



1



2



Humanitarian of the Year Nominee #1



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

3

3

LEADING THE CHARGE

• Operation BBQ Relief

- An EF-3 tornado ripped through Nominee #1's community on December 9, 2023. Several neighborhoods were left in ruins during unseasonably cold temperatures. Many were left homeless or without power. Nominee #1 opened their shops parking lot for Operation BBQ Relief, an Organization that deploys to natural disasters countrywide, to use as their headquarters to prepare hot meals for volunteers, linemen, families without homes, or electricity, or for anyone in need.
- Nominee #1 donated \$2,000 and had several employees help prepare food and distribute 8,900 meals to the communities in need over a 6-day period.



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4

4

LEADING THE CHARGE

• Manna Café Ministries

- Manna Cafe is a local organization that serves healthy meals and shelter for the less fortunate. Nominee #1 believes NO ONE should ever be hungry!
- Nominee #1 has donated \$10,000 worth of services to keep their fleet of trucks and food trailers operational. Nominee #1 has also held food drives across all stores and was able to donate hundreds of pounds of food. The entire team has volunteered many hours to help distribute food and man their cooling and warming shelters when needed.

• YaiPack Outreach

- The less fortunate deserve dignity and to have their needs met. Nominee #1's entire team and clients across all stores collected socks for the less fortunate in our community to assure warmth and comfort.



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5

5

LEADING THE CHARGE

• Teen Car Care Class

- Nominee #1 held a Teen Car Care Class. The entire team participated in teaching basic maintenance to 30 teens for a full day. They had such an overwhelming response before and after our clinic that they plan to provide more classes to more teens, women, and senior citizens every quarter!

• Christmas Angel Tree

- Nominee #1 held nominations across all stores for families in need during Christmas. The team collected the names, ages, and wish lists for the children. The entire team and amazing clients were able to purchase gifts for over 50 children who would have otherwise not been able to receive such blessings!

• Local High School

- Nominee #1 donated \$500 to help with the athletic department.



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

6

6



Humanitarian of the Year Nominee #2



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

7

7

LEADING THE CHARGE

• Warm Feet For Warriors

- Nominee #2 has a number of active and retired members of the military in both of their families and an A tech that's in the National Guard. It's important to Nominee #2 to support those that defend our rights. Every employee participated in collecting sock donations. Nominee #2 has collected socks for 5 years now and has given 30% of what we collect to local VA Centers and the rest go on to the National Organization of Warm Feet for Warriors to be distributed nationally. Over the past 5 years Nominee #2 has collected and distributed more than 5,000 pairs of socks.

• Local Fire Department

- Nominee #2 is a local volunteer firefighter; he chooses to do this because he is capable physically while so many others aren't, and they need all the volunteers they can get. This often causes the workload/schedule to change (when the need rises) . Thankfully, Nominee #2 has a great staff that communicate well with customers when the need arises, and they are patient with the timing of their work.



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

8

8

LEADING THE CHARGE

• Youth Workforce Steering Committee

- To grow interest in our industry to youth prior to them deciding what to do with their future, Nominee #2 spoke at a conference for hiring businesses in the area about successful tools for incorporating high school students within our organization.
- Nominee #2 hosted 45 high school students on a tour and demonstration in three different stations in our shop. Three Techs, both Owners and the Service Advisor participated in the event. The cost to our organization was minimal, but the knowledge and impact to the students was large.



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

9

9

LEADING THE CHARGE

• Car Donation to Someone in Need

- Nominee #2 partnered with local organizations to identify individuals in need of a reliable vehicle. Nominee #2 took input from local churches, school and community groups - sent out an application to each of them to turn in on behalf of those in need. After receiving applications, the entire staff weighed in on who the car should be donated to. The staff chose to donate some of their time to help with the repairs and Nominee #2 provided the parts and the rest of the labor needed. Then the car was turned over to the customer at no cost to them. Nominee #2 had three technicians donate time, then a service advisor worked to communicate with the customer.
- The Total cost to the organization for this project was three days of technician time and cost roughly \$3,500.



