

## **Volunteer Services 2013**

The volunteer program continues to grow.

## Camdenton R-III School District Volunteers in Public Schools Volunteers 2012-2013

#### Making a Difference in the Lives of Others

Charli Allee Norman T Allee Marianette Allen Valerie Allen Tammy Andreasen Debra Arnold Ronda Arnold Diane Ayers Joyce Baker Joyce Lee Baker Sharon Ballard Kerry Balwant Pam Barrett Melanie Bartron Erica Baumbach Kee Baxter Christy Bays Sistie Bender Nina Bergthold Jan Berry Amy Betta Wendy Blomberg Nondas Bogart Sheryl Boos Barbara Brand

**Bobbie Bridges** 

**Brittany Briggs** Michele Brother Donnie Brown Misty Brown Beth Brownell Terry Buchholtz Mary Bullock Cheri Burkhart Christina Burns Connie Burns Vicky Burns Meagan Campbell Rean Campbell Ronnie Capps Pauline Carnley JoAnne Champney Minerva Chaparro Therese Chester Kris Christensen **Evelyn Clements** James Clements Shera Collins Margie Cook Tina Cooper Lynn Crawford Marilyn Custer Connie Dampier Lillian Darensburg

Ingrid Davis Jenny Davis Jena Demark Kelly Diehl Tara Dishman Heather Dissen Kim Dlugosh Jennifer Dobachesky Becky Dow Ron Duggan Jessica Dutton Christen Easter Jennifer Eblen Sandy Ehret Amy Erickson Nancy Eveland **Destiny Eymer** JoAnn Fair Carol Farrand Monika Farthing Deborah Flanders Ethel Fowler Theresa Frederick Linda Frymyer Nicole Fuglsang Cassie Gemes Jeannette George

Cara Gerdiman

Michael Gilley Bud Kidder Mika Mulford Debra Godde Allen Kimberling Patty Mulich Melody Golden Linda Kimberling Joe Murray Jo Ann Gornet Teresa Murray Mary King Janeice Griffin Kelsey Knight Byron Myers Martha Grzegorczyk Diane Knoll Stephanie Nance

Cindy GumJennifer KnottsHB NeisTammy HaasLeslie KowalIngrid NiemannAmy HadfieldJanet KueckerJamie Norton

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Amanda Hafley Robert Kuecker Terri O'Sullivan
Mary Hanley Angela Landon Shannon Odle
Jody Hanner Kelly Lawler Jackie Onstott
Floralie Harris Joshua Layde Dolores Ovington
Jessica Harrison Margaret Leahy Robert Parker

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Margie Hockersmith Bobby Lovell Kim Pool Tom Porter Lisa Hollingsworth Marla Lumley Ray Powell Sheri Hopkins-Ehase Carol Lynch Gina Hudson Tonia Manship Melanie Powers Michael Huebner Shawn Marshall Karen Pragman Bev Huey Tina Martin Warren Pray Linda Hughes Susan Mason Erin Price

Marcia Hutchinson Tyler Mathis Merrill Reel Kenneth Jackson Jeff Maxwell Tisha Reinhart Shelli Janes-Hanks Sally McClelland Andrea Rhoades Jennifer Jenkins Becky McDermott Angela Righter Jo McElwee Ann Johnson Courtney Riley Cheryl Johnson Nancy McElyea Troy Risner Jackie Jones Diane McGuire Jennifer Risner

Sara Jones Angela McNerney Jerome Robins Ricky Jones Earline Medcalf Tanya Robinson Lenny Kaiser Juana Yaznin Medina Emelie Rodriguez Dick Kautzmann Brian Meyers Chandler Rogers Rosie Keenev Reggie Miller Susan Rosenthal Kathy Keith **Brad Mitchell** Mindi Sales Sherrie Kennedy Joan Mitchell Judy Sauerteig

Brenda Kenniston Roger Mitchell Krystal Schiefelbein
Jonna Kenniston Jackie Moore Donna Schulte
Ralph Kenniston Melissa Moore Robin Schuman
Andrea Kerr Irene Mozer Kim Scott

Jamie Scott Tim Scott Stacy Sederwall Janie See Christy Sharp Rebekah Sharp Jeni Simpson Marie Skinner Anna Slavens Rhonda Smith **Angel Smitherman** Suzette Snodderley Julie Stamper Carey Stawarz Ronda Stehle Sally Stevenson

Lianne Stone
RobynLynn Stutesman
Steve Sutton
Deana Sylvester
Sherri Tangsrud
Alice Tate
Paul Thompson

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Alice Tate
Paul Thompson
Aubrey Turner
Kathy Valbracht
Philana Vanskike
Deidre Vansyoc
Marlana Vaught
Anna VonSande
Merri Lynn Voss
John Waener
Rose Walker

Chuck Wanamaker
Joyce Wanamaker
Mark Wayman
Jennifer Weaver
Edwin Wedig
Nancy Wedig
Rhonda Wilkening
Valerie Wilkerson
Roz Wilson
Judy Wingate
Debbie Wright

Debbie Yates

## **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**

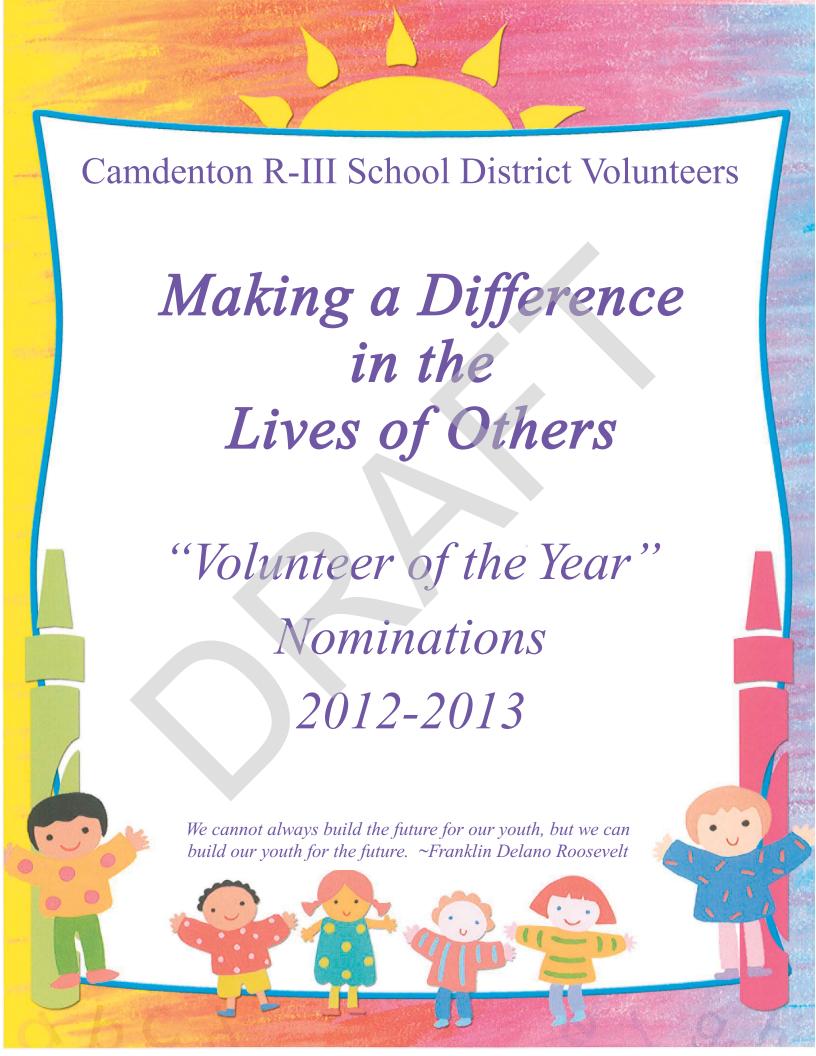
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, held on May 16, was attended by 170 volunteers, guests, and staff members.





