Nominee's Name: First	Nominee's Name: Last	Which award are you nominating this person	Which county does your nominee represent?	Tell us why you are nominating this person. Please be detailed as we will use this information to determine the honoree.	If your nominee wins, would you like to present the award to	Your Name: First
Christina	Batts	**Unsung Hero Award**	Seminole County	I met Christina quite a few years ago at work and she is the most hard working, dedicated person I know for all she does for everyone through Hearts of Mercy and the multiple other organizations she is a part of. She is a fighter for everyone and everything she believes in!	No	Michelle
Lorraine	Johns	**Unsung Hero Award**	Seminole County	Chimekie has demonstrated a passion for the HIV epidemic. She lives with integrity, and a positive outlook with others that have HIV. She shows up for any event that promotes the awareness of HIV. She is a blessing to the cause. Altho having adversities in her personal life she shines for those in need.	No	Lorraine
Cristina	Harvey	**Unsung Hero Award**	Brevard County	I am proud to nominate Cristina for the Unsung Hero Award. In such a short time, she has made an incredible impact on both our agency and the clients she serves. Cristina is adored by clients and coworkers alike because of her compassion, dedication, and genuine desire to help others. She is passionate about her clients and a fierce advocate, always working to ensure they receive the support and resources they deserve. Her commitment often happens quietly and without recognition, but the difference she makes is felt throughout our agency. Cristina truly embodies what it means to be an unsung hero.	No	Christian
Christina	Batts	**Unsung Hero Award**	Seminole County	Christina has worked tirelessly for years to educate and prevent HIV/AIDS through her non profit Hearts of Mercy. She is a true unsung hero!	No	Amber
Christiana	Heard	**Unsung Hero Award**	Seminole County	I'm voting for Christina Batts because I've personally watched her dedicate her time, heart, and voice to helping others. She continues to educate, advocate, and bring awareness to HIV/AIDS while working to break the stigma and remind people that their diagnosis does not define who they are. She doesn't do this for recognition—she does it because she genuinely cares about her community and the people she serves. She is truly an unsung hero.	Yes	Ardasia
Christina	Batts	**Unsung Hero Award**	Seminole County	She has been tirelessly and selflessly committed to educating, advocating, and encouraging conversations that would help bring awareness about HIV/AIDS when NO ONE was looking! I BELIEVE she deserves to be the unsung hero because of the commitment and compassion she has shown over the years to bring the awareness of the topic. I hope you all will consider Mrs. Batts! Thank you and God Bless!	No	Eric
Christina	Aylissa	**Unsung Hero Award**	Seminole County	Christina has been an outspoken advocate for HIV/AIDS awareness through her personal life, philanthropy, and in her community. She is deserving of this recognition and is truly an advocate for this cause!	Yes	Troy
Christina	Batts	**Unsung Hero Award**	Seminole County	Well, Christina places so much time and care into the cause and she's so proud to be in support of the community that I would love to honor her with this award in recognition of all of her hard work…	Yes	Earl
Christina	Batts	**Unsung Hero Award**	Seminole County	I nominate myself as I have been a beacon of the community since I diagnosed in 2000. I've brought awareness to the cause daily. Not only do I advocate for HIV/AIDS I am a surviving with it. I am a long-time survivor of 26 years. My website is www.heartsofmercy.LIFE which speaks volumes. Thank you!	No	Christina
Barbara	Hoosier	**Service Award**	Orange County	I nominated Barbara Hoosier for the Service Award because of her dedication, commitment, and willingness to go above and beyond to support others. She consistently demonstrates professionalism, kindness, and a genuine passion for serving those around her. Her positive attitude, dependability, and willingness to help make a meaningful difference in the lives of others and contribute to the success of the team. Barbara's hard work and commitment to providing excellent service deserve to be recognized and celebrated, making her a deserving candidate for this award.	Yes	Janee
Angie	Buckey	**Service Award**	Orange County	Es una persona que inspira a seguir con la vida buscando un propósito aún que haya un diagnóstico que nos aterrorice.	Yes	Adrian
Tori	Samuel	**Service Award**	Lake County	Tori exemplifies what a peer truly is. Someone who has walked a difficult path but is proud of it because where it's led her. She approaches being a peer support person with so much love and humility. She is easy to speak with and shows up for her community.	No	Krystal

