

Outstanding Volunteer Award Nomination

Award Description:

The Outstanding Volunteer Award will be presented to an individual who, through volunteer efforts, has significantly contributed his/her time and talents to a community program that serves individuals with disabilities.

NOMINEE: Deputy Chief Will Bradshaw

ORGANIZATION: Osawatomie Police Department

Provide a narrative including answers to the following questions. You may also attach a maximum of three letters of support. Additional information may be attached if necessary.

- What volunteer efforts have been demonstrated?
- What outcome has resulted from this volunteer effort?
- How long and how often has this volunteer effort been provided?
- Provide a biographical sketch of the person.
- List any personal services and/or achievements that are pertinent.
- Additional information.

NOMINATION NARRATIVE: I am nominating Osawatomie Police Dept. Deputy Chief Will Bradshaw for Outstanding Volunteer Award because he has been one of Tri-Ko's staunchest community supporters. Naturally, Will has had plenty of contact with some of the persons we serve in an official capacity on police business but – equally as important – he also always makes an effort to dedicate time out of his busy schedule to attend agency events that are open to the public. As such, Will has developed a rapport with many of the persons served and has even been directly involved in some of their behavioral goals. For example, one of the individuals Tri-Ko serves earns 'tokens' as a positive behavior support. Once he has earned enough tokens, they can be exchanged for something he wants (a new fishing pole, a video game, etc.). The goal he has recently been earning tokens toward is taking Deputy Bradshaw out to lunch, simply because he looks up to him so much and has such a strong rapport with him. He has earned this goal several times now and always eagerly looks forward to getting BBQ with Deputy Bradshaw, often excitedly counting down the days.

Like everywhere across the state – and nationally for that matter – the Osawatomie Police Department has struggled with recruitment/retention and has faced the challenges of trying to staff a functional department during the workforce crisis. Like so many other employers, they have been consistently understaffed and the officers they do have are severely overworked. Despite being exceptionally busy, Will still always finds the time to be on hand to show support and friendship to our clients. He always does so without ever making it seem like an inconvenience but rather with a smile on his face and a constant reassurance that it's "his pleasure." He makes the time to attend Tri-Ko's annual holiday party every December, always tries to make an appearance at public events that our

agency hosts (carnivals, fundraisers, outdoor events, etc.) and was even surprised to be the recipient of Tri-Ko's Volunteer of the Year Award at our 2023 Award Ceremony.

Despite the necessity in his line of work to have a "tough guy" veneer and community reputation, Deputy Chief Bradshaw is not afraid to show his softer, sillier side for our persons served. He made a surprise appearance at a Charlie Brown-themed party dressed as Snoopy the dog which went over so well that all of our clients (and many of our staff) lined up to get pictures taken with him. Additionally, every year Tri-Ko holds a fitness competition with persons served and staff participating and competing against each other to see who can lose the most weight, drink the most water, etc. At the end of 2023's competition, at our Cap-Off Party event, Will volunteered to sit on a dunk tank and allow persons served who reached their weight loss goals to try to dunk him. This went over so well that it will likely become an annual staple of the fitness competition.

Will Bradshaw is a very good man and his dedication to our population is evident through his actions. He consistently reiterates that he doesn't need attention or recognition, he does what he does because it really is his pleasure. Be that as it may, Tri-Ko is incredibly lucky to have Deputy Chief Bradshaw serving our community, protecting our population, and supporting our agency and we will never stop recognizing and celebrating him.

NAME OF PERSON MAKING THIS NOMINATION: Joshua Lankton

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I have reviewed and agreed to the criteria for filming the awards video.

I have obtained approval for this nomination from the submitting agency's Executive Director.

Send this form via email to mshreve@interhab.org

The deadline to submit award nominations is June 7!