Twenty-one volunteers were nominated for our outstanding Volunteer of the Year award. This year, Barbara Brand from Hurricane Deck received the honor. You will find in the pages following all of the submissions. I believe by reading the comments you'll see just how important the role of a district volunteer is.





#### **Kee Baxter**



My volunteer started off this school year by being assigned to my classroom. She seemed surprised that she was assigned only to my class. She stated that when she volunteered at the elementary school last year, she was accustomed to helping multiple teachers throughout the year. Prior to this, Mrs. Cramer was becoming

overwhelmed with everything that needed to get done for a new school year. So, naturally, I asked my volunteer if she'd be willing to help Mrs. Cramer. My volunteer was ecstatic and was eager to even help more teachers if they needed it. Coincidently, my partner, Mrs. Carey, was also hoping for a volunteer. So, you guessed it, my volunteer was asked if she'd be willing to assist Mrs. Carey with her workload, and she happily assisted until she got her own volunteer. Throughout the year, our computer teacher, Ms. Seaton, also needed assistance with lamination or other assignments and my volunteer was always there to help.

My volunteer not only seemed to enjoy making our hectic teacher lives easier, but she did it with such a bubbly attitude. Many times, she'd be the one to brighten our days when she'd always arrive on time (or before) and greet us with such a contagious jovial attitude.

Our volunteer was also very responsible. She rarely missed and if she couldn't make it on her regularly assigned Thursday, she'd email me to see if she could come in on Wednesday to make it up. It's as if she didn't want to let us or our students down.

We could always count on our volunteer to complete any task needed for our lessons. Her eagerness gave us confidence to proceed with activities throughout the year that would ultimately serve our students. No task was too difficult for her and she paid close attention to detail to get the job done correctly. Not only was she a perfectionist, but she would also stay as long as it took to complete the tasks that we'd present to her. Some days, she'd stay all day long and would still return with a positive attitude.

We love our volunteer and appreciate her sooooo much! She wanted to make our lives easier from the very beginning, and, in doing so; she made a big impact on our students' education! She absolutely deserves to be recognized as this year's Volunteer of the Year!!!

Submitted by Mary Galan and Cindy Cramer
Oak Ridge Intermediate Fifth Grade Teachers
along with Oak Ridge Computer Lab Teacher Dee Seaton

#### Nina Bergthold

We would like to recommend our volunteer for Volunteer of the Year! She has worked with us for years! She began as Cheryl's volunteer so long ago she can't remember the number of years! She added Stefanie a few years later and Cassie for three! She has even added Kelly Mooney and Angie Stolte over the years. We couldn't do our job without her! She is



here every Tuesday and if she can't make it, she comes another day! No task is off limits with her! She will do anything for us! There are many tasks that she does

automatically, even if we don't ask. Our volunteer knows what needs to be done, and she does it! (Even when we don't remember it needs to be done!)

One of the best things about our volunteer is that she comes in several days during our workweek in August! She helps us unpack, organize, prepare bulletin boards, prepare papers for the kids plus much more! All we have to do is ask!

She is a wonderful person & friend! We are so lucky to have her volunteering for us at Dogwood!!!!

Submitted by Stefanie Wirths, Cheryl Hymes,

& Cassie Dickerson

Dogwood Elementary Second Grade Teachers



#### **Barbara Brand**

I am so excited to have this opportunity to introduce my volunteer to you. I think this is close to her eighth year in our building and around her fifth year specifically with my classroom. I didn't want to ask her how long it has been for fear she would know what I was up to. I teach at a lower grade level, and many times our

lesson activities require things to be prepped ahead of time. Over the years, this has meant making a million hole punches, cutting out hundreds of shapes, stapling thousands of books together, laminating billions of center activities, and I can't even come up with a number for how many copies she must have made! On top of all this prep work, she has also read with struggling readers, organized my mountains of stuff, cleaned and disinfected, graded papers, helped with quarterly assessments, filed, filed, and filed some more! Would you believe she has a smile on her face through all of this? It's true! She even came back right away after having knee surgery! That's dedication!

I'm always scared, at the end of each year, to ask her if she wants to come back. She always says, "If you'll have me." Not only will I have her, I don't know that I could do without her. I am extra scared to ask the question this year. I am a mentor to a first year teacher, so my volunteer is not only doing my prep work, but my mentee's as well! That's a total of forty students and two grateful teachers that are having our lives blessed by her dedication.

I think it's important that you know not only what my volunteer does for my classroom, but what she does for me as a person. You see, it's real easy to let teaching encompass your whole life. It can take away precious time from your family, from your sleep schedule, and from your community commitments.

If you let teaching take those things away from you, that's when you are headed for teacher burn out. If my volunteer didn't take care of all of those things I mentioned, I would have to do it. Some people may say, "well, just don't do those things." That's not an option. Camdenton teachers are the best. We will do it, because we do what's best for kids, even if we

sacrifice other areas. I am so blessed and so thankful to not have to make that choice. The hours my volunteer puts in, allows me to continue to have a passion for teaching and a life outside of school hours.

I just can't thank her enough for all she has done for me and my students. A Christmas present and an end of the year present just can't speak the volumes of thanks I have. A Volunteer of the Year award would be closer, but honestly, she's even worth more than that.

Submitted by Jennifer Lakey
Hurricane Deck Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

#### Michelle Brother

I am happy to nominate our volunteer for the "Volunteer of the Year" honor. Not only does she help me with anything I need her to do, she also helps at least four other teachers down my hall. The three words that really describe our volunteer would be dependable, cheerful, and flexible.

