



# SOUTH TAHOE HIGH SCHOOL

*Home of the Vikings*

April 28, 2019

My 2019 HERO recommendation goes unequivocally to [redacted] entered my world early into her freshman year. She was acting out at school which I would later understand as her reaction to a lifetime of family addiction, abandonment, and abuse. [redacted] was hurt and angry and began her journey into the criminal justice system shortly after this meeting. This was followed by incarceration, foster homes, and homelessness after running away countless times. The one thing that remained steady was Mt Tallac. She would ALWAYS return there. We have offered a stable and safe physical space where [redacted] could always run HOME to. The staff have always embraced her, we have held her earthly possessions for days on end, and we have supported with her through her ups and downs. Due to [redacted] background she has found it difficult to trust adults and their intentions. Due to this she has blown out of multiple placements. At age 17 it was decided that we would stop trying to place [redacted] and let her finish out her childhood in her other HOME, the Juvenile Treatment Center. [redacted] has been allowed to attend school every morning before returning to her cell at night. She is on track to graduate and will be attending LTCC this Fall. [redacted] is an advocate for other at risk youth who may not have family to catch them when they fall and is helping to be a voice for a transitional housing program being piloted this spring. [redacted] will be the first candidate. The strength, resiliency, and amazing innocence this young lady possesses make her my choice for the HERO award.