Tori	Samuel	**Service Award**	Lake County	I am nominating Tori Samuel because she has turned her personal experience living with HIV into a commitment to helping others feel seen, supported, and empowered. Diagnosed at age 19, Tori understands the fear, stigma, and uncertainty that can accompany a diagnosis. She shares her story openly to challenge misconceptions and remind people that HIV does not define their worth, limit their potential, or end their story. For ten years, Tori served with the Florida Department of Health in Alachua County as a Regional Linkage and Retention Coordinator and Perinatal Peer. Her work included helping people connect with HIV care, supporting continued engagement in services, and providing peer support during deeply personal moments in their lives. She brings both professional experience and lived understanding to her advocacy. Tori has also raised her voice when access to treatment was threatened. During Florida's AIDS Drug Assistance Program funding challenges, she shared her experience, engaged lawmakers, and advocated for continued access to lifesaving medication. Her advocacy was featured in The Washington Post, helping bring national attention to the people affected by these decisions. She was also recognized as Florida Advocate of the Year in 2026 by Florida Voices for Health. As Founder and Executive Director of The Tori Foundation, Inc., based in Ocala, Tori is building a community where people living with or affected by HIV can find support without shame or judgment. The foundation's mission centers on safe spaces, HIV education, stigma reduction, individualized peer support and mentoring, leadership development, and connections to community resources. Her vision reflects a need she understands personally: people deserve more than a referral—they deserve someone who listens, builds trust, and helps them take their next step. What makes Tori especially deserving of this recognition is her ability to connect with people across backgrounds and experiences. She approaches others with compassion and respect, recognizing their humanity before their diagnosis. She also brings attention to the experiences of Black women living with HIV, challenging stereotypes through the visibility of her own life, family, and leadership. World AIDS Day honors lives, recognizes progress, and renews our responsibility to one another. Tori carries that responsibility into her daily work. She uses her voice to advocate for access, her experience to guide others, and her story to make it easier for someone else to speak without fear. Her service deserves recognition because it helps people see a future for themselves—and know they do not have to face it alone.	No	Cherise
Chimekie	James	**Service Award**	Orange County	Chimekie lives with HIV. Her firsthand experience allows her to support the clients she serves with empathy. This lived experience builds rapport with Chimekie's clients allowing them to trust and be open with her. Not everyone who serves the HIV community has firsthand experience with HIV. This makes Chimekie a beacon of hope to those who are coming to terms with their diagnoses.	Yes	Rachel
Chimekie	James	**Service Award**	Orange County	She has push pasted the stigma living with hiv and working a program of recovery. She is now 4 years sober working a job she loves help people just like her get the help they need. What she dose helps me push to make it one more day on my hands to get through school and work. She a great person to here cumminty and the people around her.	No	Victoria
Hilda	Morales	**Service Award**	Brevard County	Hilda has dedicated 14 years of her life to helping clients with HIV. She has done everything from outreach to case management to case management supervisor to referral coordinator. There is nothing that Hilda cannot do or will not do to help her clients. The clients love her and some clients will still only deal with Hilda despite the fact that she hasn't been in case management for several years now. Everyone from clients to staff members go to Hilda for everything because she is such a great resource and she always knows what to do to help. She has the biggest heart and it shines through everything she does.	No	Terin
Terin	Votava	**Service Award**	Brevard County	Always goes above and beyond. Very compassionate, outgoing and caring. Is willing to slow down and listen to patient's problem's, needs and concerns. Makes patient's feel welcome and personally, I think that makes them want to come back for their appointments. I've been working with her now for 10 months and truthfully, she's an inspiration.	No	Todd

Brenda	Abbate	**Service Award**	Brevard County	Brenda is in our admin office. She works hard and tries to stay out of the spotlight. Due to her always going above and beyond I am able to work out deal with landlord to get our client housed. She is always able to get a check to me in an emergency. No matter how much work she has to do. I feel working with some so awesome, I am able to do my job with no barriers in the office and that only works best out for our clients. I face so many barriers with our client and landlords that it nice to get a break from barriers in our office. She goes unseen sometime, but I could not do what I do without someone like her. Housing is a big barrier for our clients.	Yes	Jade
Randall	Keeton	**Service Award**	Orange County	For organizing and volunteering his time and talent as a MAC Celebrity Makeup Artist, and for getting MAC Cosmetics to sponsor the makeup for the event, which was for the Transitional Facilities in Orange County for women who have suffered physical abuse, drug addiction, and mental health issues. A "Free Makeover For A Day"; the makeover is done by a MAC Cosmetics makeup artist with 20+ years of experience. Showing his commitment to changing people's self-esteem with adorable attention and pure, infectious love, and making these women feel beautiful with or without makeup.	No	Vanity
