

LAMP OF KNOWLEDGE AWARD

Hillsborough County Public Schools logo has a lamp as part of the image. Every now and then, a community partner makes such an impact on the school district that they need to be recognized in a special way. This community partner has recognized the value of supporting our district. As a result of giving of their time, talent and treasure, this community partner has made a lasting impact on parent engagement, attendance, behavior and countless programs.

Feeding Tampa Bay

Feeding Tampa Bay (FTB) has partnered with Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) to break down barriers and increase access to nutritious food for children and families in need through the Feeding Minds School Pantry Program. Currently 28 HCPS Feeding Minds school pantries have served 4,603 families and distributed 269,876 meals. The average cost to open and operate a school-based food pantry is \$20,000. Over \$560,000 has been invested in goods and services to provide food to students, families, or staff members in need.

Feeding Tampa Bay is committed to opening additional school pantries across the county to continue feeding young minds, creating better futures, and strengthening our community. Imagine a day where no student worries about going to bed hungry!

TONY DUNGY HONORARY AWARD

This award celebrates the image and involvement of a positive male role model and is given to an individual or group who has made significant contributions in leadership, character development and academic achievement in the lives of students. Schools nominated the following volunteers for this year's Tony Dungy Honorary Award.

Durant High School – Ulysses “Butch” Valdes

Ulysses “Butch” Valdes has made significant contributions in leadership, character development and academic achievement in the lives of his student athletes. He enforces respect in his players on and off the field and makes sure they are involved in school functions, councils, and committees. Mr. Valdes and his players participate in bonding activities such as paintball and annual camping trips where they focus on the importance of taking care of each other and instilling pride in the school and the team. He stresses giving back to the community and the school in various activities throughout the year such as a canned food drive, passing out meals in the community, and his affiliation with the Camelot organization for foster kids. The team also raised money for breast cancer, and sponsored a kickball tournament to raise money for the school's Relay for Life.

Mr. Valdes exemplifies what it truly means to touch another person's soul for the better.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARD - EXEMPLARY PROGRAM

The purpose of this award is to promote and recognize innovative school practices that increase family and community involvement. A nomination should reflect an innovative practice for recruitment, training and recognition of family and community involvement practices. Programs may address removing barriers, parenting, student learning, communicating, volunteering, training at school or at home, decision making, and collaborating with the community and others. An elementary school (PreK-5) and middle/high School (6-12) award will be given. The following programs were submitted for the DOE Family and Community Involvement Exemplary Program Award.

Lockhart Elementary Magnet – Lockhart Drumline and Color Guard

The Lockhart Drumline and Color Guard program was started five years ago and is open to students in grades 2 to 5. The design of the program aims to provide students with free music instruction, skill development and performance experience while setting and maintaining behavior and academic expectations.

Commitment is one of the first character traits the students learn. Students sign a contract to upholding school rules and expectations, academic excellence, and the values of the program. Lockhart Elementary Magnet has seen an improvement in academics and behaviors over the past five years because of student participation with the Drumline and Color Guard.

The greatest aspect about the Drumline and Color Guard is how the program supports Lockhart Elementary Magnet in academics and behavior while fostering a love for music education and giving back to the community. The Drumline and Color Guard has performed at county and state fairs, high school football games, holiday tree lighting ceremonies, the Children’s Gasparilla Parade, Martin Luther King Jr. Parade, and so many more.

Memorial Middle School - Memorial Family and Community Involvement/Support Program

Memorial Middle School is committed to close the achievement gap and economic deficiencies for all students through an intense restorative practices and trauma-informed school program. This is accomplished by utilizing a restorative approach when dealing with conflict and behavior on campus, repairing harm in relationships when it occurs, implementing a strong Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Program, providing a student meditation room, having a clothes closet and food pantry on campus, and providing outreach and engagement monthly parent meetings and student engagement opportunities.

This initiative has impacted families, students, school, and community partners. Families connect with the school and consider the school a full-service hub of the community. Students are positively impacted by receiving goods and services that are needed for them to be successful. The school and community partners maintain a positive relationship while setting and maintaining goals for the entire school community.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OUTSTANDING SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – YOUTH

The Department of Education Outstanding School Volunteer of the Year Award is presented annually by the Florida Department of Education to school volunteers who have shown outstanding dedication and commitment to quality education in Florida. These awards recognize a youth, adult and senior volunteer and are given in each of the five Florida reporting regions. The following volunteers were nominated by the schools for the DOE Outstanding School Volunteer of the Year Award.

