

Alan Bell Memorial Award Nomination Application

I wish to nominate: Jake Blanton

Jake Blanton is a fighter, the most compassionate fighter I know. I am amazed how incredible this child is. Fighting through an embarrassing disease with his head held high when others would retreat.

Jake never spends any time feeling sorry for himself or preventing himself from enjoying the life of a high school student. Conversely, he played varsity sports, worked for the local Recreation Center, and mentored kids in a basketball program. Jake has been described by parents as sweet, caring, fun and kind. Unfortunately, parents are sometimes in a position to apologize for their children staring at Jake, but Jake handles the situation with grace. He has shown the kids that misfortunes happen but they cannot break your spirit.

His volunteer work at the community recreation center has made him the most requested proctor by parents and kids alike. He is responsible for opening as well as closing all the community gyms daily. He is the referee for the 7-8 year boy's and girl's teams. Jake is patient and kind with the kids during instructional times and playful and engaging during recreation times. Jake loves to be with the kids, stopping to talk to them at every given chance. It is not odd to see Jake still in the gym after all the games are played teaching a child a better way to shoot or practicing a lay-up. I am not sure you can instill this in children, but Jake is innately an incredible individual. Reading the criteria, I can't think of a more deserving student. I am proud to have him on my staff and am in wonderment of his positive attitude and kind heart.

For several years now Jake has been dealing with Alopecia, a disease that has caused him to lose all his hair on his body. As you can well imagine, that can be quite upsetting for a teenage boy. Jake handles this with courage and poise.

Nominated by Tish Mangan
Relationship to nominee: Supervisor