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

10

10



Humanitarian of the Year Nominee #3



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

11

11

LEADING THE CHARGE

- **Safe Haven/Citizens Against Violence**
 - Safe Haven is the emergency safe house for both adults and children that are victims of domestic violence in Nominee #3's area. Nominee #3 was the Title Sponsor for the Dancing with the Stars "Fun"raiser they hold annually. The entire staff helped by attending each "Star's" fundraising event, helping Safe Haven staff with any setup needed and helped get more people to sponsor or donate. Between sponsoring the event and supporting the "Star's" Nominee #3's Shop has spent 26 hours and \$11,000. (\$5,000 to host and \$500 per team for 12 teams)
- **Boys & Girls Club**
 - Nominee #3 feels the need to help the youth in their community. They have provided Scholarships and have led in fundraising for their needs. In 2023 Nominee #3 had multiple team members donate their time and have donated \$5,600.00



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

12

12

LEADING THE CHARGE

• Local School System

- Nominee #3 pays for school events and host fundraisers. Several of the wives of the shop staff have donated over 15 hours to this cause and we have donated \$1,400 to the School System.

• Local Police/Sheriff's Department

- Nominee #3 lives in a rural area where some needs of our law enforcement come down to donations. Nominee #3 has sponsored and attended several police/sheriff shooting competitions. Nominee #3 also sponsors a K9 unit every year and donates to the retirement fund. Multiple members of the staff participate in each event. In total \$2,500 was donated in 2023.



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13

13

LEADING THE CHARGE

• Eagle Football Alumni Association

- EFAA provides scholarships to young athletes to allow them a higher education as well as team building in a college environment. Nominee #3 are on the board with different fundraising and awareness events through multiple counties. Nominee #3 has donated over 30 hours and over \$1,500 in 2023.

• Georgia Wildlife Federation

- Nominee #3's staff has volunteered for multiple clean ups and youth training programs to help teach hunter awareness. we have donated over \$2,600 to this organization. The Wildlife Federation helps protect the native black bear, white-tailed deer, waterfowl, and a plethora of other species.

• Georgia Southern Female Athlete's Continuing Education

- The University asked Nominee #3's shop to host a car clinic and teach the female athletes about their vehicles. All staff members assisted with set up, gift bags, basic vehicle knowledge and meet and greet. Combined hours were over 40 and Nominee #3 spent \$2,800 to serve all 112 female athletes.



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

14

14



Humanitarian of the Year Nominee #4



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

15

15

LEADING THE CHARGE

• The Ocean County Vocational Technical School

- Nominee #4 serves on the board of the Vo-Tech School. Working to develop the next generation of Technicians and encouraging interest in the automotive industry. Nominee #4 leveraged a big gift from AutoVitals for the school. It included 12 tablets and the service subscription, being used to help young Techs learn about DVI's and how to do them right. A special part of the program works with the local high school. Including special needs youth who are interested in the industry and attend the Vo-Tech school.
- Nominee #4 works with the local high school special needs program. These students are interested in having a future in automotive. Nominee #4 hosts multiple youths 4 days a week where they receive additional hands-on training in the specific areas and tasks matching where they are in the curriculum. Nominee #4 provides the students with safety glasses and other PPE in addition to basic hand tools that the students keep when completing the internship.

• South Jersey Training Alliance

- Nominee #4 are founders of SJTA, a collective of several local shops, that come together to provide training for technicians. Nominee #4 actively participates in organizing these training opportunities and their Technicians are also regular participants. The Alliance hires trainers to run trainings and all Techs in the area are invited. These are evening trainings which include all materials and provide dinner for the Technicians. The technicians and their home shops pay only the cost for training. The Alliance makes no money. It exists to facilitate the technicians' professional development.



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

16

16

LEADING THE CHARGE

• Vetwork New Jersey

- Nominee #4 supports all Veterans, giving special attention to our struggling and disabled Vets. Including their team, Nominee #4 does **all** of the service for the organization's transport vehicles completely free of charge, the Technicians do the work without compensation. Multiple times a year, Nominee #4 hosts drives to collect food, clothing, and pet food donations for the Organization. Additionally, Nominee #4 personally donates more than \$1,000 each year, in the form of cash, gift cards to local stores, donated supplies, and specifically requested items.