Durant High School – Miranda Bihler

Miranda is a student leader and volunteers at Durant High School, the Boys and Girls Club, and YMCA, which are housed on several school campuses in Hillsborough County. Through her volunteerism, Miranda promotes healthy lifestyle choices and abstinence. Miranda recently developed her own initiative to promote health among youth, “The C.O.N.: Cost of Nicotine”. She, along with medical experts, will present at Durant High School on two occasions, conference night and the Great American Teach-In. Miranda will reach hundreds of Durant families during conference night and over 2300 students during the Great American Teach-In.

Miranda has served 472 hours of volunteer work over the past 4 years. She has influenced hundreds of students. Miranda’s volunteerism and leadership are examples of positive influence.

2019-2020 Volunteer Award Recipients

Celebrating the Y.E.S. | You Empower Students

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OUTSTANDING SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – ADULT

The Department of Education Outstanding School Volunteer of the Year Award is presented annually by the Florida Department of Education to school volunteers who have shown outstanding dedication and commitment to quality education in Florida. These awards recognize a youth, adult and senior volunteer and are given in each of the five Florida reporting regions. The following volunteers were nominated by the schools for the DOE Outstanding School Volunteer of the Year Award.

Greco Middle School, Kerri Ladd

Ms. Ladd engineered Greco's Strawberry Fields Student Garden, Greco School Compost Program, and an agriculture program complete with therapy horses for use with special needs students. In addition to attending to the animals seven days a week, she also successfully corrals the community to support her efforts by making in-kind and human donations.

Ms. Ladd has dedicated over 750 hours to the Greco Community Garden and Agriculture Program. She procured two miniature horses, one sheep, twenty-five chickens, and five quail. Ms. Ladd encouraged students to participate in the process. The students raised the quail as a learning project to donate to Nature's Classroom.

When Ms. Ladd was asked why she volunteers in Florida schools, she replied "It is my true calling. I want to leave the earth a better place for our children".

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OUTSTANDING SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – SENIOR

The Department of Education Outstanding School Volunteer of the Year Award is presented annually by the Florida Department of Education to school volunteers who have shown outstanding dedication and commitment to quality education in Florida. These awards recognize a youth, adult and senior volunteer and are given in each of the five Florida reporting regions. The following volunteers were nominated by the schools for the DOE Outstanding School Volunteer of the Year Award.

Stewart Middle Magnet School – Sherry Lynn McDaniel

Mrs. McDaniel worked with Stewart Middle Magnet School for 20 years; however, since retiring six years ago she has worked tirelessly to continue to provide and inspire the next generation of space explorers. Mrs. McDaniel has continued her work as a volunteer sponsor of the John Glenn Top Gun Academy. She solicited and received multiple donations and funds to obtain yearly astronauts to speak to the entire student body of approximately 1024 students. She presents STEM guest speakers weekly to share life experiences with our students, organizes a "free" overnight trip to the Kennedy Space Center, and coordinates an International Space Mobile ISS to visit Stewart Magnet Middle School. More students have increased their knowledge of space and its impact on humanity. Her volunteer services consists of over 200 hours a year.

Mrs. McDaniel's main goal is to inspire the next generation of NASA explorers.

CHAMPION FOR EDUCATION VOLUNTEER AWARD

This award recognizes an individual, group or organization on the basis of length of service, leadership, demonstration of unusual commitment and lasting impact on students/families in our schools and/or who has had a positive impact on students through academic support (tutoring) and/or mentoring. Multiple awards will be given.

2019-2020 Volunteer Award Recipients

Celebrating the Y.E.S. | You Empower Students

Benito Middle School – Sigrun Ragnarsdottir

Sigrun Ragnarsdottir provides support and guidance in creating a welcoming environment for all Benito Middle School students with her grant writing skills. Ms. Ragnarsdottir has assisted in writing grants for a Makerspace area where Makerspace activities are done in a comfortable and creative way.

Ms. Ragnarsdottir has also provided opportunities for the school's ESE department through searching out grants that benefit students in the program. She contributed to a peaceful and functioning environment with the addition of supplies for seating that is conducive for learning. Ms. Ragnarsdottir also supports the reading department by endlessly searching for grants to help develop programs.

Ms. Ragnarsdottir is willing to go to the ends of the earth for students. She tirelessly works to improve every area of Benito Middle School and is an integral part of the Benito family.