First, we can always depend on our volunteer to be at school when she says she will be. If her work schedule gets changed, she always lets us know ahead

of time that she will be coming on a different day. Whatever we ask her to complete, we know it will be done correctly. I have never had to redo anything she has prepared for me.

Another wonderful attribute our volunteer has is her cheerfulness.

She always comes in with a smile, and she always seems so happy to do all the countless things we ask of her.

Finally, it is wonderful to have someone so flexible to work with. If she needs to wait on one of us to gather materials, or if she needs to come back after she has done other teachers' work, she will be there. I especially appreciate her flexibility, since I'm never sure what I want her to do, just that I definitely have things to do.

My volunteer has been helping me now for several years. It always amazes me that she is so willing to come and help, even after or before her work shift. She is a true supporter of our school. Her actions, and those of other volunteers like her, speak louder than any words could.

Most important of all, I feel like I have made a wonderful friend, a friend who gives so much without expecting anything in return. Thank you, friend, for all that you do.

Submitted by Lolly Whittle
Oak Ridge Intermediate Sixth Grade Teacher

#### Minerva Chaparro

Faster than a copy machine, more powerful than knowledge, and able to complete many tasks in a single day. Look up in the sky... it's a not another teacher...it's not me trying to do everything...

it's my awesome volunteer!



My volunteer is truly a super hero in my classroom, not only for me, but most importantly for the students I teach. As a super hero, she is dedicated to the students and me by completing whatever is asked of her - making copies, filing papers, putting books together, hanging displays of student work in the hallways, and sorting unifix cubes

into towers of 10 cubes each - just a few of the thousands of jobs she has the pleasure to complete while volunteering in my classroom.

And because she is such a super hero in my classroom, I think that everyone should be able to experience her, so I volunteer her for projects at our school also. Most recently, I volunteered her to die cut shapes for all teachers to use with all students for their School-Wide Positive Behavior Support (SW-PBS) program in their classrooms. She not only used our shapes at Hawthorn, but she went to Dogwood and used their shapes too just so we could have a good variety!!! In addition, she routinely laminates all items that need lamination for Hawthorn.

When a project takes more than one visit to complete, she quickly tells me that she can come another day or take it home to complete. I ever so kindly try to remind her, that it is ok if it doesn't get done right away. After all, if I had to complete it, it would take forever!!! And after the reminders, she wins...the project goes home and magically gets delivered by a bright eyed and bushy tailed young gentleman with

a smile - completed and ready to use in the morning.

These are just a few examples and reasons why my volunteer is considered a SUPER HERO.

In closing, I would like to nominate my volunteer for Volunteer of the Year for the Camdenton Schools for one simple reason - she is a super hero and a "Super Volunteer!"

Submitted by Lisa Vasquez Hawthorn Elementary Fourth Grade Teacher

## Heather Dissen

It is my pleasure to nominate my volunteer for this honor. My volunteer has been with me since the 2000-2001 school year, and during that time I have had the privilege of teaching all three of her sons. When her kids "aged-out" of my program, I was concerned that I would lose my lady; however, she graciously chose to stay with me, which has been such a blessing since she knows the ins-and-outs of how my program works. It's amazing to think that she has devoted 13 years of her life to being such a dedicated volunteer!!! For me, it's definitely Lucky #13!!!

Here are some examples of what she contributes to my students and myself: I have a position in two schools, and in addition to the two academic schedules at each school, I also direct two choirs, one of which is housed in a third building. Between the classes and the choirs, I meet weekly with close to 800 students. My lady regularly helps me with secretarial requests such as copying, sorting and distributing letters of information to any combination of those 800 students, depending on whether it is information relating to a classroom assignment or choir function. She also then helps with tabulating the returned information from the parents of these 800 students, which often involves separating orders and tabulating money for the myriad

aspects of organizing events and activities for the various groups. She helps to prepare classroom activities, ranging from student handouts to computer printouts, and helps prepare the choral groups for their rehearsals and performances.



She has also become a familiar and friendly face to my students, whether it is the students she sees in the classroom on the days she comes in to volunteer (and she always has a smile on her face, both for them and for me - and I don't always know which one of us needs it the most!) to the students and parents that she meets

at our concerts (yes, after 13 years, she still attends our concerts and activities, both to take care of some of the logistical necessities of CD orders and selling St. Louis Cardinals tickets, as well as to simply enjoy and support the students and choirs that she has come to know and love), or separating, labeling & distributing 800 class and choir t-shirts per year... the list goes on and on.

On top of the time she spends at school, she has also taken it upon herself to spend extra time at home to help finish some of the tasks for the classroom or choirs. Often it ends up being some of the secretarial tasks that she didn't have time to finish during her volunteer time, but rather than leaving them for me to finish, she takes them with her and brings them back completed the next week. This is time for her to spend with her own family and family business, and yet she gives it willingly to help with the success and experiences of "her" students.

As I have said, it's amazing to think that my lady has devoted 13 years of volunteering- better said, of "gifting"- my students and myself with her time and conscientious efforts. She has become a valuable asset to my program, as well as a personal friend. On behalf of my 800 students and myself, I ask that you recognize and bestow upon my volunteer the "Volunteer of the Year Award, for all that she has done for these students and myself.

Submitted by Andrea Mack Hawthorn Elementary Music Teacher

#### **Sandy Ehret**

I would like to nominate my volunteer for volunteer of the year. She is beyond wonderful to me and my students. She dedicates two days of her

week to spend with my class. She is always so positive and encouraging to my students when she works one-on-one with them. She has helped my students tremendously by giving them loving support while she is working with them to achieve their goals. She also helps me in the classroom when I am teaching reading groups. As a kindergarten teacher, I feel I need to be available to circulate around the room to make sure the students are on task and doing their work, but I am not able to do that when I am teaching reading groups during our literacy center time. My volunteer helps alleviate my stress and worry by circulating around the room when I am unable to do so. She talks with the children about their activities; she plays games with them, and answers the many questions they have when I am "off limits". She also stays for lunch and spends time talking and visiting with the children getting to know them and their lives. When we hosted Grandparent's day, she was the substitute grandma for the children who did not have anyone attend. She made those children feel loved and included in

children feel loved and included in our activities. As an example of how kind and generous she is, on grandparents day I was so busy and preoccupied with crowd control that I forgot to get my own lunch tray and bring it back to the room to eat. She gladly gave me her lunch and went back to stand in a very long line to get another one.

I also want to add that she is my cheerleader. She is always telling me how wonderful a teacher I am, and how lucky the students are to be in my class. This keeps me going on the days that are difficult to get through. I always look forward to her coming into my class. I know that she "has my back" when I am busy with reading groups, or she will give that needy student some one on one time when I am unable to do so. She has even told me to call her if I need extra help on her non-volunteer days. I haven't called her yet to come in, but I know that she is willing if I ever need her to do so. I can't say enough wonderful things about my volunteer! Even if she doesn't win, she is the best in my eyes!

