

Sparkplugs

for Family and Community Involvement



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to **Sparkplugs**, the annual publication of exemplary practices for family and community involvement. The programs described in **Sparkplugs** reflect only a few of the many innovative practices used across the state to involve parents and family members (and the community) in meaningful school programs. Each program was nominated for the 2016 Family and Community Involvement Award by its own school district.

These summaries were taken directly from the applications submitted by the school districts. They have been edited for brevity, but every attempt has been made to retain the content of the original submission.

The purpose of the Family and Community Involvement Award, which is sponsored by the Florida PTA, the Florida Department of Education, State Farm Insurance and Wells Fargo, is to promote and recognize exemplary school practices that increase family and community involvement. All entries must be school-initiated projects that focus on specific family and/or community involvement strategies. The settings for the projects include the school as well as the workplace, faith-based sites and other locations common and familiar to families.

Based on the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships in Education, the programs described in this document use one or more of the following key strategies to increase family involvement in schools:

1. Welcoming all families into the school community
2. Communicating effectively
3. Supporting student success
4. Speaking up for every child
5. Sharing power
6. Collaborating with the community

For information or assistance in implementing any of these unique family- and community-involvement programs, please write or call the program's contact.

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Bureau of Family and Community Outreach

SPARKPLUGS

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REGION 1

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

REGION 1: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINNER

LEON COUNTY

Trailblazer Run for Literacy DeSoto Trail Elementary School

5200 Tredington Park Drive
Tallahassee, Florida 32309

Contact: Travis and Karena Miller
Phone: 850-487-7807

Mission: *To raise awareness and funds for promotion of literacy while incorporating habits promoted by our school's wellness program.*

The DeSoto Trail Elementary School Trailblazer 5K-and-1-Mile Run for Literacy is initiated by the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to provide extra funds for supplemental enhancements to the media center. The Run's purpose is to create awareness and excitement about reading through a fun and fitness-centered event. This annual event has grown every year and draws a variety of participants, volunteers, and business and community partners. The event provides an opportunity for parents, faculty, staff and local secondary school students to work together to meet the literacy-related needs in the school. It offers students and other participants an opportunity to express their love of reading by coming dressed as their favorite literary character. Prizes are awarded to the fastest runners and to those wearing the best costumes. All runners are presented with small tokens of participation that include donations from business partners. Funds raised through registration fees and sponsorship support are donated to the DeSoto Trail Elementary School media center.

Grade Levels: K-12
Budget: \$3,000
Parents Served: 150
Students: 250

Region 1: Elementary Schools

OKALOOSA COUNTY

A.S.P.I.R.E.

Elliott Point Elementary School

301 Hughes Street NE
Fort Walton Beach, Florida
Contact: Laurie Feldman
Phone: 850-833-7614

Mission: *To provide at-risk students with academic and enrichment opportunities in an effort to foster academic success.*

The After School Program in Reaching Excellence (A.S.P.I.R.E.) at Elliot Point Elementary School provides free, standards-based academic and enrichment activities to sixty students. A.S.P.I.R.E. provides students with 45 minutes of homework help Monday through Thursday. The program promotes literacy, engages students in STEM-based cultural experiences and fosters participation in other extracurricular activities that increase students' experiences and background knowledge. This program also offers parent trainings and workshops so that parents are better equipped to support their children academically.

Grade Levels: K-5
Budget: 21st Century Community Learning Centers support
Parents Served: 60+
Students: 60

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SANTA ROSA COUNTY

Literacy Night: Candy Land Around the World

Holley Navarre Intermediate

8019 Escola Street
Navarre, Florida 32566
Contact: Barbara Scott
Phone: 850-983-5062

Mission: *To provide families with an opportunity to engage in literacy activities and to promote literacy within the community.*

Holly Navarre Intermediate School's literacy night entitled "Candy Land Around the World" brought students and their parents together for a fun night of literacy activities filled with gingerbread men, frosted gum drops, lollipops and cupcake decorations. Literacy activities that connected to the customs or geography of each of the seven continents were created for families as they moved through each continent. Finally, a popular children's author, Timothy Weeks, shared his newest book with families and community members in the school library. A meal was provided to all participants and a book given to students that attend the school.

