January 2019

Dear D.J.'s Hero Nominators and Nominees:

The Salvation Army is excited to accept nominations for the 2019 D.J.'s Hero Awards. The awards, given in loving memory of the late D.J. Sokol, recognize Nebraska high school seniors who exemplify D.J.'s selflessness, faith and commitment to the community. Over the last 20 years more than 120 students have received the D.J.'s Hero Award. This year 11 more students will receive a $10,000 scholarship and recognition as a D.J.'s Hero.

We have three important updates to share regarding this year's nomination process:

- The Teresa Hunzeker Memorial Scholarship is a new $10,000 scholarship that will be awarded to a deserving student who plans to pursue a STEM-related (science, technology, engineering or math) field of study. The scholarship honors the memory of Teresa Hunzeker, who passed away in January 2018.
- All scholarship recipients will be assigned a TeamMates+ mentor who will provide encouragement, support and one-on-one guidance during the student's college years.
- We are also partnering with Avenue Scholars, who will assist us in tracking data on the benefits of the D.J.'s Hero Awards and mentorship.

The scholarships will be presented at the D.J.'s Hero Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, May 7, at CHI Health Center Omaha. Attendance is required for all award winners.

The 2019 keynote speakers are Sean and Leigh Anne Tuohy. Chronicled in the number one New York Times bestseller and the record-breaking Hollywood blockbuster The Blind Side, the Tuohy's story as the adoptive parents of Michael Oher, a homeless teenage turned first round draft pick for the NFL, has inspired millions around the globe with a message of love, hope and opportunity. Leigh Ann Tuohy was portrayed by Sandra Bullock, who won the Academy Award for Best Actress for her performance.

**D.J.'s Hero Award nominations must be postmarked or received via email by March 2, 2019.** Please see the enclosed brochure for details about the nomination process. Additional forms can also be downloaded at salaromyomaha.org.

Thank you so much for your help in identifying deserving students for the D.J.'s Hero Award. Please don’t hesitate to call 402-898-5906 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Beckman
Executive Director of Development
The Salvation Army Western Division

The Salvation Army Western Divisional Headquarters
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SalArmyWestern.org • SalArmyOmaha.org

General Brian Peddle Commissioner F. Bradford Bailey, Territorial Commander Major Greg Thompson, Divisional Commander

"...THERE IS NO REWARD EQUAL TO THAT OF DOING THE MOST GOOD TO THE MOST PEOPLE IN THE MOST NEED." – EVANGELINE BOOTH
The Salvation Army is now accepting nominations for the 2019 D. J.‘s Hero Awards.

D.J. Sokol faced significant obstacles, but he always focused his energy on his family, friends and community. His passion for life and engaging sense of humor delighted everyone who crossed his path. Although he lost his battle with cancer in 1999, D.J.’s legacy lives on in the scholarship recipients who share his positive perspective, generosity and extraordinary dedication to others.

The D.J.’s Hero Awards are underwritten by David and Peggy Sokol in loving memory of their son, D.J. Sokol. The awards recognize 11 Nebraska high school seniors who exemplify D.J.’s selflessness, leadership and commitment to the community. Award recipients receive a $10,000 scholarship toward their selected university or college.

See reverse side for complete nomination details.

D.J.’s Hero Awards Partners

TeamMates Mentoring is a school-based one-to-one mentoring program that began in 1991 with the vision of former University of Nebraska–Lincoln Head Football Coach Tom Osborne and his wife, Nancy. It has grown to serve more than 9,500 youth in 3rd through 12th grades through partnerships with local school districts.

TeamMates+ Mentoring pairs college students with community volunteers who serve as champions and advocates for the student. Through monthly visits in a public setting, mentors provide encouragement, accountability, guidance and support. Benefits include a Gallup Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment, creative learning strategies and study skills, and advice pertaining to both career and personal development.

Avenue Scholars provides individualized support services to help students from low-income backgrounds identify and ultimately enter financially sustaining careers. Each Avenue Scholar is assigned a Career Coach who provides long-term comprehensive support and guides students’ personal and career-related development during their junior and senior years of high school, through postsecondary education/training and into a career. Avenue Scholars’ expert career coaching is enhanced by best practice-informed case management strategies and frequent engagement with data on student outcomes.

