

2018 Volunteer Awards

Summary of Award Recipients

LAMP OF KNOWLEDGE AWARD

Bob Conigliaro, Caspers Company McDonald's®

Bob Conigliaro, Vice President of Community Relations has been employed with Caspers for 43 years. He personally handles marketing and community relations responsibilities for Caspers Company. Bob Conigliaro is affectionately known as “Mr. Bob”. For decades, “Mr. Bob” has supported Hillsborough County Public Schools in countless initiatives. His supports and serves on several boards, including Hillsborough Education Foundation, that directly impacts and brings a voice to our students and teens. Because of Mr. Bob’s giving heart, he has made a lasting impact on parent engagement, attendance, behavior, and countless programs he supports throughout the district.

TONY DUNGY HONORARY AWARD

Webb Middle School – Joel Leventhal

Joel Leventhal, a teacher at Webb Middle School, has a strong commitment to his students' academic achievement while providing leadership in sports throughout the school year at Webb Middle School. Mr. Leventhal volunteers as an assistant coach from day one of the first sport (basketball) to the last sport of the school year (flag football). He also assists with all track meets, keeps statistics of the players throughout the year for each sport and helps the coaching leadership organize paperwork behind the scenes. Mr. Leventhal puts in an average of 20-25 hours per week for the entirety of the academic school year, volunteering his time outside of his regular duties as a teacher. As an assistant coach, he supports the team at practices and games as well as encourages students playing those sports to come to him with any issues that might arise with their academic achievement. His encouragement continues in the classroom with his non-athlete students. Joel Leventhal is a bright star at Webb Middle School in helping students to reach their academic and personal goals.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR

Lee Elementary Magnet School – Cathy Messina

Cathy Messina is the Lead Teacher at Lee Elementary Magnet School. Ms. Messina ensures that parents have the highest quality of communication. It is because of this that volunteer hours continue to soar. Last year Lee had over 3800 volunteer hours from a school with only 317 students. Because of her relationship and communication with PTA, the group raised over \$10,000 after the school was lost due to a fire. In addition, Ms. Messina has formed a multitude of business partnerships in her role. She works with Horace Mann, The Architecture Group of Tampa Bay, and The Tampa Heights Gardening Association. In addition, she has been in connection with Ulele of Tampa, and a host of other organizations who have all positively contributed to the school personally and financially. Through her partnership with The Heights Classic Golf tournament, another \$10,800 was raised to replace losses from the fire. Ms. Messina has a great

understanding of the importance of school volunteers and community business partnerships. Her work as the Community Volunteer Coordinator is an invaluable asset to Lee Elementary Magnet School!

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT EXEMPLARY PROGRAM AWARD

Dover Elementary School – Holy Innocence (Men's Group)

Bill Cox and the men's group from Holy Innocence have been providing the kidsPack Program at Dover Elementary for 4 years. The kidsPack program provides over 100 students at school with individually packed, non-perishable foods for each weekend throughout the school year. Holy Innocence has over 30 volunteers who assemble the food packs and deliver them to the school each week. Holy Innocence donates to the Teacher Appreciation breakfast as well as books and school supplies for students year round. They are a huge support to Dover Elementary and the community!

Durant High School - Durant High School Community Craft Fair (DCCF)

The Durant High School Community Craft Fair was born of the desire to bring the community into the school and serve as the “hub” of activity for the community. Approximately 25 vendors from in and around the Durant community came out to peddle their wares, which included faculty members, parents of past and current students, as well as local, small business owners. The event was widely advertised on social media and event websites and was a huge success with well over 100 visitors throughout the day. School personnel, students, and community organizations all worked together to support the success of this program. The event clearly aligned with the School Improvement goal: “Student Achievement will increase when faculty, parent, and student relationships are strengthened and character (values) are demonstrated.”

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OUTSTANDING SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – YOUTH

Mort Elementary School – Carson Stuart

Carson Stuart, a freshman at Gaither High School, was a volunteer at Mort Elementary this summer. He worked with the Voluntary Prekindergarten or VPK program. The hours of VPK ran Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM for eight weeks. While most of his friends spent their summer at the beach or hanging out with friends, Carson spent time helping the youngest learners at Mort Elementary. Carson made it a point to know every child’s name and something special about each child. Several students had some special issues that impeded their learning. Carson made sure to make each of these children feel special while helping the teacher to provide additional support to make each child be successful each and every day at VPK. Carson is a young man with a big heart. He displayed patience, kindness, and compassion and is to be commended for his dedication in helping the VPK students at Mort be prepared to have a successful year in Kindergarten.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OUTSTANDING SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – ADULT