Grade Levels: PreK-2
Budget: \$3,529
Parents Served: 400
Students: 500

REGION 1

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

Region 1: Middle and High School Winner

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

Quentin Cooper Liver Life 5K

Gulf Breeze High School

675 Gulf Breeze Parkway

Gulf Breeze Florida 32561

Contact: Sarah Smith

Phone: 850-983-5062

Mission: *To honor the life of a Gulf Breeze High School student, Quentin Cooper, by raising money to support a local student fighting a terminal illness.*

The Quentin Cooper Liver Life 5K is a run/walk hosted by Gulf Breeze High School, Student Government Association (SGA), in memory of a former student who passed away from liver cancer in 2013. Through this annual event, which attracts over 700 local runners, funds are raised to support a local student fighting a terminal illness. In 2015, the event raised over \$20,000 from registration fees, a silent auction and community donations. A local family whose child was diagnosed with a type of cancer called Rhabdomyosarcoma (rhab-do-my-o-sar-co-ma) received the donation. This initiative aligns with the district's mission to help students become self-directed learners.

Grade Levels: K-12

Budget: \$5,000-\$7,000

Parents Served: 100

Students: 500

Region 1: Middle/High Schools

LEON COUNTY

Tastes of the Lakes at Buck Market

Deerlake Middle School

9902 Deerlake West
Tallahassee, Florida 32312
Contact: Tricia Rich
Phone: 850-487-7807

Mission: *To bring the community together for a “win-win” event that benefits both the school and the community.*

The Taste of the Lakes project was designed by the Deerlake Middle School PTO to raise funds for classroom technology, provide participants with exposure to the school community, form new partnerships between the school and the community, and encourage school pride and parent participation. Sixty-seven vendors and 23 restaurants participated in a day of food tasting, shopping and live entertainment. Restaurants were asked to bring “bites” of their signature dishes to be sampled by ticket holders. Businesses paid a vendor fee to showcase their items, and admission tickets were required for all attendees. Local dance troupes, musicians, martial arts groups and school bands performed. Parents from feeder schools were drawn to the event to sample the food and watch their children perform.

Grade Levels: 6-8
Budget: \$785
Parents Served: 1,800
Students: 930

OKALOOSA COUNTY

Christmas Connection

Fort Walton Beach High School

400 Hollywood Boulevard SW
Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548
Contact: Kevin Schmidt
Phone: 850-833-7614

Mission: *To provide students and families in need of assistance with gifts and necessities during the holidays.*

The goal of Fort Walton Beach High School’s annual Christmas Connection Project is to provide a special Christmas to families in the surrounding area who cannot afford to provide one for themselves. Guidance counselors from local schools recommend families for assistance. With the support of the student body and the local community, families are provided with gifts for every child; a special Christmas dinner; groceries for 14 days; and if funds allow, assistance with necessities such as utility bills and home maintenance expenses.

Grade Levels: K-12
Budget: \$40,000
Parents Served: 145
Students: 255

REGION 2

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

Region 2: Elementary School Winner

NASSAU COUNTY

Here Comes the Boom Science Night Callahan Intermediate School

34586 Ball Park Road
Callahan, Florida 32011
Contact: Jill Williams
Phone: 904-879-1114

Mission: *To excite parents and students about the scientific method and Florida's science standards by encouraging questions and testing hypotheses.*

The goal of the Callahan Intermediate School initiative, Here Comes the Boom Science Night, is to demonstrate to students and families easy science projects that can be done at home and to teach them the scientific method. Through this experience, students may more confidently conduct their own scientific experiments. The experiments shown during the evening were both exciting and safe and can easily be replicated at home. Teachers performed the experiments with small groups of students and parents, using a methodical step-by-step approach. Physical activity was also integrated into the evening through the "Explosive Strength" activity. Dinner was provided to attract more parents. The science night brought parents to the school so that they may better understand what their children do at school each day and to share science projects that can be done at home.