Avenue Scholars is assisting The Salvation Army in tracking data on the benefits of the D.J.’s Hero Awards and mentorship.
**Nomination Requirements**

**Nominator Application Criteria and Instructions:**

- Nominator must be an adult, 21 years of age or older, and not related to the nominee. Counselors, teachers, pastors, mentors, employers and community leaders are encouraged to nominate qualified students.

- Nominator may nominate more than one student.

- Nominator must complete and submit the enclosed nomination form **AND** answer the following five questions (submission should not be longer than two single-spaced pages in 12-point font):

  1. How does the nominee demonstrate maturity and/or courage by acting independently?
  2. How has the nominee responded to and overcome challenges and adversity?
  3. How does the nominee express enthusiasm for life?
  4. What are the nominee’s greatest achievements and personal goals?
  5. How has the nominee demonstrated commitment to others, leadership, and service to their community (please write a narrative rather than a list)?

**Nominee Application Criteria and Instructions:**

- Nominee must reside in Nebraska and be enrolled during the 2018-2019 academic year as a high school senior.

- Nominee must be a resident of and plan to attend college in the United States.

- Nominee must submit a short essay of 250 words or fewer explaining the adversity he/she has overcome, why he/she should receive the scholarship, and his/her future plans.

- Upon acceptance of the $10,000 scholarship, the award winner will agree to attend the D.J.’s Hero Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, May 7, in Omaha and will agree to work with a free TeamMates+ mentor.

**Submission Information**

Nomination forms must be postmarked or received via email by Saturday, March 2, 2019. Please return the 1) completed nomination form, 2) the nominator’s responses to the questions, and 3) the nominee’s essay.

Please mail all required documents to:
Jeff Beckman
The Salvation Army
10755 Burt Street
Omaha, NE 68114

**OR**

Scan and email documents to djshero@usc.salvationarmy.org

Additional copies of the nomination forms can be downloaded at salarmyomaha.org.

Nominators will be notified by April 8, 2019, if their nominee was selected as a D.J.’s Hero scholarship recipient. Only scholarship winners will be required to attend the luncheon.

**The Salvation Army**

**D.J.’s Hero Awards Luncheon**

**May 7, 2019**

The presentation of the 2019 D.J.’s Hero Awards to the 11 scholarship recipients will take place Tuesday, May 7, at The Salvation Army D.J.’s Hero Awards Luncheon at the CHI Health Center Omaha. Attendance is required for all award winners.

This year’s keynote speakers are Sean and Leigh Ann Tuohy. Chronicled in the No. 1 New York Times best-seller and the record-breaking film “The Blind Side,” the Tuohy’s story as the adoptive parents of Michael Oher, a homeless teenage turned first-round draft pick for the NFL, has inspired millions around the globe. Today the Tuohy’s continue to advocate for underserved youth through their Making It Happen Foundation, which promotes awareness of and provides hope and opportunity for children struggling in poverty.

**Our Mission**

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.
This form is to be completed by the Nominator and signed by both the Nominator and Nominee. **All materials must be postmarked or received by March 2, 2019.** Please retain a copy for your files.

**Nominator's Name:**

**Organization/Business:**

**Address:**  
City:  
State:  
ZIP:

**Business Phone:**  
Cell Phone:

**Email:**  
**Relationship to the nominee:**

**Nominee's (Student's) Name:**

**Address:**  
City:  
State:  
ZIP:

**Phone:**  
Email:  
Date of birth:

**Responsible adult(s):**

**High school currently attending:**  
**Graduation date:**

**College plans:**

**Activities in high school:**

**Briefly explain the nominee's financial need for this scholarship:**

**Briefly explain the challenges the nominee has overcome:**

**If nominee is planning on studying science, technology, engineering and/or math, are he/she interested in being considered for the Teresa Hunzeker Memorial Scholarship?**  
**Yes**  
**No**

**If yes, please provide the Nominee's ACT or SAT score:**

**Release Statement:** *In submitting this nomination, the Nominator and Nominee agree that the information contained may be used for promotional purposes and in media. The Salvation Army will be sensitive to special considerations and will work with the Nominee and Nominator to preserve reasonable privacy.*

**Signatures**

**Nominator:**

**Nominee:**

**Responsible Adult:**

**Official Use Only**  
**Date received:**

**Materials received:**  
**Nominee Essay**  
**Nominator Statement**  
**Method received:**  
**Mail**  
**Email**