• Destiny Bridge Homeless Program

- Nominee #4 believes that regardless of circumstance, each person deserves dignity and validation. Destiny's Bridges is a program that gives poor and disadvantaged people the chance to regain their dignity in a nurturing setting and become empowered to re-join society as functioning individuals. The program provides a camp surrounded by community, sustainable living, and supportive services. It gives temporary living support so they can start becoming productive members of society. Nominee #4 is a collection point for donations. They also help to coordinate volunteers to serve community meals and do other hands-on work with this program. The goal is to help residents to improve their lives and to help others in the community. The shop donates \$300-\$500 to this program each year in both cash and in-kind services.

• Santa Paws

- Nominee #4 started this annual effort to collect pet supplies including food, treats, leashes, collars, toys, grooming supplies and cash. Donated items are distributed to several local animal rescues. In addition to the items that the shop purchases for this effort, all employees also donate to this effort, saving any tips they have received throughout the year to go to a locally owned pet store to purchase items for the drive. Typically, over \$1,000 per year in employee additions to the donated items.



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

17

17

LEADING THE CHARGE

• Local Rotary Club Elf Program

- Nominee #4 is a drop off point for community members to drop off their donations for the Elf Program. The program is the Rotary's biggest yearly project, serving underprivileged children and families in the area. A huge community effort goes into donating new items for the annual "mini shopping mall", where parents can come and "shop" for gifts for their children, including hats, gloves, scarfs, a book, an activity, an art project, sporting equipment and a main gift. Nominee #4 is one of the lead organizers of this program, serving 250-300 children per year, doing much of the shopping, storing, pricing and organizing the items and setting up the "mini shopping mall." Both staff and owners volunteer at the event where parents come and select a gift from each category for their children.
- Nominee #4 also supports other Rotary Club programs, such as scholarships and thanksgiving day dinners to families in need.

• Legacy Food Bank Kids

- Nominee #4 is a drop off location for Lacey Food Bank Kids. Our community donates new clothes, toys and donates money to this program. Nominee #4 delivers all donations to our community hall and set it all up. Additionally, Nominee #4 and their team purchase over \$1,500 worth of items as their personal donation. Staff and owners volunteer at the event, along with other Food bank members. They range from 100 to 200 children.
- Nominee #4 also supports other programs and projects including their food bank and clothing and jacket drive each year. In addition to the significant financial commitment, The team averages over 500 volunteer hours each year.

• Local Volunteer Fire Companies

- Nominee #4 is a longtime volunteer fire fighter and has served as chief, warden, and President at various local fire fighter organizations and companies. Some of the local Fire Companies that they support include: 3 Local Volunteer Fire Companies, a Local First Aid Squad and the New Jersey State Fireman's Association. Nominee #4's support includes not only active participation, but also providing free service on some of the Fire Companies trucks and equipment. Nominee #4 also supports and participates in fire prevention education for the community at large and in schools.



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

18

18

LEADING THE CHARGE

• Local Township Recreation Department – Sports Programs

- Nominee #4 sponsors multiple teams including providing cash sponsorships of approximately \$300 per team per year. The funds are used to provide uniforms and other needed items for the teams. The department offers programs including Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Football, Soccer, Hockey, Wrestling and Lacrosse.

• Local Township School District– Sports Teams

- Nominee #4 provides sponsorship to 7 different teams each academic year, including football, baseball, soccer, women’s soccer, volleyball and field hockey. Each sponsorship is between \$250 and \$350 per team per year. Sports is an avenue for youth to be physically active, learn sportsmanship and teamwork. By supporting school programs, it gives student athletes opportunities for scholarships and helps recruiting efforts to send these students to educational opportunities after graduation.

• Local Township Project Graduation

- Project Graduation offers alternative activities to students to encourage them to not participate in drinking alcohol or engage in other activities that put them at risk. Nominee #4 is an annual donor of the program allowing for the hiring of a deejay and offers similar constructive activities like dancing and provides food and beverages to the students.

• Local Animal Rescue Organizations

- Nominee #4 and their team are all big animal lovers and do a lot to support local animal rescue organizations. They also encourage and support adoption programs and spay/neuter clinics to ensure that the stray and feral populations in their town are well controlled. Annually over \$1,500 is donated to these shelters both in cash and in-kind donations.