Grade Levels: 3-5
Budget: \$1,067
Parents Served: 80
Students Served: 175

Region 2: Elementary Schools

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Watch Dogs

Melrose Park Elementary School

820 SE Putnam Street
Lake City, Florida 32025
Contact: Jennie Lord
Phone: 386-755-8260

Mission: *To provide positive male role models for students.*

The WATCH D.O.G.S. program was implemented with the intention of bringing male role models into the education process. Goals of the program include increasing the number of male volunteers and male security volunteers, reducing bullying and improving the well-being of children. These goals are met by inspiring and preparing men to be more effectively involved in the lives of children and to offer students models of positive male behavior. Some men provided encouragement for students to be successful. Fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers and uncles were invited to spend one day in the school volunteering their time in classrooms, monitoring halls, talking with students and spending additional time with those students in need of extra attention.

Grade Levels: PreK-5
Budget: \$374
Parents Served: 15
Students Served: 475

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ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Family Literacy Night

Timberlin Creek Elementary School

555 Pine Tree Lane
St Augustine, Florida 32092
Contact: Traci Hemingway
Phone: 904-547-7400

Mission: *To promote lifelong literacy by raising awareness about literacy in the community and with students.*

Timberlin Creek Elementary Literacy Nights give families and the community an opportunity to share the love and importance of reading together. This event sought to model what reading can look like at home. Families are invited to bring books, blankets, chairs and similar items to enjoy reading as a family. This year, students had the opportunity to meet NASCAR driver Scott Lagasse Jr., listen to him read a book and enter a contest for a chance to win a bicycle. Local high school students were also available to read with families. The children's librarian from the local public library shared some new features offered at the library and helped families sign up for library cards. Students participated in a Book Swap in the media center in which each student could swap up to 10 books.

Grade Levels: PreK-5
Budget: Donations
Parents Served: 120
Students Served: 230

REGION 2

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

Region 2: Middle/ High School Winner

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

SOUPer Bowl - Students Tackle Hunger

Allen D. Nease High School

10550 Ray Road

Ponte Verdra, Florida 32081

Contact: Patti Ann Farrar

Phone: 904-547-8300

Mission: *To help raise funds for Blessings in a Backpack, which provides food for students in St. Johns County.*

Allen Nease High School, Valley Ridge Academy, other schools and the community help families in need through the Blessings in a Backpack initiative. They purchase, pack and deliver backpacks each week to hungry children in local schools in an effort to tackle hunger in St. Johns County. Currently, the program serves over 500 students in the county, and the cost to fill a child's weekly backpack for an entire year is \$100. To raise money for this program, Allen Nease High School and Valley Ridge Academy hosted a community event. Over 15 favorite local chefs teamed up to prepare and serve a line of delectable soups. Participants sampled a large assortment of soups then selected a soup bowl, designed by a student, to take home as a memento of the event. Other local business partners assisted by providing food and donations.

Grade Levels: K-12

Budget: \$5,000

Parents Served: 230

Students Served: 230

Region 2: Middle/ High Schools

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Building a Community with Teamwork

Richardson Middle School

646 SE Pennsylvania Street

Lake City, Florida 32025

Contact: Terry Lamoreaux

Phone: 386-755-8130

Mission: *To engage, involve and inform the parent-teacher community of Richardson Middle School.*

During the summer of 2015, a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) was re-established to engage the parents of Richardson Middle School. In order to fulfil that mission, the PTO focused on a project to beautify the school that included creating wall murals for display in the school's cafeteria, media center and gymnasium; and repainting the buildings and classroom doors. Throughout the school year, the PTO continued to engaged parents by planning a fall festival, organizing fundraisers and recruiting parents through social media. Attendance at Family Engagement events increased due in part to the PTO's efforts. They worked to improve communication with families and the community and to respond to the needs of the school.

