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Did you know . . .

Liberty Resources Family Services, Inc. will host the 3rd Annual Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO) Appreciation Event this upcoming October. We will have entertainment and awesome raffle prizes, as usual. Get ready to gamble and win big...because it's Casino Night!

Save the Date-
We hope you'll be able to join us on **October 18, 2019!**



[Add me to the JPO Appreciation](#)

[Email List](#)

CHAMPION Edition

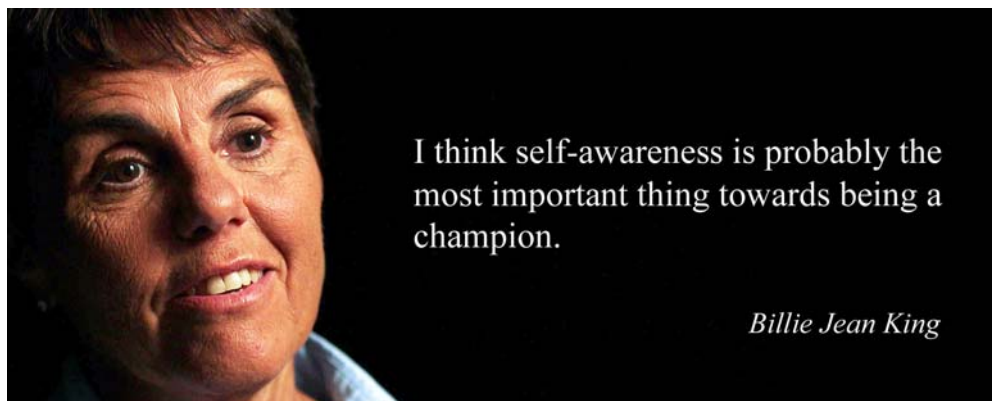
What is a Champion?

Contributed by: Jade Gebhardt

Champion (noun) - a person who fights or argues for a cause or on behalf of someone else.

We must all recognize that there are obstacles to becoming a champion, whether it be for a cause or a person. Many people champion causes because they are passionate about them due to moral reasons; intellectual interests; or perhaps because they or someone they know have been effected by a particular issue. When we fight for change on behalf of someone else, we may come from similar walks of life or just feel called to be their "champion." Whatever the reason(s) for why you choose to be a champion for others, you must not forget to look inward and realize all that you've overcome to conquer obstacles that could derail your efforts.

Although we here at Liberty Resources can never know the extent of all that you have accomplished, in your role as a mentor to juvenile justice youth and in life, we would like to take this opportunity to honor the hard work we have witnessed during our partnership with you. You have made an impression on youths, caregivers, and us. We can't thank you enough for never giving up, but instead giving it your all. You are our Champions!



I think self-awareness is probably the most important thing towards being a champion.

Billie Jean King



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Melissa Garza
Nueces County
Nominated by: MST



Melissa Garza is a Juvenile Probation Officer in Nueces County. She has served the Department for 21 years. Melissa was drawn to this field because she has family who are also in positions related to the profession. One of her brothers works in the field, while another is a police officer.

Melissa is inspired daily to work with youth in our community because she enjoys the interaction with youth and wants to see them do well and be successful. Her favorite aspect of the job is working with youth and conducting field visits, as she enjoys the interaction with families in the community. Melissa would advise new probation officers to be patient with the youth and their families.

Thank you Melissa for all you do for our community and our youth!

Javier Vasquez
Nueces County
Nominated by: ACS



JPO Javier Vasquez has been working with juveniles for approximately 20 years and really enjoys it. He seeks out opportunities to help others to impart the wisdom he gained growing up on the Westside of town; JPO Vasquez had to “learn ways to survive in a community surrounded by drugs and gangs.” He makes it his mission to change youths’ lives for the better. JPO Vasquez has a “good understanding of what it takes to live underprivileged, having to work hard for things, and making choices that affect my [daily] life.”

Since JPO Vasquez has such valuable first-hand experience, he takes pride in helping families with juvenile justice involved youth. “Becoming a Probation Officer was the best thing for my life...seeing myself as these kids who could’ve ended up on the same path but [I] made a better choice early on.” He is determined to help the youth and families that he serves get back on track and improve their lives. “The best part is giving back to others,” JPO Vasquez said.

