

Christopher Bidorini is a passionate advocate who has made a measurable impact not only on his community, but also the children and families we serve. He encourages and exemplifies the virtue of an individual who has shown unwavering compassion for his love of humanity and because of this, I would like to nominate him for the 2021 Dr. Janet E. Williams Humanitarian Award.

He has been an asset to the Department of Children and Families for the past 11 years and is dedicated to the children and families on his case load. He has worked diligently and selfless with the dedication and interest he shows to families. Christopher has attended sporting events for children on his case load when there was no one to support them from the sidelines. He is an advocate for the disproportional population that we serve.

Christopher is also a talented artist who has volunteered his time to teach children in the community to help develop their own artistic abilities. In 2015, he utilized his creativity to plan and host a Charity Art Show to Benefit Nepal Earthquake Victims where he donated all the funds raised to help the victims. For several years, Christopher donated his time to construct elaborate Theme related structures for the Region 6 Foster Care Holiday Day Party; created and donated artwork to the Artist Against Violence Art Show in February 2019; and he has also volunteered his time to Queen Ann Nzinga Center at Trinity in New Britain CT, to teach a-Workshop on Social Change.

Christopher has been an avid supporter of the Amafar Foundation. For the past eight years, he has attended the organization's Annual Fundraising Gala in support of their efforts to control and eradicate HIV/AIDS and has financially contributed to the organization to support their cause. Christopher believes all people have the right to access quality and dignified health care. In learning that 50% of children living with HIV are not getting the treatment they need, he wanted to ensure that every child and adult living with or affected by HIV, has access to the treatment and care they need to be healthy and have a bright future.

In 2017, Christopher wanted to celebrate his 30 years of life by giving more of himself and creating an annual charity event. That year, in celebration of his birthday, his choice was the annual Charity Benefit that is known as the "The October Benefit". His goal was to raise crucial funding for "Keep A Child Alive;" while raising HIV/AIDS awareness in the local Connecticut community and engaging a diverse population in charitable giving. Since its conception in 2017, Christopher has directly and personally raised more than \$27,00 for Keep A Child Alive. Christopher wants to help improve the health and well-being of a vulnerable population that exist around the world by fighting the physical, social and economic impacts of HIV/AIDS.

Christopher has been an active member of the Department of Children and Families Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (HART). Because of his passion to end Modern Day Slavery, in 2015 he launched, StopDMST-Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Campaign -to raise awareness about the high risk of sex trafficking and child sexual abuse in the dance industry. He utilizes this platform to provide information about the ongoing epidemic of trafficking and has celebrities who are supporting him in bringing awareness to the cause.

On March 06, 2018, he testified on Senate Bill 311- State Act Concerning Human Trafficking to align with the Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Christopher is regularly asked to present at lectures and panel discussions on Race and Human Trafficking.

Christopher was awarded the Shining Star Leadership Award - from the Human Anti-Human Trafficking Response Team in 2018 for his role in gathering data and updating the Departments response manual; and for his role in educating the community. In addition, he worked on the new policy that has been implemented for DCF, presenting trainings and for the Department and Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (HART). In recent years, Chris has presented at dozens of schools, universities, and community organizations, as well as spoken at the US Attorney's Office and various state conferences. In January 2020, Chris joined the Board of Directors for The Underground, one of CT's local anti-trafficking organizations.

In July 2020, Christopher launched a Music Video-New Agenda: Janet Jackson. To celebrate Black Women and Promote and Encourage Young People to Register to Vote. He created the concept directed and Choreographed the music video. During this time, he joined several peaceful protests in the support of Black Lives Matter, educating his community on systemic racism. Christopher utilized opportunities at marches to register individuals to vote in three major cities in the state.

Christopher, in addition to other causes, takes the initiative to continuously raise awareness by sharing information in support of justice and equality for all. He takes the time to highlight and educate his friends and community on a new cause each month; causes such as, Giving Tuesday, No Shave November, Supporting Men's Health, World AIDS Day, and Juneteenth just to name a few.

He joined Phi Delta Sigma Fraternity Inc. in November 2020. Their Motto "Culture for Service, Service for Humanity" which embodies who he strives to be. Most recently in February 2021, Christopher was appointed the Director of Social Action for the Delta Phi Sigma Chapter of his Fraternity. On the behalf of his Fraternity, he has recently submitted testimony in support of H.B. 5388, An Act that creates a respectful and open world for natural hair.

Christopher is not only an inspiration to everyone he meets, he is selfless and dedicated to bringing awareness to his community. He is passionate about supporting, educating, and informing everyone with whom he comes in contact with not only about the causes he is devoted to, but he goes above and beyond to support causes that are dear to others. Christopher is also one of the humblest persons I am blessed to call a friend. I wholeheartedly believe that he deserves to be recognized for his contribution to the Department and his community.