Grade Levels: 6-8

Budget: \$500, in kind services and donations

Parents Served: all

Students Served: 573

REGION 3

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

Region3: Elementary School Winner

SEMINOLE COUNTY

Heathrow Hearts

Heathrow Elementary School

5715 Markham Woods Road

Lake Mary, Florida 32746

Contact: Michelle Wilson

Phone: 407-320-6850

Mission: *To help schools and children in need by providing goods, volunteers and/or financial support*

Heathrow Hearts is a program designed to teach children about giving and sharing. Students are introduced to volunteerism and participate in charitable causes through monthly Heart Drives and other such events that take place throughout the school year. For the monthly drives, families donate items such as books, school supplies, backpacks, socks, underwear, toiletries and food to students at the school in need. Heathrow also hosted an anti-bullying and stranger-danger program for students from all Title I schools. The program offered lessons on self-esteem and on being kind. Before the holiday break, the school hosted the school's first ever Winter Party, in partnership with Seminole County Food Services. As a reminder of the joy of giving, a "Wall of Hearts" is displayed proudly in the lunchroom.

Grade Levels: K-5

Budget: \$500 and donations

Parents Served: 1,100

Students Served: 654

Region 3: Elementary Schools

Martin County

JBE Green Team Kids' Club

Jensen Beach Elementary School

2525 NE Savannah Road

Jensen Beach, Florida 34957

Contact: Joan Gibbons

Phone: 772-219-1555

Mission: *To bring students and the community together through gardening and other activities that raise awareness of the environment.*

The Green Team Kids' Club is a schoolwide initiative that engages teachers, administrators, students, parents and community members in gardening, environmental studies, school beautification and the promotion of healthy behaviors. The club provides opportunities for students to create a healthier and cleaner school environment. Students learn how to recycle and reuse materials for art projects, and the gardens serve as an outdoor classroom for science, math, creative writing, art and ecology.

Grade Levels: 3-5

Budget: \$500 in-kind, \$500 sponsors

Parents Served: 5

Students Served: 40

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Rivers Edge Elementary Annual Camp Out

Rivers Edge Elementary School

5600 NE St. James Drive

Port St. Lucie, Florida 34983

Contact: Zahadia Ceballos

Phone: 772-429-5502

Mission: *To promote fun and to build family and community connections.*

Every year, Rivers Edge Elementary School hosts a Camp Out on school grounds. The idea was conceived over 20 years ago and seeks to provide families with an opportunity to experience the benefits of camping. This event begins on Friday night and lasts until Saturday morning. Families experience the fun of sleeping in a tent, sitting around a campfire, hiking on the school's nature trails and reading as a family in tents. Camp Out also helps families build positive connections with other families as they sit and talk around the campfire. The media center is open, providing books with fun reading activities that families can engage in.

Grade Levels: K-5

Budget: \$991

Parents Served: 62

Students Served: 93

VOLUSIA COUNTY

Laurel Villas Tutoring Blue Lake Elementary School

282 North Blue Lake Avenue
Deland, Florida 32724
Contact: Amanda Cane
Phone: 386-255-6475

Mission: *To increase students' academic achievement by providing additional educational support.*

The Laurel Villas Tutoring Program at Blue Lake Elementary School was developed to provide academic support to many students who live in the Laurel Villas Apartment complex and to reduce the transportation barrier that many families encounter. Teachers met to analyze student data and to design a student instructional focus plan. Families were notified of the location and time of the each session. Learning activities chosen for the project included reading, learning games, interactive learning and use of the Ready Reading Program. Local business partners donated door prizes and snacks.

Grade Levels: 3-5
Budget: \$1,800
Parents Served: 31
Students Served: 56

ORANGE COUNTY

Hydroponic Sustainability Winegard Elementary School

7055 Winegard Road
Orlando, Florida 32809
Contact: Dawn Chehab
Phone: 407-317-3323

Mission: *To promote a love of lifelong learning, foster healthier lifestyles and teach sustainability through partnerships among students, families, schools and community.*

Winegard Elementary built a hydroponic garden to provide hands-on learning experiences for students. The purpose was to combat food waste and promote healthier eating habits. Community partners provided support by offering nutrition classes for both students and parents, hosting parent/teacher workshops and providing other in-kind donations. The garden also enhanced the educational setting and provided benefits to the community.

