

Volunteer Award Winners

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

Congratulations to all of our volunteers and community partners

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.

Tony and Lauren Dungy, Dungy Family Foundation

For the last several years, Tony and Lauren Dungy and the Dungy Family Foundation have provided the “Dungy Tuesday Literacy Program” to our schools. This program focuses on our 2nd grade students at Title 1 schools and most recently our Achievement Schools. Beginning in September, Tony and Lauren Dungy visit two elementary schools each week and read to every 2nd grader in the school. Each child as well as the teacher and media center receives one of their award winning books.

This year Tony and Lauren Dungy visited a total of 50 Title 1 schools, read to over **4,500** 2nd grade students, and the Dungy Family Foundation has provided books at an in-kind value of **\$80,000!** Additionally, Tony and Lauren Dungy graciously participated in Student Day at the Fair, where they autographed and gave out approximately 175 books to community children. The total value of this donation from the Dungy Family Foundation was **\$3,000!**

Thank you Tony and Lauren Dungy and the Dungy Family Foundation for your time, talent and treasures given to Hillsborough County Public Schools.

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 & academic achievement in the lives of students. Schools nominated the following volunteers for this year’s Tony Dungy Honorary Award.

Brooks DeBartolo Collegiate High School - Marc Makhholm

Marc Makhholm, an attorney for Hillsborough County Sherriff's Office, devotes countless hours to support our students by serving as a guest speaker for many classes and school-wide activities. Mr. Makhholm shares his passion with students to help them prepare for college, careers, and overall life.

Additionally, Mr. Makhholm serves as the Attorney Coach for BDCHS Mock Trial team. He has spent many hours helping Phoenix students build personal confidence, interpersonal skills, planning and preparation capacities, and overall cooperation skills. The impact of Mr. Makhholm's commitment to our students is very palpable. One student stated, "He showed up every time and gave us his best even when we didn't give ours". Another student stated, "He genuinely cares about us and wants us all to succeed".

Thank you Mr. Makhholm for the remarkable gift that you have provided for our students.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes the Community Volunteer Coordinator who has demonstrated exemplary execution of the role of CVC, incorporating volunteerism and Family/Community collaborations. The Community Volunteer Coordinator is appointed by the principal and is the primary volunteer contact point with the school. There is one recipient for this award.

Hammond Elementary School – Carreen Massey

Carreen Massey has been instrumental in assisting with the volunteer program for our school from it's opening in 2007. She has been the official coordinator for several years, ensuring that volunteers have passed the screening, logging hours, and completing our Five Star School process. She communicates information in a timely and positive manner,

Volunteer Award Winners

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

Congratulations to all of our volunteers and community partners

ensuring that volunteers know the policies, but also feel welcome and needed. She advocates for our volunteer program as a means of supporting teachers and thus student achievement. Mrs. Massey is loved by our staff, parents, students, and the community, as she knows the history of our school and our families.

Thank you Mrs. Massey for your commitment to our school and volunteerism.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT EXEMPLARY PROGRAM AWARD

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.

Muller Elementary Magnet School – Recycled Fashion Show*

One barrier that Muller Elementary Magnet has always had is assuring that our Spanish speaking families feel welcome and involved in our school. As a way to break through this barrier, our ELL Paraprofessional and a Kindergarten teacher created the **Recycled Fashion Show**. The fashion show not only highlights the importance of reducing the carbon footprint but also has become a central project valued by all members of our school family allowing all families to contribute in their own way, at no financial cost.

During the months of preparation, our families attend meetings, work with our ELL Paraprofessional to create scenery for the stage, work together with their child to become comfortable with decorating and sewing, and become involved in the school. By promoting the project early on in the year, this allows students and parents to prepare amazing original designs encouraging recycling, upcycling and repurposing of disposable materials that would otherwise end up in the trash. Students then display their creations on the runway during our whole school program.

