

# 1. Blaise Hunter

Updated at Sep 25, 2024

Submission Date	Sep 24, 2024
Select one category that best suits the nominee	<b>Breathe Fire</b>
Nominee's Name (if self-nominating, enter your name in both sections)	Blaise Hunter
Nominee's Phone Number	
Nominee's E-mail Address	woinanaimo@gmail.com
City they live in	Nanaimo
Pronouns	she/her
Your Name	Blaise Hunter
Your E-mail Address	blaisethetrail@gmail.com
Your Phone Number	(778) 269-1216
Do you consent to having the nominee know you are the nominator?	

1) Who They Are: Explain how the nominee's character, heart, and soul radiates authenticity and compassion and how these qualities ripple through their profession, passions, community, or life. Detail how their influence is deeply rooted in their unwavering dedication to making a positive impact, whether through lived experiences, innovative professional achievements, selfless community contributions, or the inspiring way they navigate through life. Show us who they are at the core. 300 Word Max

2) The Hurdle: The WIN Awards takes on the Kintsugi approach. It is the Japanese art of putting broken pottery pieces back together with gold — built on the idea that in embracing flaws and imperfections, you can create an even stronger, more beautiful piece of art. Every break is unique and instead of repairing an item like new, the 400-year-old technique actually highlights the challenges as a part of the design. By unmasking ourselves we live an authentic life while inspiring others to turn our pains into pearls. Detail a hurdle or challenge the nominee has tackled and overcame. The obstacles, resistance, and wisdom from those experiences are the gold that fills the cracks of our lives. 300 Word Max

Blaise Hunter is a radiant and authentic individual, known for her bold personality and commitment to keeping it real. She is a disruptor for positive change. After years of battling self-doubt and trying to meet societal standards, the birth of her daughter ignited a transformative journey within her. Blaise chose to embrace her true self, shedding the masks that held her back, and in doing so, discovered her life's purpose: to empower others to love themselves unapologetically.

Having clawed her way out of a negative self-image, Blaise is now a powerful advocate for inner transformation. Her mission is to inspire people to challenge societal norms and embrace their flaws, leading the way for future generations. She encourages others to answer the critical question: "How can we expect our next generation to grow up confident if we, their role models, don't practice self-love ourselves?"

Blaise's battle cry—"Heroine: Embrace Your Flaws & Own Your Awesome"—resonates with people worldwide empowering them to reclaim their dreams and birth their destiny. Despite three miscarriages, trauma, setbacks, and bounce backs, she refuses to be barren. She is mothers of purpose and a breaker of chains.

Founder of the non-profit Footprints: Infertility & Pregnancy Loss Support Society, Blaise channels her personal pain into a gift for others, helping to heal those who have suffered similar losses. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, she breathes fire with her passion, grit, and determination. Blaise's superpower is her heart, as she heals others with her compassion and humanity.

Through her grief and tears of her past pains, she has empathy to ensure others have a softer landing amongst their struggles. She is a heroine.

Blaise Hunter has faced tremendous challenges, both personally and professionally. After enduring three miscarriages, she was struck by the lack of compassion and inadequate support in the healthcare system. Rather than accepting the status quo, Blaise transformed her pain into purpose, founding the non-profit organization Footprints: Infertility & Pregnancy Loss Support Society in 2018.

Through Footprints, Blaise partnered with her local community and medical staff to create and distribute handmade support bags, filled with mental health resources, a certificate of life, a Footprints bracelet, and her book Heroine. These bags offer comfort to grieving parents and are available globally, free of charge. Her mission is to ensure no parent feels alone or unsupported through such a devastating experience.

Blaise didn't stop there. In 2019, she established a standing memorial for parents to honour the memories of their babies, creating a sacred space for families to grieve and heal. Blaise's advocacy has led her to win multiple awards for her humanitarian efforts, including local, national, and global recognition. She is on a crusade to change the medical system, advocating for parents' rights and ensuring that angel babies are acknowledged and valued.