Cannella Elementary School – Melanie Fernandez

Ms. Fernandez loves being at Cannella. She has a daughter in fifth grade and over the last year and a half has volunteered many hours to PTA. She has also been a class chaperone, classroom assistant, and general volunteer. She helps organize fundraisers with the goal of raising money to help students. She is on campus most mornings before the teachers and often times is there after the teachers leave. Ms. Fernandez started by chaperoning field trips and helping her daughter’s teachers with fall festival booths. About two years ago, she started getting more involved with PTA, even volunteering her time for The Great American Teach-In. Beginning last year, Mrs. Fernandez became a fixture at Cannella Elementary. She’s helped the media specialist in the library as well as helped out with the morning show. This year, she can be seen on campus doing whatever is needed until she goes to work in the lunchroom. She’ll stay on campus continuing to help

out however she can, for as long as she can. She's a positive role model for responsibility and compassion as students see these qualities in her day-to-day service to Cannella Elementary School!

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OUTSTANDING SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – SENIOR

Cleveland Elementary School – Curtis Walker

Mr. Walker has served as a classroom volunteer for over 10 years. He has been dedicated to improving student learning and behavior through his services as a tutor and mentor. To date, Mr. Walker has held small group reading sessions with over 200 students in grades Kindergarten, first, second, and third grade resulting in increased student knowledge in letter fluency, site word recognition and fluency, and overall reading fluency. As a mentor he dedicates his time to lunch mentoring sessions with young men and has modeled appropriate behavior for students in need of additional support. This has decreased the number of behavior trackers and time outs for these students. They have learned appropriate social and coping skills when faced with tough situations. His magnificent interpersonal skills extend to every level of the school. He is dedicated and self-directed and puts forth maximum effort when working with students.

WARRIOR STUDENT VOLUNTEER AWARD

Lennard High School – Eliatne Arrocha Pino

Eliatne is an ESOL student at Lennard High School. She has managed to succeed in her academics maintaining a 3.7 GPA even though she recently arrived in the United States from Cuba. Eliatne's community service activities include supporting the migrant program as an event coordinator by helping organize all supplies and specifically serving as a guide for Spanish-speaking parents. She serves as a translator for parents at parent events and conference nights and is a school tour guide for new students. She is a good role model to others. Every time there is an activity in school or outside of school that is meant to help parents or students, she is eager and available to help. Every day she is asking "What else is there to do? How can I help?" Her disposition to help others sets her apart from the crowd. Eliatne is very affable and easy going. It is amazing that with barely a year in the country she has quickly learned the language and has integrated into the community. Eliatne is a future leader. She has demonstrated her resiliency and her desire to do good by her active role in school and outside in the community dedicating over 100 volunteer hours.

CHAMPION FOR EDUCATION VOLUNTEER AWARD

Davis Elementary School – Elizabeth Smith

Elizabeth Smith has been volunteering at Davis Elementary for over 13 years. She began working at Davis Elementary as an ESE Aide when the school first opened in 2003. She earned the Support Employee of the Year Award during that time for all of her hard work and dedication towards special needs children and their families. After retiring from her ESE Aide position, she continued her service to Davis Elementary students by tutoring in various grade levels. The students enjoy working with her and she is a great motivator always encouraging the students to achieve and do their very best. Teachers have seen the improvements not only in their school work but also in their students' attitudes towards learning. She found her niche in the second grade where not only did she continue tutoring, but also helped the teachers by copying, filing, and filling in wherever she was needed. Mrs. Smith is seen at all school events and functions. Whether it be the Fall Festival, a school dance, or Open House she is always there to lend a helping hand. The invaluable service that she provides to the students and staff at Davis is immeasurable!

Lake Magdalene Elementary School – Karen Apgar

Karen Apgar has been a wonderful part of the media center at Lake Magdalene Elementary for over nine years. The media center is truly the “hub” of the school. Karen has assisted with tasks such as book check out/check in, cataloging, book inventory and weeding out books. Her patient, friendly guidance helps students learn to make good book choices and follow library procedures. In addition to her work in the Media Center, Ms. Apgar finds the time to be part of the Book Buddy Program. Ms. Apgar meets with various students to provide academic support at least two times a week for thirty minutes. She works on reading fluency and comprehension with these students and her students eagerly await their time with her. After meeting with the students, she always writes individual observations detailing her time with each student. This information is then shared with the student's teacher. She also assists the PTA with the weekly Manatee Meals program. She makes sure that all the meal bags are organized and ready to be delivered to families in need. Ms. Apgar is truly an asset to Lake Magdalene Elementary School!