Grade Levels: K-5
Budget: \$4,800
Parents Served: 60
Students Served: 789

OSCEOLA COUNTY

Read Aloud Challenge Hickory Tree Elementary School

2355 Old Hickory Tree Road
Saint Cloud, Florida 34772
Contact: Rosanna Palmer
Phone: 407-870-4600

Mission: *To support parent involvement in literacy development, promote a love of reading and increase reading scores.*

For the Read Aloud challenge, parents were asked to read aloud to their child for 20 minutes a day, for at least six days a week, for five weeks. Parents were invited to check out Sunshine State Young Readers books from the library throughout the challenge. They also received information about how reading aloud can support student reading skills. Students received paper links of various colors to track their read-aloud time. The links were connected to form a chain and displayed in the cafeteria. At the conclusion of the challenge, students who completed the challenge made a video and had a “movie premier” with popcorn.

Grade Levels: PreK-5
Budget: \$125
Parents Served: 404
Students Served: 404

BREVARD COUNTY

Positive Behavior Support/Family Bingo Night MILA Elementary School

288 West Merritt Avenue
Merritt Island, Florida 32953
Contact: Monica Weber
Phone: 321-454-1070

Mission: *To create a positive school culture by involving parents, community members, faculty, staff and students in the implementation of MILA's Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Program.*

MILA Elementary hosted a Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Program (PBIS) information and BINGO/spirit night. The purpose of the event was to inform families about the PBIS program and encourage them to become more involved in the success of students. MILA's R.E.A.C.H. stands for: Respect for people and property; Exhibit safe behavior; Actively engaged; Courteous language; and Hold yourself responsible. Families received information about program expectations and student incentives, played BINGO and participated in Chick-fil-A spirit night to raise funds for student incentives. Community and business partners provided donations in support of this event.

Grade Levels: K- 6
Budget: \$0
Parents Served: 92
Students Served: 105

REGION 3

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

Region 3: Middle/High Schools Winner

OSCEOLA COUNTY

Family Literacy Night

Neptune Middle School

2727 Neptune Road

Kissimmee, Florida 34744

Contact: Diana Triplett

Phone: 407-870-4080

Mission: *To foster student interest in reading and writing.*

Family Literacy Night at Neptune Middle School was the culminating event of Celebrate Literacy Week. The mission of the annual event is to stimulate student interest in reading and writing. Planning and financial support for this event is a joint effort of the Literacy Leadership Team, content area teachers and the School Advisory Council. This year, Roland Smith, a young adult fiction and nonfiction writer, met with parents and students to share his work and spur student interest in reading and writing. Throughout Celebrate Literacy Week, instructors from each subject area participated in delivering lessons tied to Mr. Smith's novels. Community involvement was evident through donations of merchandise and time.

Grade Levels: 6-8

Budget: \$5,000

Parents Served: 120

Students Served: 500

Region 3: Middle/High Schools

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Gold Star Memorial Project

Northport K-8 School

250 Floresta Drive

Port St. Lucie, Florida 34983

Contact: Lynne Gruszka

Phone: 772-429-5502

Mission: *To educate students and families about the Gold Star Project.*

Northport K-8 School joined local veterans groups, such as Vietnam Veterans, Chapter 566 and United Veterans of Port Saint Lucie, to educate students, families and the community about the Gold Star Memorial. The school, local veterans and a local chapter of the Gold Star Mothers brought positive educational experiences to middle school students who were taught about the Gold Star Family, the significance of the memorial and the significance of the Congressional Medal of Honor. With the help of community partnerships, the school established the Northport Gold Star Family project. Through the educational partnership, the school also hosted an event which featured the last surviving Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Mr. Hershel "Woody" Williams.

Grade Levels: 3, 6-8

Budget: \$0

Parents Served: 200

Students Served: 700

VOLUSIA COUNTY

Creating Culture Connections

Deltona High School

100 Wolf Pack Run

Deltona, Florida 32725

Contact: Carolyn Carbonell

Phone: 386-255-6475

Mission: *To increase school pride and spirit through open communication and a warm welcoming environment.*

The Creating Culture Connections program, developed and implemented at Deltona High School, seeks to increase collaboration among stakeholders. The goal of the partnership is to beautify the school, increase school pride and spirit, facilitate open communication, and provide a warm and welcoming environment for students and the community. This program strives to increase community and family involvement through an enhanced outreach effort. Events such as the Deltona High School Battle of the Boulevard Parade, the Parent Technology Seminar and the Campus Clean-up Days work to bring parents and community leaders into the unique and strong Deltona High School family.