Submitted by Sandra Richardson

Dogwood Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

#### JoAnn Gornet

Hurricane Deck is very fortunate, in that we have several very dedicated and diverse volunteers. One volunteer stands out and has been with us for a long time.

A "Hurricane" accurately describes our volunteer who



volunteers at Hurricane Deck Elementary and has for the past seven years. We did not realize that we could use a volunteer in the office. Now she volunteers at least twice a week and sometimes more, depending on the need. She is a dynamo and has come to be a very important part of our school. Our volunteer and her husband retired to the Lake and, fortunately for us, she

couldn't just sit and relax.

Our volunteer moved to the Lake from St. Louis where she was employed as a school secretary. She had wonderful ideas and lots of enthusiasm.

Our volunteer started out doing just copying, laminating and cutting. Soon her abilities were being utilized by the entire staff. Eventually, she was doing everything: including assorted projects for the teachers. There are times she figures ways to simplify projects. Everyone started giving her work, including the special teachers. Some days she has been so busy that she was here all day. There are times she takes certain projects home and recruits her husband to help her cut and paste.

She helps me in the office to get ready for teacher workweek. She is also here during workweek to assist the teachers. Our volunteer makes all the copies for the office and puts together packets for certain handouts, not to mention the packets for the first day of school. She has volunteered on days that I am out of the office. She comes and answers the phone and helps keep the office afloat in times of need.

Our volunteer always goes above and beyond what is asked of her. She is always pleasant and cheerful, bringing a ray of sunshine to the building. She



is available to everyone at Hurricane Deck and does it all with a smile. Along with volunteering at Hurricane Deck, she volunteered on the main campus at Dogwood. She has helped Joi put together mass mailings. Her motto is "no job



is too small." I could go on and on and still never list everything she does.

Our Hurricane Deck staff is extremely thankful and appreciative of this wonderful person. We hope our volunteer is around for many years too come, as she is a true asset to our school and has become a part of the Hurricane Deck family.

Submitted by the Hurricane Deck Elementary Staff

#### Shelli Janes-Hanks

I would like to nominate my volunteer for the Volunteer of the Year award. She is FANTASTIC!

I don't know what I would do without her! She is so efficient and reliable that I know that I can depend on her every week to get my projects and copies done for me. At times I feel guilty of "loading her up" on too much work and tell her that if she doesn't get it all done, that's ok and I will finish it up or she can just finish it next week, but, to my amazement, she always gets it done and with a smile! I admire her so much!

Even when she was going through a very difficult time in her life,

she still made it a priority to come in and volunteer and keep her commitment to me and my class. Speaking of my class, they love her too! When she comes in to pick up projects or drop them off, her arms are so full of hugs and she can barely get out of the door. They know she is the lady that makes all their fun projects and class work for them. Not only does she help me, but she is also seen everywhere in the school. She helps pass out snacks to each classroom, she helps with school picture days, she helps with Grandparent's Day, and numerous other events that I'm sure I have forgotten to mention. I couldn't ask for a better volunteer! She seems to be able to read my mind and knows just what to do and how I needed it done. If it were not for my volunteer, I would spend several more hours a week at school

running off my own papers, assembling take-home books, cutting out die-cuts, preparing special projects, and other tasks that often seem endless.....

I feel so blessed to have been given the opportunity to get know my volunteer and find out what a wonderful asset she is to our school.

Submitted by Sandra Richardson

Dogwood Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

#### Jennifer Jenkins

It is always so exciting to make a new friend! That's what I did this year when I met my new volunteer! She is so wonderful! From the very first day, she has been flexible and diligent even though my volunteer tub gets very overwhelming. I always feel a little sad, because I am so busy in the classroom, I usually don't even get to stop and visit with her when she comes in. She knows where to find my tub, and she just walks in and walks back out to get started right away in the workroom! I am sending in this nomination to let her know how very much I appreciate her help! Without her doing the copying, cutting, stapling, preparing (the list goes on and on and on and on!!!) I would never be able to provide my kindergartners with such a rich education. What she does for our classroom is so important. Not only does she allow for a richer education of our children, but she also allows me more time to be a mom, which is the most important job of all! If she were not here to help me each and every week, I would literally have to spend hours and hours at school preparing. I already spend extra hours, so



I can't even imagine my life without her! She comes in to school no matter what, even if she has to switch HER schedule around for ME!

That is going above and beyond! Actually, coming in at ALL is going above and beyond because she is a volunteer who helps just because she cares. I am looking forward to getting to know her better on a personal level. She is one of the sweetest people I know, and she is very deserving of the volunteer of the year award!



#### Jonna Kenniston

On the first day of school our volunteer, Stuffed all the papers into the welcome packets. On the second day of school our volunteer helped us, Bind those student books. On the third day of school our volunteer helped us, Grind and sharpen a million pencils On the fourth day of school our volunteer helped us, Decorate the family turkey wall...gobble gobble. On the fifth day of school our volunteer helped us, Duplicate worksheets, papers, and more. On the sixth day of school our volunteer helped us, Create hallway displays that the students would love. On the seventh day of school our volunteer, Filled in all those little test bubbles. On the eighth day of school our volunteer, Became a master at the hot glue gun. On the ninth day of school our volunteer helped us, Cut out pretty bonnets & coonskin hats.... oh Yes, coonskin hats! On the tenth day of school our volunteer, Laughed at all our bad jokes. On the eleventh day of school our volunteer, Stuffed us full of yummy snacks! On the twelfth day of school our volunteer, Became one of our greatest friends.

All school year long my volunteer helps us so that we can help our kids! These things listed above are only a few of the ways she lends a hand. My volunteer is always willing to go above and beyond to make our week go smoother. Our classrooms would be incomplete without her.

Submitted by Barb Anderson, Jamie Hedrick, and Allison Jolly Hawthorn Elementary Third Grade Teachers



#### Jonna Kenniston

I don't know where to begin when it comes to my wonderful, dedicated volunteer! She has been with me



for many years now and I have come to know her very well. She is here for me pretty much every day. She always comes down to check on me and see if there is anything I need her

to do. She is here long hours, and often takes my projects home to finish if she runs out of time. She is willing to do whatever I need done, and more! The work she does is always done in a timely manner. I am always surprised how fast she gets it all finished! Not only does she get it done but she is very organized and thoughtful about how she gets it back to me. My volunteer does so many jobs for me I can't even list them all! She copies, die cuts, takes pictures, decorates my hallway space, works with some of my students, decorates my classroom door, and so much more! She also volunteers in Hawthorn and still manages to get my work done too. She is a gem! I sing her praises! What a great volunteer, as well as friend. Over the years I have gotten to know her and have seen the super person that she is and all that she takes on. She is also a lunchroom monitor, which only puts more pressure on her busy days! She is very dedicated and I feel very fortunate to have had her for so long now. I only hope she sticks with me for many more years to come! My school life would not be the same if I didn't get to see her each day because she makes me laugh, when sometimes it's hard to do so.