• Your Grandmother’s Cupboard

- Nominee #4 serves as a drop off location and encourages their team and customers to donate regularly to the Cupboard. The Cupboard serves over 2,500 people in need a month. The all-volunteer effort collects, sorts, and distributes coats, clothing, blankets, and personal care items, providing the necessities of life for all. When the Cupboard needs a particular items, they contact Nominee #4, who then works to encourage community donations of the specifically needed items.



Humanitarian of the Year Nominee #5



LEADING THE CHARGE

• Local Community Food Pantry

- Nominee #5 and their team participated in a food drive for their communities open Cupboard Food Pantry. This is Nominee #5's third year collecting non-perishables for the less fortunate. During the 2023 holiday season the team collected and donated 204 pounds of food!

• Toys for Tots

- Nominee #5 has been a drop off location for Toys for Tots for 9 years running! In 2023 **three** Boxes of toys were collected!

• Warm Feet For Warriors

- Nominee #5 has collected over 14,000 pairs of socks for Warm Feet for Warriors. This program is a key part of the Soldiers Angels charity, shipping new socks to active military and veterans all over the world.

• Local Community Donations:

- Nominee #5 and their team adopted the "Welcome" signs for our town. Twice every year they clean up the signs including – cleaning, weeding, buying and planting shrubs and flowers.



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

21

21

LEADING THE CHARGE

• The Pink Breast Center

- In 2023, Nominee #5 and their team raised enough money to fully fund almost **1,000** mammograms, ultrasounds and other emergency services for women who have financial need! The Pink Breast Center provides services to the underserved within the community through the "I love you more" foundation, in loving memory of Dr. Jan Huston Pryor, a breast cancer surgeon who treated ALL patients regardless of their capacity to pay for her services.

• Grow-A-Row Foundation

- America's Grow-a-Row delivers produce weekly to areas where people lack access to healthy, fresh, affordable produce throughout New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and beyond. Every year, Nominee #5 and their team closes the shop so that all employees can participate in a day's worth of harvesting fresh produce to stock our local food pantries.

• Car Donations

- Nominee #5 and team have repaired and donated 4 vehicles for local single moms in need.
- Nominee #5 personally repaired and donated a car to a single mom who is also a friend that was experiencing a hardship. This took care of everything from getting the car, making the repairs, having the title transferred and having the car registered.



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

22

22

LEADING THE CHARGE

• Local Community Donations

- Local Police Benevolence Association - \$2,000
- Fraternal Order of Police - \$1,500
- Local Wrestling Team - \$250

• Friendly Sons of St. Patrick

- Nominee #5 is the President for their local chapter of this 501C3 philanthropic organization. They work with: Local PBA's, United Way, Rotary, local food pantries, Hope house, Prevention resources. Through the FSSP, Nominee #5 has been directly involved or spearheaded the following endeavors:
 - A diaper drive to collect 1,600 diapers for the United Way
 - Organized volunteers for the rotary poker run that benefits military veterans
 - Painted the exterior of The Outreach Connection - a local organization that aims to connect the community through volunteerism for people and animals in need.
 - National Night Out – Nominee #5 sat in the dunk tank for our local National Night Out to help promote Police-Community partnerships and community camaraderie.
 - Nominee #5 leads the local communities St. Patrick's Day parade that promotes Irish Culture and Heritage.
 - With the FSSP, Nominee #5 partnered with the local Police Department to build a handicap accessible ramp for a local man who was unable to leave his home without the assistance of the rescue squad.
 - Nominee #5 and the FSSP also built an installed a playground at the local women's shelter.



SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

23



Humanitarian Winner Hall of Fame



Doug & Billy Hillmuth	2010
Chris & Tammy Shoemaker	2011
Paul Campanella	2011
Tom Lapham	2012 & 2013
Judi & Dana Haglin	2014 & 2020
Chris Cozad	2015
Ron Peters	2016
Keith & Jodi Katz	2017
Eddie & Trish Cleveland	2018
Gregg & Christina Caldwell	2019
Bill & Laurie Rate	2021
Lori & Sam Concelman	2022



Automotive Training Institute

SUPERCONFERENCE 2024

24