Grade Levels: 9-12

Budget: \$15,000

Parents Served: 3,000

Students Served: 1,738

BREVARD COUNTY

Creating Connections - Creating Student Liaisons

West Shore Junior Senior High School

250 Wildcat Alley

Melbourne, Florida 32935

Contact: Terri Friend

Phone: 321-633-1000

Mission: *To support a local elementary school in their efforts to increase parent and community involvement.*

West Shore Key Club developed an innovative program focused on improving the educational environment at Harbor City Elementary School. The project centered on the creation of student liaisons between West Shore's Key Club members and Harbor City Elementary School. The goal of the effort was to promote strong bonds between the students and the school. Key Club members and their families participated in morning gardening and cleanup at the school, supported the school's fall fundraiser, provided supplies and recruited volunteers to the school. The initiative also focused on nurturing student liaison relationships, which enabled a strong bond between the students, their families and administration.

Grade Levels: 7-12

Budget: \$3,000

Parents Served: 398

Students Served: 434

REGION 4

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

Region 4: Elementary School Winner

PASCO COUNTY

Hollow Diner

Fox Hollow Elementary School

8309 Fox Hollow Drive

Port Richey, Florida 34668

Contact: Dawn Scilex

Phone: 813-794-2207

Mission: *To create and maintain a collaborative school culture among families, staff, students and community members.*

Fox Hollow families are invited to have dinner at school every Thursday night at the Hollow Diner. The Hollow Diner offers great food, homework help to all students and parenting partnership tools. Each week, a parenting partnership tool is selected that will assist families in becoming their child's learning coach. The Hollow Diner attracts families from early Head Start to fifth grade. At the dinner, a core group of families attend consistently because they need a hot meal; there are others that join because they are invested in the discussed topic or need homework help. Hollow Diner has served as few as 40 and up to 250 families. The diner not only fosters positive relationships within families, but strengthens the collaborative school culture.

Grade Levels: PreK-5

Budget: \$3,500

Parents Served: 40 each week

Students Served: 20 each week

Region 4: Elementary Schools

POLK COUNTY

1st Fall Family Dance Winston Academy of Engineering

3415 Swindell Road
Lakeland, Florida 33810
Contact: Julie Roberts
Phone: 863-534-0818

Mission: *To bring together families and community members.*

Winston Academy of Engineering partners with parents, teachers, staff and the community to bring educational programs, events, services and opportunities to students in Polk County. This year, the first Fall Family Dance enhanced communication among families by providing them with an opportunity to get to know one another. Community members donated products, talents and time. And, the night was full of fun family songs and dancing, and a photo booth to commemorate the evening.

Grade Levels: K-5
Budget: \$1,500
Parents Served: 175
Students Served: 150

MANATEE COUNTY

Looking Up Daughtrey Preparatory School of Arts and Sciences

515 63rd Avenue Street
Bradenton, Florida 34203
Contact: Lisa Heathcote
Phone: 941-708-8770

Mission: *To create interactive, multi-generational, academically focused activities for the entire family.*

Title I high school students work with Title I elementary school families to support a multi-generational approach to learning. High school students organize activities based on the core curriculum standards so that families and their children can interact. Each station introduces families to a strategy that can be replicated and practiced at home. High school students serve as role models for younger students and have the opportunity to put leadership skills into practice. Community organizations donate snacks, prizes and materials. Various community members serve as community member ambassadors that help to ensure families feel welcomed.

Grade Levels: K-5
Budget: \$50
Parents Served: 60
Students Served: 48

LAKE COUNTY

Chickee Hut Renovation

Lake Park Elementary

1295 14th Avenue North

Naples, Florida 34102

Contact: Christopher Marker

Phone: 239-377-0151

Mission: *To restore an authentic Native American Chickee so that it can be used as a campus-based educational learning and meeting space.*

In partnership with the Everglades Foundation, the Lake Park Elementary School Advisory Council restored the Chickee landmark structure. The structure was built many years ago and had fallen into a state of disrepair. The goal was to make the area more versatile so that it could be used as an outdoor teaching/learning area. Since the renovation was completed, teachers have enjoyed teaching classes in the outdoor area. In addition, gardens and landscaping have help enhance the outdoor setting making it a regular meeting place for families awaiting the end of each school day.