Ruskin Elementary School – Maureen Long

Maureen Long has had a significant impact on student academic achievement and community involvement at Ruskin Elementary. She created a team of volunteers affectionately called Ruskin Angels. The volunteers work with students one-on-one or in small groups. The students that the volunteers work with are often more than one grade level behind in reading. This intervention helps close the learning gap and helps students reach academic success. Ms. Long has also helped to create and lead the Ruskin Elementary PTA. She has reached out to the community to create partnerships which have built relationships not only between the school and community but also the community and families. She has sought out partnerships that can provide resources for students and families, such as access to fire alarms, information on fire safety, human trafficking and more. Ms. Long has a passion for science as well and has used this passion to write grants for science resources. Through community partnerships she was able to obtain materials to create Ruskin Elementary's first school garden. School beautification days have been held to help create these gardens with school, families, and community involvement. These gardens are used to foster science inquiry and academic success in science. She is a vital part of Ruskin Elementary School and its success!

FAMILY/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARD

Lockhart Elementary Magnet School – Vicki Anzalone, Where Love Grows

Vicki Anzalone and her organization, Where Love Grows, has helped increase parent involvement at Lockhart Elementary. Before Ms. Anzalone's involvement, school-wide events would have about 40 people. She committed to cooking dinner for every child and their family at all events which has increased participation to over 300 people at each event! She has also helped to create a relationship with the local Boys & Girls Club. She helps us grow vegetables and herbs in the gardens at school and then hosts cooking classes at Boys and Girls Club with Lockhart students to bring their learning full circle. Ms. Anzalone has created service learning opportunities for students including bringing 4th and 5th grade students to MacDill Air Force Base to serve the airmen/women lunch and learn about their careers. Around the holidays, Ms. Anzalone and Where Love Grows helps provide meals and gifts for students and their families. In addition to all of the above, she is one of the Lunch & Learn mentors who lunches with a group of 4th graders weekly to focus on goal-setting. Ms. Anzalone is definitely an asset to Lockhart Elementary Magnet School!

Martinez Middle School – Keys to Kindness

Keys to Kindness is a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring and empowering children, adults, schools, communities, and businesses by providing fundraising support, "Kind Keys" and volunteer assistance to various organizations and individuals in need of kindness. Their message is that each of us has the power with simple acts of kindness to be the key in changing our lives and the lives of others. The organization gives out Kind Keys monthly to staff

members who are recognized by their peers for acts of kindness and runs a Campus Kind Week where they collect change for a Kind Cause. They also encourage kids to leave Kind Notes for each other and have worked with NJHS and PTSA to coordinate volunteers to help others at a variety of community kindness events including painting the school, helping our Veterans, or demonstrating kindness to school families who have lost loved ones. The Keys to Kindness Organization has helped inspire the students and staff at Martinez and other local schools to spread kindness to others, both at school and in the community, and has encouraged the spirit of volunteerism in students.

Mort Elementary School – Bay Hope Church, Mort’s Math Surge

In October of 2017 when Bay Hope Church was made aware of the critical need for Mort students to improve their test scores so the school could make at least a “C” grade, they sought the administration’s guidance in understanding how best to assist. Working together, it was determined that Saturday math tutoring, with individualized help from volunteers in each classroom, would be the best way to ensure that the students would get the personalized help they needed. The goal was to have at least 40 volunteers each week in order to have a maximum ratio of 1 tutor for every 3 students. An average of 110 students attended each of the 5 scheduled Saturdays and an average of 55 volunteers came to help each week! As a result of this effort, Mort’s students are much better prepared for spring testing. In addition, students, teachers and volunteers alike had the opportunity to work together and were motivated and excited about the measurable progress that was made over the 5 sessions. Many of the volunteers are now committed to Mort and it’s students for many years to come!

SHINING STAR AWARD

Brooks DeBartolo Collegiate High School – Zachary Frey

Zachary Frey's commitment to service, both in and out of school is commendable. Zachary is an active member of the National Honor Society since his sophomore year at BDCHS. Now a senior, the diversity of his volunteerism has reached a level unmatched by his peers. Zachary’s volunteer efforts include Relay for Life, BDCHS Spring Fundraiser and Silent Auction, BDCHS Uniform Sales, Temple Terrace Reads, SNHS Coastal Cleanup, and most recently, as a student tutor for Algebra 2 and Geometry. Zachary has also logged an impressive 112 hours of service to Florida Hospital in Carrollwood. He has long ago met the minimum requirement of service hours to graduate and meet the Bright Future scholarship requirements, yet he continues to donate his time to a variety of causes. Furthermore, one can easily recognize the quality of his service. Collectively, his body of volunteer work engages Zachary around school and in the community as an ambassador of the student body and thus, a strong contributor to the school improvement mission.