I hope this expresses how valuable my volunteer is to me and how happy I am to have been blessed with such a great helper, and friend!

Submitted by Katy Cunningham

Dogwood Elementary Kindergarten Teacher



#### Diane Knoll

My Volunteer

She is dedicated to helping without any reservation. She is always ready for "my projects" big or small! She is there for me from August through May, every week and some requests are tall. She even stays all day once in a while and works so hard for my students'

learning! She sometimes works after hours and from home to make things special and just right again for the students' best. She helps with the Buddy Packs and



other projects for the school. Recesses in the sun or rain and lunch time noise brings her pleasure not pain. She is all of this and more! She is friendly, caring, smart, funny, thoughtful, considerate, fair, understanding and patient. My volunteer is very special to my students and me without her support we would be so lost!

Submitted by Kelly Mooney

Dogwood Elementary Second Grade Teacher



#### **Margaret Leahy**

A great thing happened to me six years ago; I met my perfectly amazing, reliable, devoted, loving, patient and caring volunteer. It is very hard for me to refer to her as a volunteer because I consider her a team member and a friend.

At the beginning of each year she brings in school supplies that she has purchased in case I have students that can't afford them. I also have something called "The Giving Tree" which are items that I ask parents to donate that are related to special projects through the year (for example, candy to decorate gingerbread houses, cereal to graph, etc) The items that parents don't pick off of "The Giving Tree" are always picked up by my volunteer.

My volunteer started out working with my students every other week for two hours and for the last five years she comes every week and works with my students for almost four hours. She greets each



student by name with a smile and a helping hand. She helps my students get ready for the day and talks to them about their morning. Each morning that she comes to our classroom she comes down the hall and

enters our room with a big smile and a blue bag filled with her "supplies." If we are working with coins, she brings her own coins to work with the students; she brings her own notepad to take notes on each child's progress, so that I know how they did.

Last year my volunteer had back surgery. She had to be gone for a month. As soon as she got the "all clear" from the doctor, she came back to school the next day. She came to school 3 days that first week to make up for the time she had missed working with the kids. Now do you understand what I mean by my perfectly amazing, reliable, devoted, loving, patient and caring volunteer?

When she goes on vacations she always sends the class postcards and bring them back a special treat. If she is unable to attend (which is very rare) she always lets me know a head of time and she makes that time up by coming in on a different day.

As you can see patient, kind, reliable and special are all words that describe my AMAZING Friend.

Submitted by Kim Palomo
Dogwood Elementary Kindergarten Teacher



#### Jori LeMay

There aren't enough words to express how amazing my volunteer is! Once again this school year she has devoted herself to me and my students. We are so very lucky to have her! She works so hard every week to complete many tasks that I give her. This time that she devotes, allows me to spend more time in my classroom planning new and exciting lessons for my students and integrate new teaching strategies into my classroom.

My volunteer has a very busy schedule, but still takes time each week to come serve us here at Dogwood. She is always willing to do whatever tasks I give her. (Some of them not so fun!) She has spent many hours making copy after copy, sharpening hundreds of pencils, and cutting out lamination, copying cutting out and stapling tiny booklets. Hangs things and takes things down in the hallway, colors games for literacy centers, the list goes on and on.

I am truly thankful for her time and effort that she puts into helping us out at Dogwood. Not only does my volunteer help my students and myself, but she also helps other teachers in the building. She steps up anytime our school needs help with a project or manpower to get a job done!

Not only does she come in and devote her time, but she does it with such a great attitude. She is such a positive person- who brightens the day of those who she encounters. I don't think that she realizes what a special person she is for doing what she does. I know I do and I will never forget all that she has done and continues to do every year!

Submitted by Jackie Job Dogwood Elementary Kindergarten Teacher



#### Jori LeMay

I cannot believe it's that time of year again to recognize a volunteer for Volunteer of the Year. I consider myself very lucky to have spent another school year with such a wonderful volunteer. She has been my volunteer for three consecutive years now. She has been such a helping hand and has done a great job at everything she has done for me! Last year, my volunteer was recognized as Volunteer of the Year. However, I would still like to recognize her for her hard work and dedication. Also, I would like to acknowledge why I think she should be Volunteer to the Year yet another year.

My volunteer is very hard working and dedicated. Recently, she started working outside of school. However, she still takes time and effort to volunteer in our school once a week. She is always willing to complete projects for me. If she does not complete them at school, she will take them home and finish them there. In addition, she came to school before the school year started to help get my classroom ready.

This is a big job and she made sure to help me get things up and running. She is also President of the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). She takes time to plan events and find ways to raise money for our district. These are just a few examples that show how my volunteer is very hard working and dedicated.

Another important quality my volunteer has is being very reliable. I know that she will be at school each week to complete work for me. If she cannot make it to school that day, she always lets me know in advance. She will take time to come in a different day that week to get work completed for me. Having a volunteer that is reliable is an important quality for volunteering, and I am very glad I have a volunteer I can always count on!

The last important quality my volunteer has is being a wonderful friend. I have worked with her for three years now, and I believe our friendship has grown stronger each year. She is someone I can share my stories with and gives me good advice. Unfortunately, I will be leaving the district after this school year to move back to Saint Louis. I know that she is someone I will miss dearly. She has grown into a great friend, and I hope that our friendship can continue to grow for many more years!

These are just a few reasons why I believe my volunteer should be chosen another year for Volunteer of the Year. She is such a wonderful volunteer and truly helps many teachers in the district. I honestly do not know what I would have done without her over the past few years of working together. Thank you for all you have done! You are the best! ©

Submitted by Laura Stewart

Dogwood Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

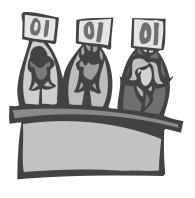


#### Marla Lumley

Let us start by saying that we have the greatest volunteer in the world! Our volunteer has been volunteering for us for several years. She quietly comes in each Friday to see what we need for the following week. She runs our copies, laminates student work, organizes activities, and even brings us hot chocolate! It takes a village to get us organized, and our volunteer accomplishes it each Friday

morning with a sweet smile.

We also need to say that our volunteer does all of this in her "spare" time. She is the loving wife of the pastor of Osage Hills Church. They have three very involved children in



Camdenton Schools. And last, but not least, she is taking college classes to obtain her psychology degree!!! Many times, our volunteer stops by to work for us before heading off to take an exam. She is incredible!!