Grade Levels: K-5

Budget: \$40,000 in-kind services and donations

Parents Served: 1000

Students Served: 519

PINELLAS COUNTY

Engagement for All

Douglas L. Jamerson Jr. Elementary

1200 37th Street South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33711

Contact: Lizz Singh

Phone: 727-588-6000

Mission: *To develop a positive school environment that engages all families.*

Engagement for All encompasses a schoolwide philosophy that all students achieve at higher levels when the whole family is engaged. The three-tiered approach provides families with the opportunity to be involved at any level. Tier I activities consist of PTA-sponsored events, engineering expos, parent workshops and volunteer opportunities. Tier II are theme-based events that give students the opportunity to showcase their work. Tier III incorporates volunteer opportunities and parent workshops. Regular communication through newsletters, flyers, email and social media encourages families to join the conversation about becoming more involved. Responsibility for the program is shared by the PTA, School Advisory Council, Leadership Team, staff and students.

Grade Levels: PreK-5

Budget: \$250

Parents Served: 800

Students Served: 578

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Academic Parent Teacher Teams

West Tampa Elementary

2700 West Cherry Street

Tampa, Florida 33607

Contact: Mercy Steady and Patricia Hordge

Phone: 813-872-5254

Mission: *To increase student learning and performance by partnering with parents and families using the Academic Parent Teacher Team (APTT) model.*

West Tampa Elementary School successfully implemented the Academic Parent Teacher Team (APTT) family-engagement model for parent-teacher partnerships. The APTT program is a tool to enhance student learning. West Tampa's APTT program creates a cohesive community environment that includes class meetings and individual conference sessions with families. Teachers share individualized academic data with each parent and provide parents with hands-on materials. Throughout the year, parents are able to see how their hard work positively impacts their children's academic success.

Grade Levels: PreK-5

Budget: \$2,800

Parents Served: 1,000

Students Served: 529

REGION 4

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

Region 4: Middle/High School Winner

PASCO COUNTY

Weekend Backpack Program and Bulldog Boutique

Zephyrhills High School

6335 12th Street

Zephyrhills, Florida 33542

Contact: Diane Vaughan

Phone: 813-794-2207

Mission: *To provide food and clothing for students in need.*

The mission of the program, Weekend Backpack and Bulldog Boutique, is to feed and clothe homeless students and families. Students collect new and used backpacks and use monetary donations to buy food to feed students for the weekend. Currently, 19 schools have a weekend backpack program all because they were inspired by the program at Zephyrhills High School. Many community groups and clubs donate age-appropriate new and gently used clothes to supply the Bulldog Boutique, where students in need can pick out clothing, shoes and school supplies.

Grade Levels: 9-12

Budget: \$10 per backpack

Parents Served: 25

Students Served: 74

Region 4: Middle/High Schools

POLK COUNTY

Cay Day

Lawton Chiles Middle Academy

400 North Florida Avenue
Lakeland, Florida 33801
Contact: Sue Harwell
Phone: 863-499-2742

Mission: *To develop compassion and empathy for others through hands-on activities that connect to literature.*

The novel, *The Cay*, follows the story of survival, empathy and compassion as two unlikely strangers learn to depend on each other. Lawton Chiles Middle Academy models their Cay Day on experiences of struggle similar to the novel's young protagonist. Students complete obstacles blindfolded, read with obscured vision, maneuver a wheelchair up ramps and more. The hands-on activities allow students to experience just what it is like to live with a disability and how to overcome adversity.

Grade Levels: 6
Budget: \$100
Parents Served: 25
Students Served: 220

PINELLAS COUNTY

Wall to Wall Academies

Clearwater High School

540 South Hercules Avenue
Clearwater, Florida 333764
Contact: Mary Roble
Phone: 727-588-5050

Mission: *To build relationships that will support the school in providing students with the experiences and skills needed to develop a lifelong positive foundation.*

Through the Wall-to-Wall Academies, community leaders provide students with opportunities to acquire industry certifications as well as real world experiences. By establishing small learning communities within the school, students are able to decide their education based on their interests and career goals. Business partners commit to job shadowing and internship opportunities relevant to their academy. The academy boards meet to offer curriculum, support and program direction.