Lockhart Elementary Magnet School – United States Attorney's Office Middle District of Florida – Lunch and Learn Mentor Program

The mentors of the United States Attorney's Office Middle District of Florida Lunch and Learn Mentor Program have been consistent champions of the students of Lockhart Elementary Magnet School for the past 5 years. The lead mentors, Lindsay Griffin and Jennifer Corinis, launched the Lunch & Learn Mentor Program in 2015 and since its inception over 80 mentors have met weekly with over 200 students. Mentors work year-round with Lockhart staff and families to support students in various facets including academics, advocacy, and volunteering. Mentors from the United States Attorney's Office engage in thoughtful discussions about college and career readiness, goal setting, and solution-driven mindset. Mentors also attend monthly award ceremonies, school family nights, and Lockhart's Drumline and Color Guard events. Each month, the mentors support Lockhart's monthly character trait through conversation and activities.

The Lunch and Learn Mentor Program is extremely treasured by Lockhart. Many mentees have stated that they hope to be mentors when they grow up. This is a testimony of the dedication, kindness, and influence the lunch and learn mentors have shown to the students at Lockhart Elementary Magnet School, ultimately leading students in becoming responsible and productive members of society.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION AWARD

This award recognizes a community/business partner that supports our teachers, schools, and families to ensure student success. Multiple awards will be given.

Gibson Elementary School – Nichelle Foster, The Mosaic Company – Gibson Food Pantry

Ms. Nichelle Foster and The Mosaic Company identified a need almost a decade ago and have worked tirelessly with Gibson Elementary School to support students and families with resources to address food insecurity. Ms. Foster and The Mosaic Company work in partnership with Feeding Tampa Bay and Kiwanis of Greater Brandon. The Mosaic Company also volunteers countless hours to work with students and teachers to educate them on the neighboring ecosystem, bringing thoughtful information and hands-on guides to explore science based studies, and participate in events such as literacy nights and the Great American Teach-In. The impact of The Mosaic Company volunteers is felt in the homes of countless children as they open their cabinets to healthy food, are able to eat with their parents and siblings, and come to school fueled to learn. The greatest gift we can give our community is the support of our children as they grow. The Mosaic Company is dedicated to doing just that.

Seminole Elementary School – End 68 Hours of Hunger

End 68 Hours of Hunger has helped the Seminole Elementary School community tremendously by taking care of the basic need for food of families. The End 68 Hours of Hunger program not only provides food for children every weekend, but also provides opportunities for families to feel more connected to the school and for students to feel empowered.

Seminole Elementary School has partnered with End 68 Hours of Hunger for approximately 2 years. Food is delivered to Seminole Elementary every Friday. Students have been empowered by this program by taking control of their own food bags. Approximately 95% of students are able to identify their bag number and pack their own food for their family.

Tampa Heights Elementary Magnet School – Richard and Francis Powers, Powers and Company, Inc. – Stretch Goal to Disney!

Mr. Powers was assigned as Tampa Heights Elementary Magnet School's CEO of the school. He met with school administration, the leadership team, individual teachers and students to gather information about student academic needs. As a result of these meetings, Mr. Powers donated books to all of the intermediate students to spur their love of reading. He has also donated school supplies, including a much-needed dolly for transporting items around the campus. Mr. Powers has also attended functions outside of the normal school day to show his commitment to the students, parents and community.

Mr. and Mrs. Powers implemented a unique, innovative initiative called the "Stretch Goal to Disney". This initiative consists of a trip to Disney World in Orlando for all intermediate students who reach their math stretch goal in iReady. The incentive award (for potentially 150 students) includes transportation, entrance fee, lunch, and \$20.00 spending money for each student as well as accompanying teachers. While the Powers' contributions have only started this year, they have expressed the plan to continue supporting Tampa Heights Elementary Magnet School in the future.

SHINING STAR AWARD

This award is not given out every year but is presented to a person or group who has demonstrated exceptional volunteerism or who supports volunteers at their school. This person or group is selected for this award from the nominations received because they STAND OUT!

Clair Mel Elementary School - iMOM

Clair Mel Elementary School iMOM program's goal is to gather moms, role models and kids for a monthly before-school breakfast. The breakfast consists of a program of motherhood and family topics to provide support and encouragement for mothers and female role models to be the best they can be. Moms and female role models are inspired to attend monthly meetings to receive resources and strategies to build a better relationship with their families. The iMOM program is aligned with the school improvement goal by creating a culture for parents, students, and teachers working together to develop skills and habits for personal and academic success. This program also supports students by giving them the extra time to bond and deepen their relationship with their mothers or female role models. Volunteers from Keeney Church attend the monthly meetings to support the needs of the families and to create a better bond between the families and the community. The iMOM program has also had a positive impact on the students. Students that attend the meeting transfer the positive relationship skills learned into the classroom to enhance their social skills and academics.