Our volunteer deserves Volunteer of the Year for more than the work she does for us. Her greatest achievement is the love she has for everyone around her. She always has kind and gentle words for teachers she works for, as well as their families. She is never without a compliment for students and teachers. She truly cares and takes a strong interest in students and the quality of education at Camdenton RIII.

Submitted by Julie Dinsdale, Toni Edwards, and Gay Kirtley
Oak Ridge Intermediate Fifth Grade Teachers

#### **Earline Medcalf**

It almost feels like a disservice to call my friend my volunteer. However, she is exactly that....my kindergarten volunteer and my friend. In both regards, she is the best there is!

My friend goes out of her way in every aspect of volunteering. She comes two full days every single week. She does it all; works with students, makes copies, changes out bulletin boards (her favorite), gives assessments, and works on special projects for our classroom. Many times, she has taken things home to work on in between her days at school.

My friend truly cares about the well-being of our students. She keeps a list of their names at home. When she learns something new about one of them, she writes it down when she gets home. She studies this sheet to truly learn all about the kids. She knows what they like, dislike, their hobbies, etc. She uses

this knowledge as a tool to build a trusting relationship with each kiddo so they respond well while working with her.

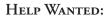
Every holiday, my volunteer makes special treats and activities for the students. She puts me to shame! My kids are totally spoiled by her! For Valentine's Day she made each student a personalized card on her computer and printed them herself, along with lot of goodies! She does this for every holiday! This year for Easter she made each kindergartner their very own Easter basket! She decorated each one, and filled it with grass and goodies. They were so excited! She was not even here that day to tell the kids that she made them. She simply dropped them off, not needing the acknowledgement for doing such a sweet thing. I made sure to tell the kiddos who made them and said things like, "I love our voluneteer." "Our volunteer must really love us!" "Our volunteer is the best!" The students absolutely love her and look up to her. They always tell her how pretty she looks, that she smells good and how they love her clothes. I must say, she does dress well!

It takes a great person to be a friend to me, and all 20 of my kindergartners on a personal level. She does so much for us, and is such a special person.

I feel exactly the same way as the kids do in my kindergarten class. If there ever was a person deserving of volunteer/friend of the year, it is my very good friend. Please consider her for this award; she really shines!

Submitted by Amber Keeney

Dogwood Elementary Kindergarten Teacher



TRUSTWORTHY, DEPENDABLE MIND READER NEEDED TO HELP MAINTAIN TEACHERS' SANITY. MUST BE WILLING TO WORK LONG HOURS WITH NO PAY, LOTS OF LAUGHS IS A NECESSITY.



#### **Jackie Moore**

My volunteer just isn't a person who follows my directions or comes on a weekly basis to do my bidding. She is an individual who I consider a friend and a blessing in disguise! Seeing her enter my room with a huge smile on her face every Thursday helps me realize she really enjoys helping not only me, as a teacher, but the students in my classroom. She has a big heart when it comes to volunteering in our district. It seems that I don't give her enough credit or praise

at times, but given this opportunity, I want to let people know what kind of person she truly is.

Being a teacher, it is hard to find time to make copies or extra items for my classroom. I have asked her to do many tasks, and she has



completed those tasks exactly the way I ask. There are numerous times she is given a tedious job for me, whether it be pasting, laminating, copying, or stapling. She seems to surprise me every time with her willingness to do a new and different duty. One

project that I can think of, in particular, was a writing process pencil I found on Pinterest. I gave her all of the supplies and the picture, and told her what I wanted. She finished the huge pencil precisely the way I expected it to be completed, and it looked phenomenal.

I am very blessed to have the volunteer who I have. She is extremely responsible, caring, listens, and obedient to instructions. I have complete faith in her to do a job well done. Any time she cannot make it on a Thursday; she either emails or tells me in advance when she is unavailable. Then, she offers to come in another day to make up for her absence. I consider that very helpful and responsible. My students and I are very thankful to have her as a volunteer. I am tremendously fortunate to have a person like her.

Submitted by Christina Calvert
Oak Ridge Intermediate Fifth Grade Teacher

#### **Kathy Peery**

I would like to nominate my volunteer for "Volunteer of the Year". My volunteer has helped me for the last three years. She gives of her time doing things for me so I can spend my time working with the students and planning my instruction. She

students and planning my instruction. She does whatever is asked of her and has even taken things home to do for me that she did not get completed during her time at school. She is dependable and I can always count on her being here to help. If she has a conflict, she always lets me know and finds another time to come. I truly would be lost without her weekly assistance. I don't think she realizes what a help she is. I'm sure there are other things she could be doing but she chooses to help me instead. She is a great example of what the volunteer program is all about!

Submitted by Paula Cloyd

Dogwood Elementary Second Grade Teacher

# Making a Difference in the Lives of Others

#### Tisha Reinhart

There is a most wonderful lady who volunteers for me every week. She comes into my classroom with a friendly smile each and every Wednesday. I can always depend on her being there at 11 o'clock willing to do whatever it is I might need done. She happily accepts my requests and completes them quickly and perfectly. From making multiple copies to laminating almost anything; she does these tasks while smiling. I can describe her not only as hard working; she is also dependable and self motivated. Her positive attitude and smile are contagious and I look forward to seeing her every Wednesday. I truly don't know what I would do without her. I appreciate her in so many ways.

Submitted by Melissa Salsman Oak Ridge Intermediate Fifth Grade Teacher



#### **Andrea Rhoades**

I believe that my volunteer has gone above and beyond to make my year the best year ever. I moved buildings this year and thought I would be losing my volunteer that has helped me prepare materials for my classroom lessons the last few years. Little did I know that she would volunteer to work at both buildings to stay with me and make it a smooth transition. She allows me to make hands-on and engaging lessons plans that would require hours of work outside of my normal day by getting extra copies and manipulatives made while I'm in my classroom teaching students. She takes it a step farther and offers to put in countless hours getting things ready for my cheerleaders and robotics students. When there is a time that I know I'm in a crunch and not sure how I am going to get all the things ready for my regular day and after school activities, she comes through by coming in on an

added day or putting in more time and bringing it back a project the next day. Her humble attitude when thanking her is so sweet but I hope she truly knows how much she has helped to make me the teacher that I am. Her hands are on the students in my classroom when they succeed because of any one of the many projects she has assisted me with throughout the year.

Submitted by Jane Noyes

Middle School Seventh Grade Math Teacher

#### Jeni Simpson

Three years ago something wonderful happened to me. I met my amazing volunteer. Through the years we have become friends. We make an amazing team.

My volunteer is dependable, efficient, and always very helpful! She is always looking for and making new, fun activities for our classroom. No job is too much for her. She does everything I ask and more! She even decorates our classroom door each month!