Hillsborough Out-of-School Time Program (HOST) – John Germany Young Readers, Read to Dream Program

John Germany - Read to Dream: The Young Reader's Initiative was born out of the simple gesture of someone giving Mr. Germany a book he could call his very own when he was a small child. Mr. Germany wanted to pass along his love of reading to a new generation of children, especially the poor and disadvantaged. Mr. Germany set aside money in his will for this very purpose. His vision was that attorneys would go to elementary schools and spend time simply reading to children, and that each child would receive books of their very own. The John Germany-Read to Dream Program rolled out in September 2016 at West Tampa, BT Washington, and Just Elementary Schools. Attorneys from the Hillsborough County Bar Association work with students weekly in the HOST program to share their favorite childhood literature and provide books to the children so that the gift of literacy could be shared in their homes/neighborhoods. The program was so successful that three additional schools were added to the program in January and expanded to include attorneys from TECO’S General Counsel Office. Now students at Edison, Broward and BC Graham also have the opportunity to participate in this enriching program! These mentors help students to experience the joy of reading and also provide students

opportunities to interact with adults who value literacy. The students love spending time with the attorneys and the conversations that the attorneys facilitate with the students based on the selected text help to foster students' vocabulary, comprehension and social skills.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION AWARD

MacFarlane Park Elementary IB Magnet School – Lawyers for Literacy, Helping Children Read to Succeed

Based in St. Petersburg, FL, Lawyers for Literacy, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that seeks, orients, and coordinates volunteers who are lawyers, judges, law students or other active or retired professionals to tutor 3rd grade students in reading. At MacFarlane Park, the tutors work with 8 students for 45 minutes each week, for a period of 12 weeks. Each week, the tutors bring a backpack of books and reading assistance materials to share with the students. At the end of the program, the students are able to keep all of the materials. The students selected for the program are in need of not only reading assistance, but also a mentor in life. Students report that they enjoy the one-on-one time they have with their tutor and feel special that someone is taking the time to read with them and encourage them to work hard and be successful. The students show an increase in self esteem after working with their mentors as well. The Lawyers for Literacy tutors serve as mentors in academics, social emotional skills, and community service. They function as positive influences and role models in so many aspects of students' lives.

Ruskin Elementary School – Gannon University

Gannon University's Occupational Therapy department is a community partner that has supported the learning needs of Ruskin Elementary students with disabilities. Gannon's graduate student volunteers consistently go above and beyond to learn about the academic needs of the Ruskin students they support, and they proactively plan activities with the permission and supervision of the Exceptional Student Education teacher they are partnered with. In addition to supporting Ruskin's teachers in meeting students' special needs, they have volunteered their time on the weekend to help with the beautification of the school. They helped to remove dead trees, replant trees, relocate planting beds and planted vegetables and flowering plants. This gives the teachers the opportunity to add some valuable, hands on instruction. Gannon University offers excellent assistance and support to the students and teachers at Ruskin Elementary!

Hillsborough County Public Schools – Suncoast Credit Union (Starfish Award)

Suncoast Credit Union has been a generous and consistent supporter of Hillsborough County Public Schools. When we speak of Suncoast Credit Union, we do so with a reverence and respect for their many contributions over the past 17 years. As one of the district's longest term partnerships and highest level contributors, Suncoast not only cares about education, but they also step up to be a participating member of our community. With financial support of Headstart, AMI Kids, LEAD, HCPS Volunteer Awards, back to school initiatives and transportation, they assist teachers and students in the dream to ensure education for all. Suncoast Credit Union provides support through their members. Every time Suncoast members swipe their credit or debit cards, two pennies go to their Foundation. Those funds are then redirected to the 21 counties they serve. Since the Foundation's inception, they have donated over \$22 million.

OUR STUDENTS, OUR FUTURE AWARD

Larry Wilder, Wilder Architecture

Larry Wilder, founder of Wilder Architecture, was selected for this award for volunteering his time and professional expertise to enhance educational opportunities in Hillsborough County Public Schools. When it comes to helping kids in need, Larry truly goes above and beyond. For the last 12 years, Wilder Architecture has hosted the Hooked on Education Fishing Tournament to benefit the Hillsborough Education Foundation. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Larry and his colleagues, the Foundation has been able to send many at-risk students to college. Additionally, Larry has

supported the Foundation's Teaching Tools program – which puts free school supplies into the hands of students in need by donating in-kind goods and services.