Thank you for sharing your past to improve others futures. You are our Champion!



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Cecelia Alvarado

Atascosa County

Nominated by: April Huxell



Cecelia Alvarado, a Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO) out of Atascosa County, is being recognized as a Liberty Champion. Cecelia states that she has always wanted to be a JPO, and even has a photo of herself in kindergarten with a badge! She states that she has “the love for Criminal Justice” in her blood, as her father was a police officer and her brother is a Tennessee State Trooper. She enjoys the people she meets in her position, as well as all the wonderful families she is able to help. She states that her greatest accomplishment as a JPO is seeing a child start to believe in themselves. “Once they begin to do that, you see the family dynamic start to change for the better.” Her hope for the future of the troubled youth and families within her community is what inspires her daily drive and motivation, and she is rewarded by seeing the smiles on the children’s faces when they are praised for doing well.

When asked about her greatest success story, JPO Alvarado recalled “a young man who became involved with my department many years ago. He was a mental health child who was physically abused by his mother and grandmother. Through the years, we developed trust and understanding with each other. He is now a productive member of society – he has his own place, his own vehicle, and is employed. That young man comes to see me at least twice a year.” Thank you for sharing your generous spirit...it has made all the difference!

Charles Rice

Bell County

Nominated by: Kendra Maxie



JPO Charles Rice has done an outstanding job working with youth in the Intensive Supervision Program. Although he’s been working with youth for about 21 years, 15 of them were served in a live-in, group home setting caring for youth on juvenile probation and in CPS care. Prior to that, he served in the U.S. Army as a Sergeant First Class (E-7). JPO Rice has a strong Christian faith and feels that he was called by God to work with at-risk teens. His relatable experiences have enabled him to understand and connect with the youth and their families. He stated that the most rewarding aspect of his job is when youth actually “get it” and are able to “show you they get it as you see them make changes in their lives”.

One major accomplishment JPO Rice recalls is when his encouragements helped a young man change his life. That youth graduated high school; entered college, obtaining a Bachelor’s of Science degree; and now works as an assistant teacher in China teaching English. JPO Rice stated that he engages caretakers “calmly, humbly... [and with] empathy [for] their situation.” He encourages families to get involved to support the youth and participate in community based programs, such as basketball, mentoring, and community counseling. JPO Rice is always willing to help and exhibits a positive attitude in all he does! The part of the job that he says he enjoys the most is, “Talking with the youth and families to help discover solutions for them to be successful.” Liberty Resources is so thankful to work with such an extraordinary probation officer and person! Thank you, JPO Rice, for all that you do and for being a Champion of the youth and families you serve!



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Chelsea Pena

Calhoun County

Nominated by: Karlissa Chandler



Chelsea Pena has been a Juvenile Probation Officer for Calhoun County for the last 4 years. She started her juvenile justice career as an intern, later becoming a Detention Officer for Montgomery County. After graduating in 2015, she landed her role as Juvenile Probation Officer for Calhoun.

JPO Pena grew up in El Campo, Texas, so she was happy to be closer to home. She enjoys providing youth with boundaries, talking about the importance of education, and enjoys working with families to provide strong guidance for them. Although JPO Pena works long hours, she doesn't let herself lose focus...she knows she sometimes has to make "difficult decisions and tries not to judge these situations with families, as they are all so unique."

Hats off to JPO Pena for all her hard work and dedication to this field. The youths and families of your community are lucky to have your steadfast support and diligence in improving lives and building better futures, which is the ultimate mission of Liberty Resources. Thank you for exhibiting the values our organization holds so dear. You are truly a Liberty Champion!

Ruby Ramos

Cameron County

Nominated by: Myra Cadriel



JPO Ruby Ramos is a remarkable individual who always goes above and beyond to help the youths and families of Cameron County. She personally inspired me upon first meeting her because of how supportive she was not to only myself, but to all the families she works with.

