

Collin County
Going the Extra Mile (GEM) Recognition Form

Honoree's Name: JEFF FALEFIA

Honoree's Job Title: JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER

Department: JUVENILE PROBATION

Years of Service with the County: 19+

Why the Honoree is receiving a GEM Award including dates:

Jeff has been a valued employee for 19+ years. See attached letter from a client's mother received 4/9/19. Jeff goes above and beyond to help the kids under his care feel important and valued. Although Jeff is an authority figure, he sees the bigger picture in helping the kids become productive, independent members of society long after their time with Juvenile Probation has ended. The attached letter is only one example of Jeff's positive impact on the families in our community.

Approved by elected official or department head on the 4TH day of JUNE, 20 19



Signature of Elected Official
or Department Head

H. LYNN HADNOT
Printed Name

Dear Jeff,

I just wanted to say thank you.

This has been a long and difficult road for our family and unlike anything we have ever been through before. I really don't know how we would have navigated it without you.

It's very hard when, as a family, you invest so much time into helping your community and then suddenly find yourself in a position where you need to prove that you are good people.

Throughout this process, we have encountered people that have treated us as though we are, for lack of a better word, 'bad'. I've always been a pleaser...so being treated this way was really tough on even my adult mind. My greatest fear throughout this experience has been that _____ will start to see himself through the lens of that treatment and believe that he is 'bad'. Or that authority figures are a danger vs. a safe place.

You, my friend, were the first authority figure involved in this case that treated us differently. You really saw my son and showed him that he deserved trust and kindness, even on the mornings that he was tired and awkward and reluctant to open up.

I know that you realize how important your role is in the lives of these kids. But please hear me, as a parent, say: to potentially change the way they have begun to see themselves...that is how you adjust their trajectory. And by showing _____ that he is worthy of trust, respect and kindness, you have done that. You have a unique and powerful gift.

Teenage boys have tiny frontal lobes and big testosterone and unfortunately, sometimes make stupid mistakes. You treated _____ like a good kid that made a stupid mistake. Thank you.

Thank you, so very much, from all of us for making all of this a little bit easier. You'll truly be missed.

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Thanks for everything