While this event started out as an initiative of our Family Multicultural Group to increase Spanish speaking family engagement, it has spread to all families at Muller. This year we had 50 families who created outfits for the Recycled Fashion Show, with over 100 families participating in the Family Multicultural event, allowing for close to 500 people in attendance. Because of this annual event, we have seen an increase in school involvement from all families, including our non-English speaking families that in years past had been reluctant to participate due to the language barriers. Families have expressed pride and culture with our school. ***State winner!**

Spoto High School – Culture Krave

Culture Krave was created by Spoto High School's PTSA to celebrate diversity by having multicultural events during the school year. The first of these events was Culture Krave – "Embrace the Culture, Crave the Spirit". The purpose of the celebration was to showcase the academic and extracurricular programs available at Spoto while highlighting our student diversity. This event definitely strengthened the partnership between the school and community with close to 600 members of the community coming out to experience the renewed culture of Spoto High School.

Culture Krave celebrated and honored Hispanic Heritage Month through promoting clubs and programs at Spoto High School as well as inviting community partners. Cultural Krave was also the best platform to introduce the newest program at Spoto High School, our Collegiate Academy. We embraced the vast cultural diversity with food and music. The event was free and open to the public and also served as a fundraiser for our PTSA. The second phase of this initiative was our First Black Excellence Festival, which took place during Black History Month. This event consisted of a Macy's sponsored prom inspired fashion show, spoken word, talent showcase, food and art vendors as well as food trucks.

Volunteer Award Winners

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

Congratulations to all of our volunteers and community partners

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 – Edward Torres

Edward Torres is a polite young man with an exceptional number of service hours (232 at the start of his senior year). His dedication and reason behind why he serves are what I believe sets him apart from others. Edward takes public transportation (rain or shine) to the Portamento of Hope to volunteer serving food to the homeless. Edward loves volunteering at the soup kitchen because it reminds him of how blessed he truly is. Edward volunteers at the Boy and Girls Club of Tampa Bay that serves Hillsborough County Public School students. Edward has invited school staff and other students to volunteer at Portamento of Hope as well. He is truly a special student volunteer that serves not only at his home school but also in the community impacting people from the old to the young. Edward Torres represents our school district well in the community and here at Durant High School.

Thank you Edward for your heart of service.

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.

Colson Elementary School, Barbara Wood

Barbara Wood has made immeasurable contributions to Colson Elementary School since she began volunteering at the start of the fall 2017 school year. Ms. Wood has donated over 1,595 hours of her time. Ms. Wood provides coverage each Tuesday and Thursday for our office staff to eat lunch. Ms. Wood also provides support for in our Media Center. She has provided substantial assistance with our school's biannual inventory audit of all library materials, assisted with implementation of our televised Morning Show program and our annual book fairs.

Ms. Wood supports our school through a variety of school-wide programs and events helping to organize Picture Days, Book-o-Ween, Read for the Record, Read Across America, Open House, Fall Festival, Field Day, and Great American Teach-In. She has taken responsibility for our Box Tops program, which brings in considerable funds. Ms. Wood has also revolutionized how we create school yearbooks, shifting the creative responsibilities from adults to students.

Thank you Ms. Wood for positively impacting every one of our teachers and students every day.

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.

Volunteer Award Winners

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

Congratulations to all of our volunteers and community partners

Gibsonton Elementary School, Michael Daigle

Michael Daigle organizes his crew of volunteers weekly at our school to make sure each of the students in our Smile Club receive a bag of food, which includes fresh vegetables to take home to ensure the students have enough food over the weekend. There are 150 students that receive the Smile Club food bags. Thanks to Mr. Daigle and his volunteer crew!

Mr. Daigle has worked here at Gibsonton in this particular volunteer activity for the past seven years. He has given at least 122 hours. This is a quote from Mr. Daigle about volunteering, "For me it is not about getting volunteer hours, but more about the relationships I build and the satisfaction of improving other's lives". The service Mr. Daigle and his crew provides helps our students be ready to come back to school on Monday equipped to work!

Thank you Mr. Daigle for caring about our students.