JPO Ramos is fully dedicated to every child and family that visits her office. She takes great care and accepts the responsibility of showing hope and support. JPO Ramos challenges herself daily in making changes to help youths and their families. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such a wonderful individual who is always willing to help everyone. JPO Ramos manages to stay positive, motivated, and inspired; for these reasons, she truly is a great mentor.

Thank you, JPO Ruby Ramos, for your service to our county and your continuing efforts to serve your community. We at Liberty Resources Family Services, Inc. are proud to call you our Champion!



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Tana Bentley Cooke County

Nominated by: Kristyn Bunt



When asked what inspired her daily to work with youth in the community, JPO Bentley stated, "My faith is really important and so are the kids. I am fortunate to get to work with them. I look at it as a challenge and let my families know we can get through this." She also shared, "I love what I do."

JPO Bentley tackles another aspect of her work, building a rapport with the families of the youths she serves, by focusing on engaging caretakers. "When I need to engage caretakers, I mostly focus on getting them comfortable with me as a person, sometimes giving some personal reflection to help with this. I raised two kids and I understand kids will be kids, but there has to be a good balance between being their friend and guider, but using discipline and direction when needed too."

We here at Liberty Resources are appreciative of you continued efforts to impart faith and grace to the youths and families in your community. You are our Champion!

Terri Rogers DeWitt County

Nominated by: Karlissa Chandler



I have had the privilege of working with Chief Terri Rogers for over a year and a half. Chief Rogers has served as Chief to the DeWitt County Juvenile Probation Department since 2016. I attribute her position to her disposition; she is enthusiastic and willing to discuss the youths that Liberty serves in her community. She is also a hard worker that never hesitates to answer anytime I call.

Prior to her arrival in DeWitt County, Chief Rogers spent several years working as a Sex Offender Supervision Officer in Potter County. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Master's degree in Criminal Justice. Additionally, she has obtained numerous training certificates in various other subjects, such as Defensive Tactics, Trauma Informed Care and wide-ranging social media topics. Chief Rogers works in a small community and her office consists only of a Truancy Officer, a JPO, and two Clerical staff members. She prefers the laid back style, stating, "To find me [just] look for the lady wearing jeans and Converse shoes, as formality is not my strong suit."

You may be easy going in the style department, but you are a go-getter in your career. Thank you for being a Liberty Champion!



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Landon Liebel

Fannin County

Nominated by: Lindsey Pierce



JPO Liebel excels at increasing success with the youths and families he serves; applying compassion, hard work, and dedication, he is driven to make an impact in the lives of his community. He was drawn to work in this field because he enjoys criminal justice and has a heart for working with young people, making this a good fit for his career.

Believing that early intervention with teens greatly impacts their future success, JPO Liebel aims to get them on the right track to limit negative consequences they may face in adulthood. Utilizing many resources to help his families, such as the Liberty Resources Placement Diversion/Family Reunification Program, he makes a positive impact on teens and their families. Currently, he is working with a family where the youth has greatly increased their ability to be successful in the home, school, and community. The youth is working, has increased his relationship with his family, and is doing excellent in school.

What JPO Liebel enjoys most about his job is seeing youth he worked with in the past doing well. He really loves to hear their success stories and see how they have overcome challenges to turn their life around; this is what continues to drive him. JPO Liebel will, without a doubt, continue to impact many youth and their families in the future! We are truly grateful for all that you do!

Cintina Daniels

Grayson County

Nominated by: Kristyn Bunt



When asked what her greatest youth and/or family success story was, JPO Cintina Daniels replied, "Not too long ago, I had a family with a little girl that was acting out. She happened to be the daughter of a person that I was also a probation officer for when she was younger. When the girl was brought to JDC for an offense, we sat down and talked about all of the things she wanted to do and the girl was aware of her own mother's past. Providing them this chance to connect and through Strengthening Families, a family counseling program, the family was able to get back to a typical routine and the little girl is doing wonderfully. While mental health was not an aspect in this case, overall understanding why the kids act out is especially important."

