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Tennessee School Boards Association

APPLICATION FORM FOR SCHOOL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD

PLEASE SUPPLY COMPLETE INFORMATION AS REQUESTED IN ALL CATEGORIES:

Name: Michael B. Swain
(First) (Initial) (Last)

Address: 486 Clayton Drive
(Number) (Street)
Helenwood, TN 37755
(City) (Zip)

Phone: 423-663-2397 Residence 423-663-3791 Fax 423-663-2795

E-mail Address: michaels@fnboneida.com

School System: Oneida Special School District

School: Oneida Elementary, Middle, and High Schools

Form Submitted By: Ann Sexton Title: Director of Schools
(applications require majority action of local board of education)

Please list on attached pages evidence supporting the following criteria:

- Has made an outstanding contribution to a Tennessee school district through volunteer service
- Has exhibited exemplary leadership, creativity, cooperation and hard work in their service to a school
- Has engaged in the creation, organization, and/or mobilization of volunteers, groups and resources that are involved in projects benefiting the school district.
- Has demonstrated sustained commitment to meeting school district needs.
- Has utilized unique and creative approaches to meeting needs.
- Has helped with a special project or ongoing activities.

Approval: Dr. Nancy B. Williams 4/26/2012
Board Chairman signature Date board approved

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE ADDRESS BELOW NO LATER THAN MAY 1.

Attention: Awards
Tennessee School Boards Association
525 Brick Church Park Drive
Nashville, TN 37207

Mike Swain has been a driving force in our school system and community for over twenty years. He has worked silently “in the background” and not wanted recognition.

- **He created and has been in a leadership role of a fund raising council called “Oneida Alumni and Friends”. This organization was formed in the 1980’s when it became a glaring probably that our system would be incorporated into the county school system due to the inadequacies of our current buildings. Under Mr. Swain’s leadership and coordination with other initiatives, our community rallied and new state-of-the-art facilities were built and our system maintained its independent status.**
- **Mr. Swain’s participation in high school band and being captain of the football team in the late 60’s developed a personal love and commitment to both music and athletics. He has been an ardent band supporter by providing funds for students whose financial situation prohibits them from participating in band.**
- **He has assisted in developing and maintaining practice fields for soccer and football by personally working on the fields, enlisting volunteers and providing funds to help with this ongoing process.**
- **He coached high school boys soccer from 2002-2008 and girls from 2004-2008 without any compensation. He is an active member of the National Soccer Coach Association. He currently referees games and trains**
- **He has provided funds and “grunt work” in constructing a weight and work-out facility for high school athletes.**
- **He has donated funds to establish a computer lab to support reading instruction in the elementary school.**
- **Mr. Swain has been a 15-year member of Special School District Advisory Council. This Council serves as an “overseer” group for our district, by meeting annually to review the past year and formulate goals and strategies for the upcoming year. This Council is comprised of community and business leaders, parents, educators and students. Mr. Swain is a valuable, permanent member of this group whose insights and views are highly valued.**
- **Mr. Swain’s affiliation with a local bank has established a “mini grant” program that allows teachers in ours and the neighboring Scott County Schools to apply for grants of \$500 each year. Our teachers are awarded approximately \$12,000 of these funds each year. The mini-grant program has provided our system with necessary funding to implement programs that have addressed a variety of topics; software and hardware to enhance classroom instruction; field trips and speakers to bring real world relevance to the classroom; hands-on math and science**

materials to complement existing resources and other requested materials. There is a rigid application process, and the applicants must demonstrate the utility of their proposal as one that promotes student learning. This program is in its 20th year of operation and is vital to our system. Mr. Swain participates in the selection of recipients, monitoring of the projects and celebration of the results

- He supports higher education in our community by serving on the Board of Directors of Roane State Community College. Through his service on this board a strong relationship between the college and high school exists, and he has been a major catalyst in high school students participating in the dual enrollment program. He has personally provided additional support to our students who need additional assistance for textbooks and other funds associated with these classes through scholarships.
- He serves as a Director for our Boys and Girls Club of the Cumberlands. His interest in all children is an asset to this board.
- Mr. Swain experienced a personal tragedy in 2004, when his sister was killed as a result of domestic violence. Since her death he has worked to raise the awareness of domestic violence in our community and schools. He and his siblings have been instrumental in the construction a home for abused women and children called "My Sister's House." He assists in an annual walk that involves students dedicated to his sister's memory and sees that students have programs in school that educate them on domestic violence.