


AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

NOMINATION FORM YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR

Nomination opens:	Monday 11 th July 2022
Nominations close:	5pm - Friday 2nd September 2022
Award criteria:	<p>This award is for an outstanding young person (aged 6-18 years) who has made a significant contribution and/or has accomplished something fantastic for their air ambulance charity in the past 12 months.</p> <p>The young person may be a patient, volunteer, fundraiser or part of a school or college initiative that has promoted a positive image of young people and their support for their air ambulance charity.</p> <p>Please provide examples or evidence of the young person's contribution and/or achievement.</p> <p>Please complete an Awards Consent Form, provided via the same link as the nomination form</p>
Eligible nominees:	Those aged over six and under 18 years old on 1 st October 2021
Eligible nominators:	Air ambulance charities
Nominator name:	Claire Wilkinson – Essex & Herts Air Ambulance
Nominator email:	claire.wilkinson@ehaat.org
Nomination submitted:	02/09/2022
Nominator signature:	
Submit application to:	Nick Campion, Independent Secretary to the Judging Panel by email: awards@airambulancesuk.org
Note:	Please type in no less than 11pt Calibri font to a maximum of 2 pages. Please also attach, or link to, any images or film to support your nomination in your email when submitting this application.

YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

Nominee name:	Alfie Lowther
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We're thrilled to have so many determined, kind and creative children raise vital funds for Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT). Each month, it costs in excess of £750,000 to keep the charity operational, and without government funding, we couldn't be there for people in their time of need without inspiring youngsters like Alfie Lowther. Alfie, who has autism, raised £260 for EHAAT by selling fruit salads to his neighbours throughout the school holidays and he's continued finding creative fundraising ideas.

Alfie's love for fundraising

After seeing EHAAT's vibrant red and yellow fundraising collection box beside our 'Top 10 Facts' poster in his local Peldon café, Alfie (12) decided he wanted to raise money for the charity and inspire others to make a difference by supporting EHAAT's life-saving work.

Alfie approached his local village pub, The Plough, Peldon, where His Mum Lucy said: "He's a regular at The Plough. He goes in there to get an apple juice and a packet of crisps – so they all know Alfie. He was basically press-ganging everyone to put money into this really great cause. That's how it started, but it soon became his passion."

One in a melon!

Alfie attends Market Field School in Colchester. The forward-thinking school is for pupils aged 5-16 who experience moderate learning difficulties. They understand that "every child is an individual" and do their utmost to ensure they are given the support, guidance and opportunity to thrive in an environment where they feel safe, secure and valued. At school, Alfie completed his first cookery session, making fruit salads, and an idea was born upon arriving home.

"Once Alfie has got something in his head, we need to do it there and then. We went out and bought a load of fruit, and he made quite a few fruit salads. He decided to take them around the village here, selling them to raise money for EHAAT."

Alfie collected funds using his EHAAT cardboard collection box, knocking on doors in Peldon during the evenings, when people would most likely be interested in buying a refreshing fruit salad, priced at £1 per container.

Emma Barker, Head of Income Generation, said: "There is something very special about seeing children inspired to fundraise to support local charities like Alfie has for Essex & Herts Air Ambulance. By selling hundreds of fruit salads and raising over £250, Alfie has made the whole team immensely proud. At the same time, he's raised awareness and promoted the acceptance of autism by showcasing his strengths and making an immensely positive impact on his local community."

A fondness for exploring creative fundraising ideas

Most recently, Alfie set up a new fundraising initiative at The Peldon Plough, 'guess the number of sweets in the jars', with all funds raised going directly to EHAAT. His mum Lucy said, "He's going to raise as much money as he possibly can and not give up. He doesn't want to give up. He wants to make everyone aware of the cause."

EHAAT plans to hold assemblies and inspire further fundraising, supported by Alfie and his mum Lucy. Whilst Alfie's fundraising efforts put him in the spotlight for doing something amazing and raising vital funds for his local life-saving charity, he inspires others, proving that an act of kindness can make a meaningful difference, sparking exciting conversations and long-term relationships.

"He wanted EHAAT to come into school and do an assembly to make children aware of how important the charity is, but unfortunately with covid, they weren't allowing anybody into the school, but now they've opened it up, they were going to try and pencil in for the autumn, which he's really excited about.

Autism is Alfie's superpower!

Alfie is the epitome of a local hero. Alfie's fundraising efforts are even more impressive because he has autism, which can make it difficult to interact with others. Alfie has found a way to connect with his community and raise crucial funds to help us continue delivering a free life-saving service for Essex, Hertfordshire and surrounding areas.

"He's always very special, and autism is his superpower because he struggles with that a lot. He's got a lot of other additional needs, as well as autism, but when talking to adults, he's very confident. It can be a little worrying at times because he has no stranger awareness, and with his peers, it's very different. He'll withdraw. But when talking to adults at the local pub, he's got the gift of the gab – like a little entrepreneur!"

Claire Mitchell, Senior Fundraising Coordinator, said: "It's not always about how much is raised but about the effort, thought and commitment that goes into fundraising. Alfie's contribution to Essex & Herts Air Ambulance is immense. His dedication to fundraising for us and his local community is an inspiration, and I'm sure he'll continue to positively impact those around him. Thank you Alfie!"