Amid all of this, Blaise also battles a rare autoimmune disease, but she is determined to not just survive, but thrive. Her resilience and drive radiate through everything she does, creating a ripple effect of care and empathy across the world. Blaise's story is one of turning pain into gold, shining light on the darkest parts of life, and inspiring others to do the same. Every day she picks up her sword and breathes fire on this world which ignites the fire within the bellies of humankind.

3) The How & Why: Give an example of how the personal drive of the nominee has motivated them to become an inspiration in their community. Please share the "how" and the "why" their influence is felt by their efforts to uplift those around them. 300 Word Max

Blaise's personal drive stems from her deep pain after experiencing the deaths of her three babies. Rather than staying in isolation, she took a leap of faith to create a space where she and others could heal. Blaise's "why" is rooted in her desire to break the silence surrounding fertility issues. She decided to turn her pain into purpose, founding Footprints: Infertility & Pregnancy Loss Support Society to help parents navigate their grief and break free from the shame and silence that often accompany such losses. Blaise is determined to create better systems and build a stronger community of empathy and support.

Her "how" is through action and service. Blaise initiated the Footprints project, which has grown into a global healing movement. Alongside her 11-year-old daughter, she handmakes support bags that are distributed worldwide, offering comfort and resources to parents who have experienced loss. Blaise also became certified in human rights advocacy, specializing in Reproductive Health Rights, and in 2022, represented Canada at an international human rights summit in Istanbul. There, she spoke in front of representatives from 50 countries and the United Nations about her work with Footprints.

Blaise uses her influence to create change by raising awareness, educating, and providing actionable steps for organizations to adopt inclusive HR guidelines and intersectional approaches to reproductive health rights. In 2024, many workplaces still lack policies that protect the rights of staff dealing with reproductive health challenges. Blaise addresses this gap by diplomatically engaging with leaders, organizations, politicians, and communities, advocating for the inclusion of supportive language and protections in employee handbooks and policies. Blaise's influence is felt through her humanity and her relentless drive to provoke change. She fights every day for healing, peace, and better care for grieving parents, embodying hope and resilience in everything she does.

4) The Impact: Demonstrate where the nominee has broken down barriers, provoked change, made an impact, or inspired their community. Please provide examples of how they have actively fostered a supportive and inclusive culture and cultivated influence in their field or award category. What's their legacy?  
300 Word Max

Blaise's impact is far-reaching as a change agent across Canada. Upon relocating to Nanaimo, Blaise noticed gaps in support systems for grieving parents and felt the need to honour the incredible individuals who shape her community. This led her to create a sustainable funding model for Footprints through the Women of Influence Nanaimo Awards.

The WIN Awards celebrate the achievements of women, non-binary, 2-spirit, and gender-diverse individuals who are making a difference. Blaise has cultivated a culture of inclusivity and recognition. The inaugural event, attended by over 620 people, became the Mid-Island's premier celebration, raising awareness and funds for Footprints while honoring 100 nominees. Blaise has successfully created a platform that not only raises the voices of diverse role models but also shines a light on reproductive health.

Blaise's legacy is one of empowerment. By creating a space for healing and celebration, Blaise's efforts continue to break barriers, provoke change, and build a stronger, more connected community. Blaise has earned prestigious accolades, including the Women of Influence Cold Lake Award, the Influencer Award at the Canadian Women of Inspiration, and the Global Women's Champion Award. Her first book, Heroine, was a finalist at the Canadian Book Club Awards, and her second book, Captain Communicator, became an Amazon bestseller. Blaise captivates hearts with her transformative approach. Her work delves deep into the human soul, exploring themes of trauma-healing, resilience, and social justice. Blaise has gained international recognition as a Fire Breather.

In 2024, Blaise was named a finalist in the Community Builder category at the Nanaimo Chamber Awards. Inspired by the success of the WIN Awards and her commitment to amplifying diverse voices and people in the community, Blaise's efforts led the Chamber to introduce a new award category: the Diversity & Inclusion Award.

Her legacy knows no bounds.

Submission IP

2001:569:bf62:f500:8f4:563d:424b:53f

Submission ID

6030545493541388268

Last Update Date

Sep 25, 2024