



MICHAEL COLWELL

Ms. Cheryl Olsen, a resident and parent with children in Pt. Pleasant School System, nominated Michael Colwell for this award and wrote the following, "Our children respect and care for Mike, clearly because he has done that for each of them. This was not done because of the uniform he wears, but because of the type of man he is... It was the thought of the solid "foundation" that is provided to our children that leads me to nominate him."

Michael Colwell graduated from Pt. Pleasant Borough High School in 1985. During his years in High School he was a member of the Cross Country Team and heavily involved in the Pt. Pleasant Police Department's Explorer program. Following graduation, he was hired by that same department as a Special Officer and a Communications Operator. In 1989, he graduated from the Ocean County Police Academy and became a full time Police Officer in Pt. Pleasant Borough.

In April 1990, Mr. Colwell was named *Police Officer of the Year* by Pt. Pleasant Beach V.F.W. Post 4715. In 1996, he attended the State Police Academy in Sea Girt, NJ, and graduated from there as the Police Department's D.A.R.E. Officer. He was assigned to both Nellie F. Bennett and Ocean Road elementary schools as the D.A.R.E. Officer for fifth grade students. Foundation President, Rob Coombs notes, "Thousands of kids crossed "Officer Mike's" path through this program and his positive impact was felt throughout the district." In September 2000, his many efforts as well as his performance earned him a promotion to the rank of Sergeant.

In May 2002, members of the Pt. Pleasant community started recognizing Mr. Colwell's tremendous contributions on behalf of kids. He received the *Children's Empowerment Award* from Doctors Stuart and

Theresa Warner during Kids Day America; he was also honored with the *Leadership/ Service to Community Award* by the Pt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce. That same year, he received the prestigious *Paul Harris Fellowship Award* from Rotary International and the Pt. Pleasant Borough Rotary Club. In March 2004, Mr. Colwell was honored as *Citizen of the Year* by the Pt. Pleasant Elks for his on-going work with children through the D.A.R.E. program, Little League Baseball and Recreation Soccer.

In January 2006, Mr. Colwell was promoted again - this time to the rank of Lieutenant. Some of his current duties and responsibilities include being the Department's Traffic Safety Officer; leading the Department's eighteen School Crossing Guards; being one of the Department's Certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT); and he continues his important mission as the Department's D.A.R.E. instructor.

Mr. Colwell is a member of the Pt. Pleasant Borough PBA #158 and a communicant of St. Martha's Roman Catholic Church. He is an Assistant Cub Master of Pack #194 of the Boy Scouts of America and continues to serve as a volunteer and coach for Pt. Pleasant Borough Little League and Recreation Soccer; he is also an Advisor/Youth Mentor for the Police Department's current Explorer Program.

"Mike's commitment to excellence, expert skills and humanity are on display every single day through lesser known acts and deeds," Tish Ferguson, President-elect of the Foundation, acknowledges. "Mike is that familiar and calm first responder whose sincerity and demeanor somehow transforms the fear of the unknown in an emergency situation into the hope and conviction that everything will be okay. He's the caring teacher who children seek out for help years after they leave his fifth grade class. We know, first hand, that he's that guy on your block who acts swiftly and with confidence in his skills when the risk to a neighbor's heart and/or life requires mitigation and intervention."

Mr. Colwell and his wife Shannon (Baker) have been married for 14 years; they live in Pt. Pleasant with their three children, Brianna 13, Michael 8, and Emma, 11 months. When Mr. Colwell was asked to present his credentials, he wrote, "My family is my biggest and most rewarding accomplishment in this life. Without them, none of the other things described in my biographical sketch would have been possible; nor would they have had the same meaning. Their love is what truly gives me the strength and motivation to meet the challenges of each new day."