WARRIOR STUDENT VOLUNTEER AWARD

This award recognizes a high school student who demonstrates a significant impact on the community via volunteerism (number of community services hours and impact). There is one recipient selected for this award. Schools nominated the following volunteers for this year's Warrior Student Volunteer Award.

Steinbrenner High School, Justin Lorry

Justin Lorry has done community service over the past 4 years; however, the devastation of Hurricane Irma ignited a desire for him to do more to help others. Initially, Justin and his family purchased and made numerous basic need donations to families affected by the storm. However, after reading an article about Puerto Rico's lack of electricity, Justin thought of an opportunity to spread his passion for soccer on a global scale and created "Soccer Balls for Puerto Rico". Justin began to raise funds utilizing the GoFundMe platform, with the goal of donating soccer balls to schools and communities in the low-income areas of Puerto Rico. After months of advertising the project, his campaign raised \$1,000. Justin purchased 200 soccer balls that were distributed to numerous schools, communities, and individual children throughout devastated areas in Puerto Rico.

Thank you Justin for this act of kindness that benefitted thousands of children and gave them some joy in a time of destruction in their community.

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.

Westchase Elementary School, Veronica Moreda

Veronica Moreda is a valuable mentor for several boys at Westchase Elementary. Every year she takes on several boys to mentor. The boys that she works with are all ESE students and many are from disadvantaged backgrounds. Currently she is mentoring 6 boys. She tailors her mentoring to the individual needs of each child. She works on academics, social skills, and serves as a positive role model in their lives. Ms. Moreda is here as scheduled without fail. She communicates with the teachers and counselors on her students' progress and reaches out when she feels like her student has additional needs that she cannot help with. Ms. Moreda is flexible and always willing to help her students. She has been mentoring at Westchase for at least 5 years.

Thank you Ms. Moreda for genuinely caring for our students and their success.

Volunteer Award Winners

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

Congratulations to all of our volunteers and community partners

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!**

Claywell Elementary School, Geraldine Jefferson

Geraldine Jefferson (“Jeri”) has been a “grandparent” volunteer at Claywell Elementary School for 4 years. She has provided over 1,500 volunteer hours this year alone. Ms. Jefferson volunteers in the classroom as well as the media center. She is the PTA Box Tops Program Chairperson and serves on our Student Advisory Committee (SAC). In addition, she has taken on the Fill-A-Backpack program to make sure no child goes home hungry. By volunteering in the Media Center five days a week, Ms. Jefferson is making an impact on reading for our students. She feels that if children can read comfortably then they can reap the benefits of travel, knowledge, and succeed in all other subjects and life.

Ms. Jefferson’s voice as a community member has aided our staff to meet the needs of our students by ensuring that all students who needed a mentor, received one. Also, with the monies raised from the Box Tops Program that Ms. Jefferson oversees, we were able to purchase technology for the classrooms. This year, she added the Fill-A-Backpack program that provides food to the children that need it the most.

Thank you Ms. Jefferson for your inspiration, drive and dedication.

Webb Middle School, Marielena Arrillaga

Marielena Arrillaga is a valuable volunteer at Webb Middle School. On a weekly basis, the average amount of time Ms. Arrillaga spends volunteering at Webb Middle School is about 15 hours. She helps over 100 students when she is in the classroom, providing as much one-on-one time as possible (mainly for the ELL students). Ms. Arrillaga has the ability to explain problems in English and Spanish, and break the problem down with our student(s) step-by-step until they understand the concept. By being bilingual, Ms. Arrillaga provides each student with the opportunity to be successful on the same level. In turn, our students have become inspired and excited about what they are learning in class and want to attend school.

Her dedication, passion, and open-mindedness sets her apart from everyone else. Ms. Arrillaga’s efforts do not go unnoticed, since every student she has helped appreciates her assistance and dedication to their success.

Thank you Ms. Arrillaga for removing the “language barrier” to help all of our students succeed and for leaving a positive impact on our students at Webb Middle School.

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.

