

2015-2016 Outstanding School Volunteers

Region I – Youth

Leon County
Eric Rodriquez
DeSoto Trail Elementary School
Tallahassee, FL

Region I – Adult

Okaloosa County
Kelly Gurney
James E. Plew Elementary
Niceville, FL

Region I – Senior

Escambia County
Charlie Dicken
Blue Angels Elementary
Pensacola, FL

Region II – Youth

St. Johns County
Jasraj Raghuwanshi
Pedro Menendez High School
St. Augustine, FL

Region II – Adult

Duval County
Amy Mitchell
Holiday Elementary School
Jacksonville, FL

Region II – Senior

Clay County
Susie Pelphrey
Shadowlawn Elementary School
Green Cove Springs, FL

Region III – Youth

Volusia County
Sierra Dollar
Edgewater Public School
Edgewater, FL

Region III – Adult

Orange County
Michelle King
Castle Creek Elementary School
Orlando, FL

Region III – Senior

Lake County
Margie White
Eustis Elementary School
Eustis, FL

Region IV– Youth

Manatee County
Jonathan Gambino
Nolan Middle School
Bradenton, FL

Region IV – Adult

Hillsborough County
Rosario Silva
Shields Middle School
Ruskin, FL

Region IV – Senior

Pinellas County
Donna McBurney
Sunset Hills Elementary School
Tarpon Springs, FL

Region V– Youth

Palm Beach County
Bennett Ragan
Alexander W. Dreyfoos Jr. School of the Arts
West Palm Beach, FL

Region V – Adult

Palm Beach County
Sharyn Schneiderman
Spanish River High School
Boca Raton, FL

Region V – Senior

Monroe County
Anne O’Neil
Plantation Key School
Tavernier, FL

2015-16 Outstanding School Volunteers

Region 1 - Youth

Leon County

Eric Rodriguez

DeSoto Trail Elementary School

Tallahassee, FL

As a high school student, Eric Rodriguez volunteers every day at his former elementary school, supporting the school's technology specialist and handling much of the school's computer troubleshooting. He entered data critical for spelling instruction and assembled, then delivered, iPad stands for all the school's teachers.

Region 1 - Adult

Okaloosa County

Kelly Gurney

James E. Plew Elementary School

Niceville, FL

Ms. Kelly Gurney proactively looks for funds and chairs fundraising campaigns to support students. She began a clothing closet as well as a backpack food program which provides weekend food to hungry students. She helps in the classroom, serves as a mentor and initiates activities that encourage students to read and families to attend book fairs.

Region 1 - Senior

Escambia County

Charlie Dicken

Blue Angels Elementary School

Pensacola, FL

Mr. Charlie Dicken assists with morning traffic, completes maintenance requests on campus, and coordinates the participation of school volunteers from the nearby military base. He spends time with community stakeholders, soliciting and reinforcing partnerships. For special events, he makes parking arrangements which saves parents a nearly mile-long walk.

**Region II - Youth
St. Johns County
Jasraj Raghuwanshi
Pedro Menendez High School
St. Augustine, FL**

Jasraj Raghuwanshi created a public relations campaign which enabled many students an opportunity to enroll in colleges that would not have been possible otherwise. He initiated an annual "Cultural Fair" where students could share the music, dance, food and other customs of their country of origin or ethnicity. He helped raise money for students with special needs, including for those in developing countries.

**Region II - Adult
Duval County
Amy Mitchell
Holiday Elementary School
Jacksonville, FL**

As PTA secretary, Ms. Amy Mitchell significantly enhanced communication with families of the school which serves a diverse socioeconomic and ethnic population. She started the "Morning Mile," a popular before-school running program and is now spearheading a school nutrition initiative based on vegetable and fruit tastings.

**Region II - Senior
Clay County
Susie Pelphrey
Shadowlawn Elementary School
Green Cove Springs, FL**

An active member of PTO, Ms. Susie Pelphrey assists in individual classrooms, supporting teachers with completing tasks such as laminating, copying, and designing bulletin boards. She volunteers in the media center, helping students select books on topics that support their interests. She also reads one-on-one with language-impaired students.

**Region III - Youth
Volusia County
Sierra Dollar
Edgewater Public Elementary School
Edgewater, FL**

Sierra Dollar began volunteering in elementary school. She assists students with special needs and through her support, one student in particular made remarkable improvements. She recruits volunteers for special events, makes reminder phone calls, and organized a Science Fair. In her 4H club, she teaches others about grooming, shearing and showing farm animals.

**Region III - Adult
Orange County
Michelle King
Castle Creek Elementary School
Orlando, FL**

Ms. Michelle King has become the STEM, Engineering and problem-solving coach for K-1 grades and a top ambassador for the Green School Project. Her volunteerism with the Recycle, Reuse and Repurpose program has taken students (and faculty) to a new level of learning and achieving. Through her efforts, teachers can better teach skills in problem-solving and analysis.

**Region III - Senior
Lake County
Margie White
Eustis Elementary School
Eustis, FL**

Ms. Margie White inspires a love for writing and has helped students publish nearly 10,000 books over the last 25 years. She works one-on-one with students throughout the writing process and opened a publishing center at Eustis Elementary School 27 years ago.

**Region IV - Youth
Manatee County
Jonathan Gambino
Nolan Middle School
Bradenton, FL**

Learning technology skills in middle school, Jonathan Gambino began teaching those skills to others. He now volunteers teaching middle school student about technology enhancements and display design for competitions. Over the summer, he prepared the technology lab for incoming students.

**Region IV - Adult
Hillsborough County
Rosario Silva
Shields Middle School
Ruskin, FL**

Ms. Rosario Silva volunteers at three different schools, responding to the ongoing and differing needs of students and faculty. She maintains a school store, translates for English Language Learners, and assists with clerical duties in the front office. She works with girls in small groups about improving self-esteem and character development.

**Region IV - Senior
Pinellas County
Donna McBurney
Sunset Hills Elementary School
Tarpon Springs, FL**

Ms. Donna McBurney helps in classrooms, on field trips, at carnivals, book fairs and other special events. She tutors in math, reading and language arts providing individualized support through small group instructional settings. For encouragement, she generously gives a hand-made quilt to students experiencing hardships.

**Region V - Youth
Palm Beach County
Bennett Ragan
Alexander W. Dreyfoos Jr. School of the Arts
West Palm Beach, FL**

Bennett Ragan has coordinated several efforts that serve migrant children in the area, including a volunteer-based summer Arts Camp and a Title I Holiday Jubilee. He volunteers with the Digital Media Department, providing documentary work for special events. He also mentors younger digital media students. Through his school-based leadership, he has helped organize homecoming, open house, and Spirit Week.

**Region V - Adult
Palm Beach County
Sharyn Schneiderman
Spanish River High School
Boca Raton, FL**

Ms. Sharyn Schneiderman has been PTA president in elementary, middle and high school. She volunteers with fundraising, classroom activities and office chores. She enlisted the Art Department to visually “brighten up” the ESE classroom. She has broadened school communications, brought in speakers, taught students how to advocate for themselves and helped in the Athletic Department.

**Region V - Senior
Monroe County
Anne O’Neil
Plantation Key School
Tavernier, FL**

Ms. Anne O’Neil worked in the school media center during a vacancy period between Media Specialists. She updated books in circulation by repairing torn books, discarding outdated books, and suggesting appropriate reading materials for students. She designed displays to entice students to read and helped create an age-appropriate, inviting reading area.