JPO Daniels gave some insight into what drives her to help youths in her community by stating, "School is always a huge priority, and something we encourage for the youth, but my drive is mostly patience. With those with mental health disabilities and not, patience is really important and in school understanding the programs offered and parents having a better understanding of how their child is performing are really important to that student being successful. I really enjoy being helpful to my families overall, especially those that may be acting out because of other things related to mental health and making sure they get the help they need."

Your success story warms the heart and we are inspired by your patience and desire to help others. Thank you for being a Liberty Champion!



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Kimberly Woodruff

Hunt County

Nominated by: Lindsey Pierce



JPO Woodruff is hard working and very dedicated to helping the youth and families which she serves. Among her many strengths as a JPO, including commitment to helping others and compassion for working with high risk youth and their families, is her hunger for knowledge. She is continually working to increase her understanding of teenage brain development and wants to positively impact families to make better choices in the home, school, and community. When asked what inspires her daily drive to work with youth, she stated that she is motivated by playing a part in getting them back on track. In addition, she is driven to support victims of crime in receiving the restitution they deserve.

According to JPO Woodruff, there are numerous rewarding aspects to working in juvenile justice. She states being a JPO is more than locking up youth when they commit offenses. It is about holding them accountable to ensure they are learning from their mistakes and...able to adhere to the law and succeed in life. She is thankful to work with others in Hunt County and finds being a part of this team very rewarding, believing decisions are collective and it takes a joint effort to understand and rehabilitate the youth she works with. She finds that helping others is the most rewarding aspect of working as a JPO. We are so grateful for all that JPO Woodruff has achieved in her community!

Stephanie Malburg

Lamar County

Nominated by: Dylan Phillips



JPO Stephanie Malburg is a talented individual who strives to go above and beyond to help the youths and families of Lamar County. When asked what inspires her to work with youth in her community she replied, "Today's youth are our future world leaders and if we don't equip them with the tools they need to be successful and reach their full potential, we are doing a disservice not only to them but to society." JPO Malburg describes the most rewarding aspect of her job as, "Helping the youth develop goals and witnessing them reach those goals to unlock their full potential. Telling them they can be more than what they are right now and their negative behaviors don't have to define who they are as people."

When asked how she engages caretakers she replied, "Many families are often intimidated by the juvenile justice system, especially if they are unfamiliar with [it]. They are often times anxious about their child's future. If families are unfamiliar with what to expect and are not provided essential information about the process, the likelihood they will cooperate and participate is low. It's my job as a Probation Officer to provide them with information and support to help them become knowledgeable...The most successful cases are the ones in which the child's parents are actively involved in their probation. When I have very supportive families, the kid is going to make it. I have to have the parents on board."

Thank you, Stephanie for being who you are, a caring and compassionate public servant. You are truly a Champion for the youths that you serve!



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Fidelia Jaimes

Erath-Stephenville County

Nominated by: Kelly Demory Guevara



JPO Fidelia Jaimes has always had a passion and desire to work in the Criminal Justice field. After graduating from Texas State University, she began working with adult offenders. However, she realized her true passion was working with youth, leading to her decision to become a Juvenile Probation Officer. Her passion is driven from the belief that she can make a difference and help foster resilience and success in each juvenile she works with. JPO Jaimes shared that her goal is to help plant positive seeds at a younger age to help the youth grow and build a better future.

I have personally observed JPO Jaimes's interactions with youths and their families; she is very committed and devoted to helping them overcome any obstacles they encounter. She never gives up on the youth and is a great support system in helping them achieve their goals. JPO Jaime stated, "Just simply knowing that I have made a positive impact on just one juvenile is what inspires me each day at work. I want them to know they are special, that they are important, and [that] them staying out of trouble makes me feel like it's a reward in itself." JPO Jaimes is excellent at what she does because her passion always motivates her to go the extra mile for each youth. She never gives up hope or faith that she can make a difference, regardless of how difficult the situation may seem.

Thank you, JPO Jaimes, for all of your hard work in Erath County and for making a positive impact in our community and youth. Your passion and love for the field has continued to inspire the youth, families, and our staff at Liberty Resources. We are proud to call you a Liberty Champion; you are a true hero in our community!