

## The Training Post- Fall 2019

### ***Question Corner: Who is your personal hero?***

Who is my personal hero? This may sound cliché, but my personal hero is my 11-year old son. For confidentiality reasons, let's refer to him as Jimmy. Jimmy is the kind of person who you will see holding doors for people at your local Wawa. He speaks kindly toward others. He tries to be a team player that others can count on at home and in work or school. Jimmy has endured several challenges in his short life, but he tries to approach obstacle with a sense of pride and responsibility to learn from his mistakes. Jimmy has proven to be an example for others on how to approach a problem, think about multiple solutions, ask for guidance, and make an informed decision. This makes the 11-year old look like a functioning and contributing adult. However, there may be adults we know that struggle with dealing with change, problems in work or school, and contending with demeaning comments from others. Jimmy is my hero because he does not try to become a clone and conform. Rather, Jimmy expresses his individualism and unique talents in a world that may be quick to humiliate instead of congratulating. If you ever have a moment when you feel the world is crashing in around and you are not sure where to turn, I ask that you think of a person like Jimmy. There are several hidden gems among us who have persevered and model the change I know that I would like in the world tomorrow. Look for the Jimmies out there. Be a Jimmy as much as you can, not just during a stretch of time leading to a holiday. Be happy with what your accomplishments, yet strive to make yourself better and the world around you a better place. Imagine if the world could be more like Jimmy...

***Karl Miller***

***Motor Vehicle Commission***

My mother

***Marie Viviane***

***Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital***

My husband, Will. With his leading, we have often discussed superheroes. His focus for our family and children is that we all have strengths and weaknesses. Our daily lives can be positively impacted when we know what they are and learn to work well with that knowledge. He has been a strong source of support for me and our children with these discussions.

***Pamela Kelly***

***Department of Health***

My mother (Karen N. Jones) is my personal Hero because She's always been there for me throughout the Good and Bad times of my life.

***Ellis Jones***

***New Jersey Schools Development Authority***

My brother is my hero. He is a Trenton Fireman who has put his life on the line countless times. With flames roaring and being taken back by the intense heat, he rushes in without skipping a beat. His amazing acts of heroism are tried and true and have seem to always come natural to him. On 9/11 without regards to the dangers, he rushed to help his distant brothers because to him, those NY Fireman were no strangers. When Katrina blew through, he and his brothers left to help the people in the Bayou. Without regard to his own life, he will do anything to save someone's child, brother, sister or wife. I cannot be prouder to have a brother like him so when ask who is my hero, my brother Billy Kube is a true hero in my heart and to all of those whose hearts he touched.

***Tammy Perilli***

***Motor Vehicle Commission***

My deceased grandmother. No matter the obstacle presented before she or I, she believed, wholeheartedly, that I would make it no matter what may happen. Her belief in herself as well as in me, has continuously stood the test of time.

***Kieanna Childs Alexander***

***HESAA***

My friend Susan who works full-time, has raised two brilliant boys, teaches, and still finds time to work in her community raising awareness about social issues and the need to vote. She blogs, tweets, and uses other social media platforms to try to reach as many people as possible. Nonpartisan by nature, her belief is that it's only with many voices that we get the best results.

***Janet Dunigan***  
***Department of Labor***

My mom of course! She endured financial issues and had to deal with numerous health issues that I had while growing up. She motivated me to be the best that I could be and to be an independent woman with a career of my own.

***Patricia Jackman***  
***NJDOH/PHEL/CLIS***

My personal hero is my mother. She set a great example of a working mom who overcame many obstacles to become an educator, community advocate and Foster Mom. My mother endure the Jim Crow Laws of the south and move to the North where she obtained multiple college degrees while she raised 3 children along with my father. Sometimes when I feel a task is too hard, I think about her resiliency in the face of adversity and I know I can get through anything.