Before the school year begins she comes in and helps me get ready. She is always there for Meet the Teacher Night. She comes every morning for the first week to help our little friends get adjusted. She always knows just what to do!

My class loves working with her. She makes each one of them feel important and special. She is an important part of their school day.

I'm very thankful to have my volunteer. I appreciate the many hours she spends doing things for our classroom and our school. She is a wonderful and dedicated person. She truly deserves this award!

Submitted by Karen DenHartog

Dogwood Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

#### Jeni Simpson

She has been an integral part of Oak Ridge Intermediates success with the School - Wide Positive Behavior Support (SW-PBS) program. She has dedicated every Tuesday and Thursday morning of this school year to the students of Oak Ridge. On these days she runs the SW-PBS store called the Fish Bowl. The Fish Bowl is a place where students come to redeem tickets they have earned for following Oak Ridge expectations. She has a 30



minute time period to move, on average, 150 kids through the store. While doing this she is able to take an interest in the students and as a result has come to know most of them by name. On days that students visit the Fish Bowl she greets the kids in such a way that makes them smile and as a result the students look forward to visiting the fish bowl each week. She may not realize this but her positive attitude sets up many kids to have a great rest of the day following their visit to the Fish Bowl.

Here at Oak Ridge we are truly grateful for the time and effort she has devoted to our school and students. We would not be where we are today in terms of the successes we are seeing with SW-PBS without the efforts from her. We are also grateful for the other volunteers that she recruits to help in our school vision of creating a safe, respectful, responsible school environment where student learn to persevere in all that they do.

It is with great joy that we recognize her along with the other volunteers that have made a difference in students' lives here at Oak Ridge Intermediate.

Submitted by the Oak Ridge Intermediate Staff



### **Buddy Pack Program**

With the assistance of Kent Memorial church, our Hurricane Deck School packed 46 buddy packs weekly. Lake Ozark Developmental Center packed 42 buddy packs for Macks Creek and 46 buddy packs for Osage Beach. Volunteer Kim Dlugosh packed 79 buddy packs weekly for Oak Ridge and the Kiwanis Club of Camdenton along with Lake Area Industries packed weekly 128 for Dogwood. Climax Springs made a monthly pick up at Hawthorn and packed weekly for 102 students. Hawthorn Elementary packers were Ralph and Brenda Kennistion packing 61 packs and also delivered to the classrooms 128 packs each week at the Dogwood School. Buddy packs were also packed by Lake Area Industries and distributed during summer school.

In addition to packing buddy packs we oftentimes receive donations. Most of the monetary donations were sent to the Food Bank and are earmarked for the Camdenton district. If a smaller monetary donation was made, we deposited it in the activity account to be used if a special need arose. The extra food items donated were great when we had long weekends.

| Buddy Pack Donations<br>2012-13 |                    |  |                                   |   |                               |  |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Date                            | Delivery<br>Person | Donating<br>Organization Name                | Organization<br>Contact Person    | Thank You<br>Address                              | Press<br>Release?<br>(Y or N) |  |
| 10-5                            | Martha<br>Brankom  | Delta Kappa<br>Kemma                         | Marcha Brankum<br>"Nondas Bogart" | 150 N High<br>Camdetlow, MO 65020                 |                               |  |
| 10/14                           | Anne<br>Diebold    | Daybeck                                      |                                   |   |                               |  |
| ٥١٦                             | Chris<br>Buttram   | Hedaylerian Church                           | Chris gentary                     | POBOX 1179<br>Osag Beach no 65065                 |                               |  |
| 0/17                            |                    | Retary                                       | \$40000                           | 1435 Cedan Village Rd<br>Osye Brown, MO 15065     | -                             |  |
| 10/17                           | JUDY<br>WINGATE    | COMMUNITY<br>CHRISTIAN<br>CHURCH             | JUDY<br>WINGATE                   | 1064 N BUS. RT 5<br>CAM DENTON, HO.               |                               |  |
|                                 | JUDY<br>WINSATE    | PAGE TURNERS<br>BOOK CLUB                    | DEBBIE<br>WHITE                   |   |                               |  |
|                                 | JUDY<br>WINGATE    | SISTER HOOD<br>LUNCHEON<br>RETIRED TE ACHERS | KAY<br>PIRCH                      |   |                               |  |
|                                 | HILLIARD           | OPTIMIST CLUB                                | Same                              | 12 THREE DAKS CIRCL<br>SUNRISE BEACH, MO<br>65079 | ?                             |  |

| Date      | Delivery<br>Person   | Donating<br>Organization Name | Organization<br>Contact Person              | Thank You<br>Address  | Press<br>Release?<br>(Y or N) |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| ///<br>/1 | Di Keman             | County<br>Leadership          | Creach on                                   | re Fod  |                               |
| 17/       | Judy<br>Yount        | Donation 4                    | 20000                                       | Sudy Jount<br>518 He in Estates #46<br>Campenton, mo (18020 |                               |
| 1/5       | Jackie<br>Heinlein   | Surch Flaring and             | Find Pictures<br>1/105 520.89<br>Findraiser | 9307 N. Stutethy 5<br>Camplesto, Mo 60020                   | ٥                             |
| 11-8      | Christine<br>Buttram | Lake Presbytenas<br>Chunch    | Buttraw                                     | P.O.Box 1179 1000   | り                             |
| 11/9      | Set~ > M             | ail 30000                     | damade Ford<br>5285 Gamble Cir<br>O.B.      |   |                               |
|           |                      |                               |   |   |                               |

#### Buddy Pack Donations 2012-13

| Date     | Delivery<br>Person | Donating<br>Organization<br>Name | Organization<br>Contact Person | Thank You<br>Address              | Donation                    | Press<br>Release?<br>(Y or N) |
|----------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 11/4     | Judy<br>Wheat      | Community<br>Christian           |                                | Suprevious                        | Food Hens                   |                               |
| 11/      | ti i               | 11                               | Judy Wingate                   | 1064 N. state Hury 5<br>Camdenton | food items                  |                               |
| 11/2     | lı                 | Disciples<br>Women               | Linda<br>Martin                |                                   | 200.∞                       |                               |
| 11/12    | ι(                 | Sara<br>Reiter                   |                                | 93 Cedar Glen Ct.<br>Camdenton    | 50.00                       |                               |
| 12/<br>4 | Janua<br>Scott     | Personal                         | <b>(</b>                       |                                   | granda<br>Ouse crackers     |                               |
| 3        | Judy               | Community                        |                                | Revious                           | Snacks of juice             |                               |
| 20       | )                  | i.                               |                                | tool Previous                     | Juse boxes<br>fuit-crackers |                               |
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#### Buddy Pack Donations 2012-13