Grade Levels: 9-12
Budget: neutral
Parents Served: all
Students Served: 1,972

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

World of a Teen

Steinbrenner High School

5575 West Lutz Lake Fern Road

Lutz, Florida 33558

Contact: Judy Pressley

Phone: 813-872-5254

Mission: *To increase parent involvement and participation with their children and the community.*

The World of a Teen program addresses the needs of teens and prepares them for success in high school and beyond. The program addresses the needs and challenges of teens and families by bridging the communication gap between families and teens, and school and community. World of a Teen provides a safe place for teens to meet to discuss issues relevant to them and to learn how to successfully navigate high school. Parents and students hear presentations on school expectations, community-service opportunities and topics that are of importance to high school students.

Grade Levels: 9-12

Budget: \$150

Parents Served: 300+

Students Served: 500+

REGION 5

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

Region 5: Elementary School Winner

PALM BEACH COUNTY

A Night at the Zoo

Grassy Waters Elementary

3550 N. Jog Road

West Palm Beach, Florida 33411

Contact: Cassandra M. Kenski

Phone: 561-434-8789

Mission: *To provide interactive learning opportunities for students, parents and the community while celebrating student achievement.*

The mission of the program, A Night at the Zoo, is to provide interactive learning opportunities for students, parents and the community while celebrating student achievement. As part of the STEM initiative at Grassy Waters Elementary School, classrooms were transformed by students into habitats. Each homeroom class chose an animal within that habitat to research and examine, then designed and built an interactive animal display, and finally created a multimedia presentation. During A Night at the Zoo, parents and community members were warmly welcomed onto campus and given a map to guide them through the zoo and its exhibits. Students created small souvenirs from reusable material that could be purchased at the Zoo Gift Shop. Over 200 families participated.

Grade Levels: PreK-5

Budget: \$200

Parents Served: 240

Students Served: 751

REGION 5

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

Region 5: Middle/High School Winner

BROWARD COUNTY

Broward County Council PTA

Apollo Middle School

6800 Arthur Street

Hollywood, Florida 33024

Program Contact: Maxine Lewers

Phone Number: 754-323-2900

Mission: *To provide services to Broward County Public Schools' students and communities.*

The Broward County Council PTA opened two clothing banks at Apollo Middle School and Lauderdale Early Learning and Family Resource Center to address the need for clothing and school uniforms. To help alleviate hunger, the PTA held events to celebrate the holidays, providing food and groceries for Thanksgiving dinner to over 900 students and families, and Christmas gifts and gift cards. Families were given information and tools to help address some of their personal challenges. The program is funded by donations and supported through partnerships and volunteer time. Last year, 800-1000 families received free school uniforms, new sneakers, backpacks and other school supplies. Over 200 families were able to receive clothing, besides uniforms, for siblings and parents. Apollo Middle School parents and staff jointly developed the events and activities in an effort to increase parent and student participation in the school.

Grade Levels: K-12

Budget: \$2,000

Parents Served: 1,200

Students Served: 1,500

Region 5: Middle/High Schools

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Family Literacy Night

Lake Worth Community High School

1701 Lake Worth Road

Lake Worth, Florida 33460

Contact: Mrs. Howard

Phone: 561-434-8789

Mission: *To connect parents and students to literacy.*

Lake Worth Community High School's Family Involvement Literacy Night was a successful event that included parents, students, business partners, faculty members and administrators. Two community partners spoke as keynote speakers for the event. A local author spoke to the audience about her experience with writing and publishing. A local comic book store owner shared his experience as a student and how he became interested in reading through comic books. Finally, students selected a comic book and novel to take home.

Grade Levels: 9-12

Budget: \$310

Parents Served: 26

Students Served: 25



For information on participating in the
Family and Community Involvement Awards Program,
please contact your School District's Volunteer Department or the:

Florida Department of Education
Bureau of Family and Community Outreach
325 West Gaines Street, Room 1444
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400
Telephone: 850-245-0847



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
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