Dunbar Elementary Magnet School, Hyde Park United Methodist Church

Hyde Park United Methodist Church (HPUMC) paired up with Dunbar Magnet in August 2018. The HPUMC members have volunteered well over 1,000 hours since the start of the year. Their mission is to support and enhance opportunities for students at Dunbar. Volunteers serve on several committees that help build our school community and culture.

HPUMC volunteers are assigned to each homeroom teacher to work with our students in math and reading. Volunteers facilitate guided reading groups, math tutoring, class projects, and mentoring sessions. They also assist in our MTSS process, targeting specific subgroups of students with standards based lessons.

Volunteer Award Winners

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

Congratulations to all of our volunteers and community partners

HPUMC volunteers help to promote our school to families by being present at all of our major school functions, they play an active role in our PTA, and they collaborate to obtain community donations such as school supplies for students and teacher appreciation gifts. HPUMC community members hosted a book drive during Literacy Week and donated over 2,000 books for our students to take home. HPUMC also supports our Medical Monday's program by bridging the gap when it comes to locating community partners and guest speakers.

Thank you HPUMC volunteers for your commitment to our students.

Mort Elementary School, Lewis Bradham

Lewis Bradham has been a partner and supporter at Mort Elementary for the past several years. Through our partnership, Mr. Bradham is showing students and families the community cares about their well-being. He's restoring dignity into families when they have no food at home. Empowering families to speak up and not be afraid to ask for help. Exposing the students to people and experiences with the potential to change the trajectory of their lives. Mr. Bradham organized the day of caring. Many Publix employees gathered to help with a variety of events such as making thank you cards for the teachers and staff, reading to our students, working on murals, and planting in our garden.

During Thanksgiving and Christmas, we used a \$10,000 donation orchestrated by Mr. Bradham to stock our food pantry and we collected over 500 turkey dinners for families in need, Mr. Bradham and the Publix staff also focus on supporting our teachers and staff. They have provided our teacher appreciation lunch, breakfast and a variety of snacks to keep them motivated. This support has helped foster a culture where teachers and staff believe they are supported in their efforts to educate all our children.

Mr. Bradham is making a real difference in the lives of our students, their families, and the Mort faculty and staff.

Thank you Mr. Bradham for being an exceptionally hardworking community advocate who is committed to community service, while genuinely caring for our school.

OUR STUDENTS, OUR FUTURE AWARD

This Hillsborough Education Foundation award recognizes an outstanding partner who understands the commitment and responsibility to our district and community where teachers excel and students achieve.

Joe Gross

Joe Gross has been involved with Hillsborough Education Foundation for 6 years. For the past 6 years, Mr. Gross has served as a volunteer mentor for at-risk, low-income middle and high school students. He has mentored two young men and significantly contributed to their growth and development, as well as their academic and personal success. Mr. Gross has displayed his dedication for seeing to it his mentees not only graduate high school but also go on to post-secondary education by meeting with them one-on-one every week, attending college readiness workshops and events, and tutoring them on challenging subjects. In his role as a mentor, Mr. Gross has also served on our Mentoring Committee, helping our Foundation to evaluate and improve the Take Stock in Children program in Hillsborough County. Mr. Gross sets an example for anyone he interacts with on the importance of being of service to others. Regardless of his full-time work, Mr. Gross consistently attends committee meetings and models the attitude that we hope all our mentors embody. His commitment and involvement are truly admirable. The time Mr. Gross has devoted to his mentees has provided them with advice, guidance, and encouragement through their high school years.

Mr. Gross also volunteers regularly for other organizations. He serves as a trustee for Keeping Tampa Bay Beautiful and is very passionate about encouraging young people to care about the environment. Mr. Gross dedicates his free time to helping others and positively impacts our community. Mr. Gross' involvement with not only the Hillsborough Education Foundation but also Keeping Tampa Bay Beautiful, really displays his strong commitment to service. He regularly goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the needs of those around him are met.



Volunteer Award Winners

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



Congratulations to all of our volunteers and community partners

Joe Gross is a dearly valued member of our organization and we are not only grateful for his support but are also indebted to him for the impact he has made on young people's lives.