| Date       | Delivery<br>Person                       | Donating<br>Organization<br>Name             | Organization<br>Contact Person | Thank You<br>Address   | Donation                       | Press<br>Release?<br>(Y or N) |
|------------|--|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 12/        | July<br>Whysk                            | Community                                    |                                |  | Juice<br>Byes                  |                               |
| 1/23       | Judy<br>Wingate                          | 11   |                                |  |                                |                               |
| 3/5<br>3/5 | N<br>PAGETURNESS                         | U<br>JUOY WIDEATE                            |                                |  | CASH \$80.00<br>CASH \$5.00    |                               |
| 3/18       | Gudej Wesztle                            | Connu Christ,                                |                                |  | God Hems                       |                               |
| 3/14       | Nondaa<br>Bogat                          | Ganna Beta<br>Charter of<br>Delta Kappa Gama | -                              | (Herkyei Sort)<br>3/18                                       | Food:tems                      | ·                             |
| 1/8        | JulyWuqik                                | Comm Christiae<br>Chierch                    | L                              |  | F60D ITEMS                     |                               |
| N/q        | 573-280-40 <b>3</b> 0<br>Yusu<br>Hunings | UFW<br>Ladies<br>Auxillary                   | Susie<br>Ginning               | That 100 set)<br>2403 Old South How 5<br>Candenton Mo. 65020 | 300.00 (Sent to<br>Buddy Pack) |                               |
| 5/2        | Judy<br>Wingate                          | Community<br>Charstra                        |                                |  | food ; tens                    |                               |

This year I wanted to add a few emails or comments sent throughout the year. I appreciated our staff and I'm amazed each day by what I see and how great just being a "Laker" is.

From: Denise McEachern

Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2012 3:38 PM

To: Mark Anderson

**Cc:** Brett Thompson; Joi Dickemann **Subject:** National Mock Election @ CHS

Kudos to Mr. Anderson, and all others???, for once again organizing this event for our students @ CHS to experience voting. A civic skill they will use throughout life. I know that my children positively benefited from this experience when they experienced their first election opportunity.

A shout out to the volunteers too. We could not have offered this experience to so many students without them. What a great school and community we have.

Thank you all!
Denise McEachern
Social Studies Educator

Hi Joi,

I just read the Lakers' Letter, and it always so informative for me. For instance I didn't know that Ryan Neal was back in the district or that Chad Braer taught science! You really do a good job on that!

Judy Wallace

Re: first quarter news 2012

From: Angela Biggers

Sent: Wednesday, November 07, 2012 11:52 AM

To: Joi Dickemann

Subject: Veterans day and volunteers

Joi,

I just wanted to let you know what we were doing Friday. One of the gentlemen who volunteer in our room is a veteran. His name is Mr. Tom from Kent Memorial. The kids have really grown attached to him and we are going to surprise him Friday with a small party for him in our room. We are making him cards and a Shirt. If you want to come, I will let you know what time he is coming. We would love to have you, but just wanted to you to know how well things are working out!

thanks

Angie

From: Kathleen Davies

**Sent:** Monday, November 12, 2012 10:13 AM

**To:** Joi Dickemann **Subject:** Thank you

Dear Joi,

I saw a flyer that you sent out to OBE parents requesting that someone volunteer in the library this year. Thank you so much for doing that. Patty and I really appreciate that you are trying to get us a volunteer. You do so much for this school district. When I volunteered at Dogwood, I really enjoyed working there with you and Susan to guide me. Volunteering made such a difference. It started me on the path to working full time for the district in the OBE library, as a matter of fact!

Thanks again,

Kathleen Davies

From: JoBeth Nicklas

Sent: Monday, November 26, 2012 9:32 AM

**To:** Joi Dickemann; Susan Manton **Subject:** shorter release for show

If there is any way to get this on community calendars, radio stations, or any other contacts you all have, I would greatly appreciate it. I LOVE how the Lake Sun got your last one in the NEXT DAY! That has NEVER happened!

Thanks so much!!

From: Kathleen Davies

Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 3:12 PM

**To:** Joi Dickemann **Subject:** RE: volunteer

Dear Joi,

I had such fun with Donna Schulte today. She is so personable and willing to help! I am so incredibly happy that she is willing to volunteer for us in the library. She's going to work out great! Did I mention that I'm happy?

Thank you, bless you, and you are "da bomb!"

Kathleen

#### From Carol Whitfill Lake Printing. December 17, 2012

Hi Joi,

You are such a treat to everyone you meet and can't thank you enough for everything you do with us! I mean it when I say you put smile on everyone's face when you visit us! I hope you have a wonderful holiday and know you'll been in my thoughts.

Spoy. Thank you for inviting me into your invironment. You gave me pomething back to my life that was hidden. I realized I san do more than just be a mom and I thank you for that. May bod allway bless you and your family.

Thank you

MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS
BE MERRY AND BRIGHT!

Kerry Balwant

From: Andria Hodge

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 12:37 PM

**To:** Joi Dickemann **Subject:** thank you

Joi,

A couple of weeks ago I sent down a box of letters to be sorted into bags. I soooooooo appreciated that. It saved me so much time. I think your table lady may have helped with it and maybe some others, but it was much appreciated!

#### Andria

From: Carrie Viebrock

Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 1:14 PM

To: Susan Manton; Joi Dickemann

Subject: Masks

I received my masks today which were cut out and laminated. They are extraordinaire! Thanks to you and your volunteers! ©

From: Linnea Vance

**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2013 10:23 AM

To: Joi Dickemann

Subject:

Just wanted to express to you how much I enjoyed last nights dinner. You and your crew of volunteers did a fabulous job with the meal, event and entertainment. I have been a mentor friend to Deidre for several years now. I hope you weren't offended that I chose to take her through the food line well before everyone else. As I've been out and about with her over the years, I've just learned what works best for her. It was a great night. So glad I got to be a part of it.

#### Linnea Vance

Capstone Secretary

From: Susan Leslie

Re: Volunteer Dinner

Good Morning!!!

Just wanted to tell you, once again, how absolutely wonderful last night was! The dining room sparkled with all of the fun, glittery decorations--not to mention your personal "over the top" touches, like the spirals in the plants, the swags on the tables and the darling tags on the gift bags!!! You looked tremendous, and were the consummate hostess! It is obvious while observing the room that your volunteers love you, respect you and enjoy the jobs they do for the kids.

Andrea's performance was wonderful. Watching those kiddos sing was so much fun. The selections were great--very upbeat!!! Your speech and presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award was fantastic. It kept the audience engaged and the winner was darling as she waved her wand and smiled at the crowd. So cute!!!

I am sure you are exhausted today, but my friend, all of your hard work was worth it. The evening was a HUGE SUCCESS! Record crowd and lots of fun friendships. FABULOUS JOB!!!