



2022

Tribute Award Nominations Guide

Deadline: May 1, 2022

The Tribute Awards annually honors mental wellness champions with a series of distinguished achievement awards.

Every year, Mental Health America of Pueblo hosts a dinner to honor and award individuals in our community who demonstrate significant achievements or advancements in mental health.

Award Categories

Nominating deserving members of Pueblo gives our chapter of Mental Health America a space to recognize just a few of the outstanding staff and services that take place here every day.

Award Categories Include:

- **Robert Hawkins Award**
- **Gil Sanchez Mission Award**
- **Robin Hill Phoenix Award**
- **Youth Mental Health Champion**
- **Business Mental Health Champion**

Nominees must be:

- Aware of and accept the nomination
- Recognized as being notable and outstanding in one of the categories listed above
- Self-nominations will be accepted
- Previous nominees who did not receive an award may be nominated again

Timeline

The deadline to submit a nomination form is May 1, 2022. The Board will vote for the top 5 nominees from each category. If selected, the nominee will be notified in June and invited to attend the event at no cost. If the nominee is unable to attend the dinner, they must send someone to accept the award on their behalf should they win. The winner of the awards will be announced at the 2022 Robert Hawkins Tribute Dinner. Please note, if a group or agency is nominated only one recipient will be able to attend at no cost. Other members of a group entry may purchase tickets to attend.

Before Getting Started

The nomination process for the 2022 Tribute Awards is an online application.

You will not be able to save and return to the form. Before beginning, consider pulling together the following:

- Written description of the special efforts the nominee has taken in their delivery of services
- Length of service in their nominated field
- Client population served
- Special credentials, certifications, or awards received by the nominee
- Written description of benefits to clients, agency, and broader community
- It is highly encouraged to email a letter of recommendation from someone other than the nominator. If you would like to do so, please email to mhapueblo@gmail.com.

2020/2021 Award Winners

Robert Hawkins Award

Dr. Robert Tonsing



Robin Hill Phoenix Award

Dominique Mundt



Gil Sanchez Mission Award

Teah Miller



2021 Pandemic Behavioral Health Hero Award

Judy Solano



Robert Hawkins Award

MHAP's most prestigious award is given in honor of Robert Hawkins, who served as Superintendent of the Colorado Mental Health Institute of Pueblo until his untimely death in July 2002. Robert Hawkins is remembered not only for his **strong leadership** as a mental health professional but also for his extensive **volunteer service** and his ability to demonstrate, both professionally and personally, his **love of mankind and advocacy** for individuals with a mental illness.

Criteria

The criterion for this award is an individual, group, or agency that has demonstrated significant achievements or advancements in the mental health community that compliment MHAP's mission. The nominee has demonstrated **passion and dedication** towards improving care and treatment of people who have mental illness. The nominee serves as an **inspiration** to not only the people they serve but also for their colleagues. The nominee is a visible and recognizable **leader** within their community. The nominee has demonstrated the ability to **educate** the community about mental health further **reducing the stigma**.

Eligibility

- Has not been selected for this award in the past 5 years
- Can be an individual, group, or agency
- Must be willing to accept the award or send someone on their behalf to the awards dinner

The deadline to submit this nomination form is May 1, 2022. The Board will vote for the winner from this category. If selected, the winner will be notified in June and invited to attend the event with a guest at no cost. If the nominee is unable to attend the dinner, they must send someone to accept the award on their behalf. In the event that a group or agency As the Robert Hawkins awardee, you can select a non-profit human services agency in Pueblo to receive a \$1,000.00 donation from MHAP as part of the ceremony.

[**Click here to go to the nomination form!**](#)

Gil Sanchez Mission Award

The Gil Sanchez Mission Award is named after the President and CEO of the Spanish Peaks Mental Health Center who served for many years. He is credited for his **innovative approach** to ensuring poor and minority mental health consumers **had their mental health needs met regardless of cost**. Mr. Sanchez passed away at the age of 82 in 2012.

Criteria

This award is designed to recognize an outstanding individual, group, or agency that has demonstrated innovative programming which has improved or added to the mental wellbeing of our community. In other words, they have made a significant achievement or advancement in the mental health field through innovative or nonconventional treatments/services, new policy, exploratory program models.

Eligibility

- Has not been selected for this award in the past 5 years
- Can be an individual, group, or agency
- Must be willing to accept the award or send someone on their behalf to the awards dinner

The deadline to submit a nomination form is May 1, 2022. The Board will vote for the top 5 nominees from each category. If selected, the nominee will be notified in June and invited to attend the event at no cost. If the nominee is unable to attend the dinner, they must send someone to accept the award on their behalf should they win. The winner of the awards will be announced at the 2022 Robert Hawkins Tribute Dinner. Please note, if a group or agency is nominated only one recipient will be able to attend at no cost. Other members of a group entry may purchase tickets to attend.

[Click here to go to the nomination form!](#)

Robin Hill Phoenix Award

This award is given in honor of Robin Hill, the founder of Friendly Harbor who also served as its President for many years. Created in 2017 and renamed in 2020. According to Greek mythology, the phoenix bird lives a very long life and when it passes it is reborn from its own ashes.

Criteria

This award is designed to recognize an outstanding individual with lived experience who works to improve conditions for and attitudes towards people with mental illness. In other words, they are making major contributions to improve the lives of people who have mental illnesses, substance use or cooccurring disorders despite potential risks to career, finances, and public acceptance.

Eligibility

- Has not been selected for this award in the past 5 years
- Must be or have been a consumer of mental health or substance use disorder services.
- Must be willing to accept the award or send someone on their behalf to the awards dinner

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[Click here to go to the nomination form!](#)

Youth Mental Health Champion

This award will be presented by MHAP to a middle or high school student/group who has championed mental health awareness and well-being. This award is to acknowledge an individual/group for their leadership and vision related to the advancement of mental health awareness for middle and high school students.

Criteria

MHAP would like to recognize this individual or group representing resilience through overcoming challenges and making life better for themselves, others, their school, and their communities. The nominee must have completed an action/activity that has promoted mental health awareness, well-being, and advocacy of mental health in your school/community.

Eligibility

- Middle or high school student/group in Pueblo County
- Must be willing to accept the award or send someone on their behalf to the awards dinner
- Nominators of youth under the age of 18 must submit parental permission.

The deadline to submit a nomination form is May 1, 2022. The Board will vote for the top 5 nominees from each category. If selected, the nominee will be notified in June and invited to attend the event at no cost. If the nominee is unable to attend the dinner, they must send someone to accept the award on their behalf should they win. The winner of the awards will be announced at the 2022 Robert Hawkins Tribute Dinner. Please note, if a group or agency is nominated only one recipient will be able to attend at no cost. Other members of a group entry may purchase tickets to attend.

[Click here to go to the nomination form!](#)

Business Mental Health Champion

MHAP recognizes the value our local companies add to our community. This award is for any organization that promotes mental wellness within their company and/or our community.

Criteria

This nominee may offer programs, accommodations, or training that support mental wellness such as additional PTO, schedule flexibility, or self-care packages. This nominee may demonstrate a commitment to the community through contributions or public awareness campaigns such as reducing the stigma or ending discrimination against people with mental illnesses. This nominee never hesitates to help when someone comes into the establishment in need.

Eligibility

- Must be a company that **does not provide behavioral health services**. The purpose of the award is to honor and recognize corporations that are outside of the traditional behavioral health space for their efforts to improve the health and well-being of their employees and/or community.
- Can be an individual, group, or agency local to Pueblo County
- Must be willing to accept the award or send someone on their behalf to the awards dinner

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