

FRANKLIN TOMORROW VOLUNTEER AWARDS NOMINATION
NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR – Mike Simmons

Mike Simmons hails from Lynchburg, Virginia, but moved his family to Williamson County three years ago to work in risk management with Scott Insurance in Franklin, Tennessee*.

During his time in Lynchburg, he was a member of a nonprofit organization called Mustaches4Kids. As stated on their website, “Mustaches for Kids is what happens when absurdity meets philanthropy. ‘Growers’ shave clean and for thirty days, grow mustaches – just mustaches, no goatees, beards or mutton chops. While doing so, they hit up friends and family for donations to a local children’s charity.”

There are Mustaches for Kids Chapters across America, however, when Mike was interested in joining a local club, he found out there wasn’t one. He took it upon himself to bring a chapter here to Middle Tennessee and identified High Hopes as their inaugural beneficiary.

In a matter of months (beginning in July of 2021), he

- Put together a board of directors
- Applied for and received 501(c)(3) status for M4K Nashville
- Set up insurance and bank account
- Coordinated website and donation portal training and social media platforms
- Recruited 7 corporate sponsors
- Secured meeting venues for 5 weekly events
- Raised \$2,622 himself as a grower, aka The Mueller

Throughout the M4K chapters – there are eight nation-wide – the record for the most money raised in an inaugural year was \$23,000. However, under his leadership, this club broke the record and raised more than \$23,634 during the month of September for High Hopes with 16 active “growers” total. This is such an incredible feat, especially in just a few short months since inception!

Moving forward, Mustaches4Kids, will not only identify new partners, but also more “growers” to provide a huge boost to a deserving children’s charity.

High Hopes is so grateful for the new friendship with this club, but also its members who have become instant advocates for our mission. We believe that Mike’s efforts exemplify the idea of “Neighbors Helping Neighbors”.

*The criteria on the website states that the person must reside in Franklin. Mike and his family live in Spring Hill, but he does work in Franklin and the nonprofit was a Franklin organization. It is also important to note that the M4K Nashville name was chosen to draw more attention to the region, not Nashville specific.