mentor and Basketball Coach for the County's Unified Team for more than 20 years. He has traveled abroad to China, across the US to Seattle, Washington and all over the state of Florida with the Hamilton County's Team. He earned the Special Olympics of Florida Coach of the Year Award in 2018. The team won Gold at the Special Olympics in China as Team Blue USA.

Below is from the Special Olympics of Florida Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/specialolympicsflorida/videos/2110760162571415/

Coach James (Mike) Cohen became a contributing member of Special Olympics Hamilton County in 1999. He has been instrumental in helping to better prepare our athletes to be the best that they can be. Coach Mike was so dedicated to his efforts with the athletes from Hamilton County that he would work his normal shift with the Sheriff's department and then meet the athletes at the gym to practice.

With all of the many responsibilities that Coach Mike has had over his career, from his military work for over 20 years, working at the sheriff's office and police department, and now Athletic Director at HCHS Coach Mike cherishes the many hours that he has spent with our athletes.

Special Olympics Florida was proud to nominate Mike as Coach of the Year at the Champions Gala Congrats Mike! #SpecialOlympics #InclusionRevolution #Coach

The team has always brought home the Gold. He has donated countless hours in many capacities throughout the community.

He joined our Foodservice local, state and national Association three years ago. He makes time to help serve at our Catering events as well as during school lunch when we are shorted staff or have a major parent event.

He currently serves as Hamilton County School High School Truancy Officer. He was awarded the School Resource Officer of the Year in 2007. He has been the high school basketball Head Coach, the District's Athletic Director and Assistant Basketball Coach.

Hamilton County Unified team competes through the state each year. The competition was canceled this Spring due to COVID-19.

Hamilton County is blessed to have James Michael "Mike" Cohen as a supporter of the youth and the community at large.

Seattle Washington

TEAM USA Blue in China 2007

Hamilton County Unified Team in Orlando Florida

Hamilton County Unified Team –

Take Your Dad to School Breakfast Hamilton County Elementary School

Title 1 (Special Programs) Parent Night Dinner

Mike high school cafeteria staff, Food Nutrition Office staff and Mrs. Helen Udell, Hamilton County Special Olympics