

## The “Joy” of Our Community

By: Brynley Ashraf

When I think about Black History Month and the many African Americans that make a difference, I could list several people. However, the person that comes to mind first is a man named Adam Joy. Through the countless events and programs he runs, and the endless number of families he’s impacted, I cannot think of anyone more worthy of recognition.

Adam grew up in High Springs, Florida where he currently serves our community. As a boy he always wanted to be a Police Officer. He worked hard to achieve his goal, and in 8<sup>th</sup> grade began to look up to a man named Clovis Watson. “He is always present in the community. He walked the walk as well as talked the talk.”(Joy, 2021) Adam wanted to follow in Clovis’ footsteps and also make a positive impact on the community. In 2007, Adam graduated from the Police Academy. Through hard work and dedication, his childhood dream of becoming an Officer had come true, but little did he know, he wouldn’t just fulfill the role of a Policeman, but he would become an inspiration and a beacon of hope for our community.

Currently, Officer Joy serves our community in many ways. Not only is he working as the SRO for High Springs Community School, but he’s also an Ordained Elder and Pastor of Deeper Purpose Community Church. Over his 14 years serving, he has sponsored over 300 events and programs that are completely free to the public. Some programs include Meals on Wheels, where he cooks and delivers meals to senior citizens in need. He also runs “No Son Left Behind”, a program for boys K-12<sup>th</sup> grade. “The purpose is to provide a positive male role model while focusing on mentoring, behavioral updates and goal setting.” (Joy 2021) He also enjoys hosting giveaways, where he provides gifts and supplies each year. Some of these include: back to school haircuts and backpacks stuffed with school supplies, Senior Citizen Valentine meals, Easter and Christmas gift giveaways, and even raising money to donate cars to families in need. In addition to these annual events, he also helps in other unique ways. This January, Officer Joy rallied the community to gather necessities for a family whose home burned down. He also hosted a Relationship Summit “inviting public officials and local officers to attend with the purpose of building trust and understanding with the youth in the community.” (Outreach Magazine, Inc) The list of ways Officer Joy serves is endless.

I believe Officer Joy should be recognized for the amazing work he does. From mentoring kids, supporting families and helping senior citizens, there’s no limit to his kindness. He does everything humbly without expecting anything in return. “The pay for me is to see the smiles on their faces and the joy of others.”(Joy, 2021) While he provides so much for our community, he is most known for spreading love, hope and joy to others. He truly is the “Joy” of our community.