

2017-2018 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

REGION I

Elementary: Leon County
Killearn Lakes Elementary School
Friendsgiving

Friendsgiving is a school-wide picnic which brings families to school to model making and building friendships while taking a proactive approach to involve students and parents in the bullying conversation. This event strengthens peer relationships across grade levels, connects families, and builds community relationships. Friendsgiving aligns with the School Improvement goals of building relationships with community, business partners, families and students.

Secondary: Santa Rosa County
Thomas L. Sims Middle School
Career Café

Career Café provides an opportunity for students to learn about career choices and their corresponding educational and vocational training paths. Community members are invited to speak with groups of students in the school's media center during lunch. Through Career Café, students also learn about giving back to the community by being a volunteer.

REGION II

Elementary: Nassau County
Callahan Intermediate School
Trunk and Read Literacy Night

Trunk and Read Literacy Night enhances the literacy of both students and parents by addressing generational learning gaps and encouraging reading at home. Teachers dressed in character decorated their trunks and facilitated games to compliment different reading strategies. Local church and business partners contributed, and take-home manipulatives were supplied to families who might otherwise be without reading resources.

REGION III

Elementary: Lake County
Minneola Elementary Charter School
Reading Rodeo

Reading Rodeo celebrates a variety of year-long reading initiatives and serves as a reward to students and families for reaching reading goals. Community guests, school staff and local middle and high school students participated by reading to students and assisting with related activities. The event culminated in the reveal of the contents of a "mystery box."

Secondary: Osceola County
Denn John Middle School
Joyful Celebration

Joyful Celebration met the needs of students and families displaced by hurricanes Irma and Maria. Local business partners and the school community hosted a community meal, distributed grocery

bags full of food, created a clothing closet and provided gift baskets of needed supplies to families so children could focus on school. Joyful Celebration supports the School Improvement Plan of serving the “whole child.”

REGION IV

Elementary: Pasco County
Hudson Elementary School
Cougar Café

Cougar Café, held every Monday night, is an opportunity for families to dine, listen to an informal presentation, ask questions and get homework help. Make-and-take educational resources are provided. Families, students, school personnel, volunteers, community and local business partners donate time and supplies while working together to further student success.

Secondary: Pasco County
Gulf Middle School
The Treasure Chest

The Treasure Chest was created to ensure basic needs are met so students and families can focus on academics. This free “school store” is stocked with clothing, school supplies and toiletries and is open daily. Community partners, staff, extended families and faith-based organizations spread the word, volunteer time and donate goods. When more is received than needed, items are donated to other community charities.

REGION V

Elementary: Monroe County
Poinciana Elementary School
Family Expo

Family Expo was an expansion of the school’s annual Open House in the wake of hurricane Irma. Several local government agencies and community organizations provided on-site services and shared a meal with teachers, staff, families and guests. Parent liaisons and translators assisted the Haitian community and Spanish speakers with information about new student enrollment and Temporary Protected Status. Eight U.S. elementary schools donated food, supplies and clothing, and other area schools already have plans to replicate the Expo for their families.

Secondary: Palm Beach County
Woodlands Community Middle School
Mustang Mentors

The Mustang Mentors program pairs faculty and staff volunteers with students for interactions built on trust and confidentiality to address students’ issues, concerns, school work and goals. The school celebrates quarterly with mentees and their families, and local business partners provide tokens of acknowledgement and incentives throughout the year. In this caring, family-like environment, students feel more connected to school, develop trust of school personnel and grow confidence and empathy towards others.