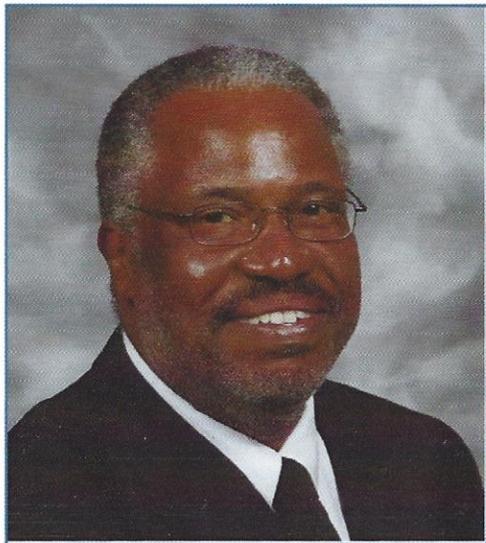


Unsung Hero of the Year



JOSÉ TORRES

Nominated by The
Boys & Girls Club of Martin
County

José Torres changes kids lives. As Program Coordinator at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County's Cole-Clark Hobe Sound Branch, he spends forty hours per week working with children to affect a positive difference. However, that is just the beginning.

Once his shift at the club comes to an end, José's evening is just beginning. From 6 until 10 p.m. he puts on the volunteer hat of "Coach" as he's affectionately called. José opens the Hobe Sound gym to kids in the community and invites them in. They play basketball, and share stories about their day. They talk about life, their futures, their fears, and decisions that they have to make each day. José listens, and simply gives them a feeling of support, hope and opportunity.

In response to recent violence in the community and the death of a Boys & Girls Club member, one of "José's kids," he has dedicated his heart and sole to making a difference. By volunteering more than 40 hours per week over and beyond his paid position, José has developed a basketball program that encompasses kids from throughout the community. – all in hopes of teaching them to work and play together in a safe environment. It's his goal to break down barriers and encourage them to work together.

He cares deeply about the kids. And they, in turn, care about him. Coach provides them with opportunities that they would otherwise never realize. After taking a van full of kids to tour area colleges to explore opportunities for higher education, two of his charges will be attending Webber University this fall on full basketball scholarships. Again, José changes lives, and he does it simply for the kids. He does it quietly, without any fanfare and certainly without any recognition. He is an outstanding Unsung Hero.

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