Ira	Westbrook	**Lifetime Achievement Award**	Orange County	*[A phone number was entered here and redacted by PCS]*	Yes	Ira
ERIK	HENDRICKSON-CRUZ	**Lifetime Achievement Award**	Brevard County	GREAT LEADER WITH A CLEAR AND CONCISE MESSAGE.	No	BRENDA J
Erik	Hendrickson-Cruz	**Lifetime Achievement Award**	Brevard County	I am nominating Erik because he is a CEO who truly cares about his employees, the clients we serve, and the overall mission of our organization. Even in his position as CEO, he remains approachable, supportive, and willing to listen. He makes employees feel valued and shows that leadership is not just about a title, but about how you treat and support the people around you. What I appreciate most about Erik is that he creates an environment where employees can feel comfortable asking questions, learning, and growing. He is encouraging and understanding, and you can see that he genuinely wants his staff to succeed. Working in case management can sometimes be challenging and stressful, and having a CEO who recognizes the work we do and supports his employees makes a difference. Erik also demonstrates a genuine commitment to our clients and the mission of Project Response. He cares about making sure our clients are treated with dignity, respect, and compassion and that they receive the services and support they need. I believe a great CEO should lead by example, support their employees, remain connected to the people they serve, and create a positive working environment. Erik demonstrates these qualities, and I appreciate the leadership, encouragement, and support he provides. I believe he deserves to be recognized for the positive impact he has on our employees, our clients, and the organization as a whole.	No	erica

Erik	Hendrickson-Cruz	**Lifetime Achievement Award**	Brevard County	I am honored to nominate Erik Hendrickson-Cruz, Executive Director of Project Response, for the Lifetime Achievement Award. Since joining Project Response approximately three years ago, Erik has led a remarkable transformation that has elevated the agency's services, workplace culture, and impact throughout the Brevard County community. Under Erik's leadership, Project Response has moved to a larger location that provides a more professional, welcoming environment for the clients we serve and strengthens the agency's presence in the community. He has fostered meaningful collaboration and synergy among coworkers, creating an environment in which staff work together toward a shared mission. Erik has also expanded the agency's capacity to serve individuals living with HIV by developing new positions, Senior Care Case manager to work with the older population, Housing Case Manager to address those facing housing challenges, and services designed to meet clients' evolving needs. His vision helped bring a mobile unit into the community to provide HIV education and testing, extending Project Response's reach to individuals who may otherwise face barriers to accessing services. A defining quality of Ericks leadership is his commitment to client-centered care. He regularly meets with staff to identify ways to strengthen services and encourages employees across the agency to collaborate on activities and events for clients throughout the year. This approach has empowered case managers and other staff members to contribute their talents while building a stronger sense of teamwork and community. Because of Erik's vision and work ethic, Project Response has become a leading provider of HIV services in Brevard County, offering medical care, medical case management and food-pantry access to clients. His leadership has improved not only what we do as an agency, but also how we serve our community. There is much more that could be said about Erik's dedication, integrity, leadership skills, and lasting impact. I strongly believe that Erik Hendrickson-Cruz is exceptionally deserving of consideration for the Lifetime Achievement Award.	Yes	Peter
Erik	Hendrickson-Cruz	**Lifetime Achievement Award**	Brevard County	Erik has dedicated many different points of his life to caring for those living with HIV. Erik is always looking for ways to improve access to care within the Brevard County area. Such as speaking with community partners, building relationships with organizations and participating in chambers throughout the county.	No	Ryan
Ronald	Cathcart	**Lifetime Achievement Award**	Brevard County	Dr Cathcart has been serving the HIV community since 1989. He has dedicated almost his entire medical career to serving those LWH. He has a passion for this community and the clients love him dearly. He has seen the worst and the best of HIV, starting back when HIV was a death sentence and there were no working treatments, to modern day medicine where there are now several amazing treatments available to help keep clients completely undetectable. Dr Cathcart has never waivered in his care for this underserved community. He stays on top of the latest studies and trials so he can provide the most up to date care to his patients. He serves his patients with dignity and compassion. He is a true guiding light in this sometimes dim world. The HIV community has truly been made better by his dedication and commitment and he deserves to be honored for this!	No	Terin
Ronald	Cathcart	**Lifetime Achievement Award**	Brevard County	He goes out of his way to help the patients and always puts them first. His compassion is unwavering and he has served this community for 20 + years.	No	Tina