***Veronica McNeil***  
***Department of Children and Families Northern Business Office***

My personal hero is my grandfather. He grew up very poor and lost both of his parents from illnesses by the time he reached 10 years of age. As a result of this, my grandfather, his two brothers, and only sister were shuffled from relative to relative with any room and food to spare. My grandfather had to quit school in order to support himself and his siblings despite eventually settling with an aunt, with whom they all lived until they each were of age. A series of odd jobs led my grandfather to an opportunity with Conrail. Bit by bit, he moved up, taking various labor positions for the railroad until he became a foreman. But the road my grandfather traveled wasn't without potholes. He battled many demons throughout his life: Alcoholism; resentment over the physical and mental abuse he suffered at the hands of relatives during childhood; feelings of inadequacy because of his fourth-grade education; the regret and shame from damaging mistakes he had made as an adult. Despite this, one couldn't quite discern his story from looking at him. His stoic yet generous nature awarded him many lifelong friends, yet his abrasive streak incited fear in the hearts of the appropriate people. My grandfather succumbed to metastatic lung cancer in 2001, a week before his 82nd birthday. He was sober for over 43 years. He was virtually free of

debt and had a home that he owned mortgage-free at the time of his death. He never went back to school, but he acquired so much knowledge and wisdom from the world that couldn't fill classroom anyway. My grandfather is proof of what the human spirit can achieve through hard work, determination, and the will to have a better life for one's self and those one holds dear. I will never know if my grandfather ever made peace with the cards that life dealt him. Nonetheless, I will always miss him and remember him for the loving person he was, and for the lessons he taught me that continually shape who I hope to be.

***Andrea Toritto***

***Dept. of Children & Families - Camden Central LO***

My 15-year-old son. Despite the fact that he is on the autism spectrum, he is blossoming where he is planted. He is making great strides in overcoming his issues and I look forward to see what his future holds.

***Jackie Chadwick***

***Department of Health***

My personal hero is my dad. He has worked extremely hard since he was fourteen years old, many years of which he worked multiple jobs simultaneously seven days a week to support my family. Although I would be exhausted with a schedule like that, he still made time to attend my soccer games growing up, decorate the property for holidays, and restore a Camaro that he enters in car shows today. I am very much appreciative and proud of all he has done.

***Alicia Strunck, MBA***

***OMB, Department of the Treasury***

My father who passed in 1991. HE never had the opportunity to pursue his own happiness as his life was dedicated to providing for his family through manual labor.

***Jacqueline Baldwin***

***Health Benefit Financial/Pensions and Benefits***

Michelle Obama

***Mary Smith***

***New Brunswick One Career Center***

Deadpool

**Dan Tay**  
**Department of Transportation**

My father was my hero. He taught me how to cook, change the oil in my car, rotate my tires, mow the lawn, ride my bike, hit a ball and all other aspects to life. He was a true artist and could make anything out of everything. He raised four daughters only making \$25,000., which is why he had holes in his shirts and shoes. He sacrificed everything for us and our mother. He was a loving, son, husband, father, brother and friend. He was adored by all. I am fortunate to look like him and have his creative side. He's been gone for 20 years now, but what he instilled in me stay with me the rest of my life. My hero, my Dad. :)

**Alberta Tiscione**  
**Division of Taxation/Mercerville, NJ**

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

**Barbara Goun**  
**NJDOH**

Caleb J Morris, a retired teacher and girls track coach for over 40 years and a colon cancer survivor (diagnosed in 1996). he has helped college bound students get awarded over a million dollars in track scholarships. He has changed the lives of everyone that has crossed his path and still continues to do so today. He's kinda a big deal and I couldn't agree :)! I hope some day to be able to help out students in my community and touch their lives like he has. Many call him Coach Morris I call him Daddy, My Hero.

**Kelly Morris**  
**New Jersey Department of Labor-Unemployment**

My personal hero is my mother, Claudia. Despite many adversities in her lifetime, including battling major illnesses later in life, she holds faith and continues to persevere. She is truly an example to follow, and I am proud to be her daughter.

**Deniece Johnson**  
**DCF - Office of Legal Affairs**

Gandhi

***Hemamalini Narayanan***  
***Dept of Corrections***

Patricia "Patty" Green

***Rachel Ledden-Albadine***  
***FHS - Early Intervention***