

# 2017-18 Outstanding School Volunteers

## REGION 1

Youth

**Chloa Kriner**

Santa Rosa School District

Chloa Kriner has been volunteering since 4<sup>th</sup> grade and is currently in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. She helps with multiple tasks in the classroom, including clerical duties and assisting other students. Kriner works with small groups, sorting word cards with students who are working to enhance their content-based vocabulary and sharing study strategies that she found useful when she was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Kriner has also trained new volunteers on how to mentor and tutor fellow students. In addition to her volunteer work, she participates in beta and drama clubs at her own school.

Adult

**Kathy Andre**

Okaloosa School District

Kathy Andre has contributed more than 4,300 volunteer hours, serving on the School Advisory Council and as a substitute secretary, test proctor and mentor. She creates hundreds of invitations and programs for various district-sponsored activities, including senior night, graduation celebrations and multi-school events. She helps with data processing for administration; organizes advisement materials; coordinates open houses and award assemblies; and answers questions regarding scholarships and applications. She also helps ensure that low-income students and families have the supplies they need.

Senior

**Janice Aurand**

Santa Rosa School District

Janice Aurand is a former teacher who devoted 37 years to educating students who are deaf and hearing impaired. Now, as a volunteer, she helps teachers and students in all grade levels through the school year and during the summer. She helps prepare for extra-curricular activities and special events; assembles course activities and packets; practices site words with struggling students; and reads to students to help them develop an appreciation for the importance of reading and literacy. She is known to be a model of selflessness and kindness.

## **REGION 2**

Youth

**Malia Domingo**

Nassau School District

Malia Domingo has been volunteering for over 6 years. She began serving as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and contributed 350 hours in that year alone. While attending middle school, she worked in four different kindergarten classrooms, assisting students with the Accelerated Reader program and working one-on-one with students with special needs. Domingo assists the exceptional student education department, administration and the positive behavior intervention support team with activity planning and at special events, such as the Hornet Olympics. During the summer, Domingo volunteered in the extended school year program for students with disabilities. She helped set up assistive technology and student learning stations, and during implementation of the program, she worked with non-verbal and limited-verbal prekindergarten (Pre-K) students.

Adult

**Stephanie Kolb**

Alachua School District

Stephanie Kolb has volunteered for 13 years, and her impact has been so significant that two different district schools nominated her for this award. She volunteered more than 1,500 hours since July 2016, while holding full-time employment. During the school year, she helps with field trips, honor roll celebrations, book fairs, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Olympics and over the summer, she prepares both schools for the upcoming year. She is the Parent Teacher Association president and has been instrumental in recruiting parents to join and participate. She also serves as president of the band booster organization for both schools; in this capacity, she oversees fundraising, music and instrument purchases, band clinic set up, band concert organization and parent committees.

Senior

**Fred Wilson**

Duval School District

Fred Wilson has been volunteering in classrooms and at school functions and serving in key positions for school clubs for the past 5 years. He reads daily to students and provides small group remediation to students who are struggling with English Language Arts. He discusses material from informational texts with them, asks higher order comprehension questions and supports oral development. He also piloted a new running club that includes Pre-K and kindergarten students. Before school starts, he serves as a coach, encouraging those nearby to run a lap.

## **REGION 3**

Youth

**Jazlyn Edwards**

Martin School District

Jazlyn Edwards is a high school honors student who volunteers 6-8 hours per week. She started a chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in her high school after personally experiencing the loss of a friend. She is the leader of the school's tutoring program, creating and maintaining the school's tutoring schedule and ensuring that tutors are available for students every day. Edwards volunteers for student government, serves on the Student Advisory Council, and is engaged in a number of volunteer activities at her school. She also mentors children experiencing certain chronic medical conditions.

Adult

**Kathleen Learn**

Volusia School District

Kathleen Learn has volunteered for 7 years, contributing more than 350 hours last year. She works with English language learners in grades 3 and 4, assisting them with academic language development, which has resulted in students feeling more confident about their ability to perform well on the Florida Standards Assessment. She also works one-on-one and in small group settings with exceptional education students and ensures implementation of the accommodations outlined in each student's individualized education plan. In addition, Learn assists three teachers with routine clerical tasks.

Senior

**Georgia Howard**

Volusia School District

Georgia Howard is a retired reading teacher with 20 years of teaching experience. She has been volunteering for 10 years and has contributed 520 hours. She developed a creative, multisensory after-school program to assist students who struggled with reading. This program includes a self-esteem component, and it has helped students improve their reading skills and accomplish more overall.

## **REGION 4**

Youth

**Ty Wilcox**

Manatee School District

Ty Wilcox is high school senior who has spent the last eight years volunteering in his former elementary school, contributing 110 hours. Wilcox assists in distributing books and resources to classrooms; helps lab technicians set up computers in three different labs; and ensures all 230 computers are in working order and ready for the start of school. During Hurricane Irma, he pulled together the equipment needed and assisted students whose families were using the school as a shelter in the Media Center. Wilcox works regularly with students to prepare the school's morning news and volunteers for school-organized fundraisers.

Adult

**Val Walsh**

Polk School District

Val Walsh has been volunteering for 16 years, contributing 4-6 hours per week. She created the mentor-based SHINE program at a local elementary school, which enables high school students to mentor elementary students. The program has become a successful model for other mentoring programs. Walsh is president of the school's Parent Teacher Association and most recently oversaw a fundraiser that brought in more than \$20,000. She hosted last year's Teacher Appreciation Week and ensures that each teacher is recognized and honored for the work they do.

Senior

**Bruce Deitch**

Manatee School District

Bruce Deitch taught at W.D. Sugg Middle School for 40 years and then returned to volunteer. He has been volunteering every school day from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for the past 3 years. He helps in all areas of the school including serving at the front desk, coordinating students for the pledge of allegiance and morning announcements, assisting new students with finding their classes and sorting and delivering mail/supplies to teachers' mailboxes/classrooms. He also contributes to the well-being of students through the Renaissance and Positive Behavior System programs. Deitch is also trained as a substitute teacher and works in this capacity when needed.

## **REGION 5**

Youth

**Kayla Abramowitz**

Palm Beach School District

Kayla Abramowitz is the founder and CEO of Kayla Cares 4 Kids, a non-profit organization that donates items to children in the hospital. Abramowitz began this non-profit at the age of 11, and her efforts have inspired many of her classmates. Abramowitz, now a sophomore, began the initiative by collecting entertainment and educational items to donate to children's hospitals. She now has the help of ambassadors in 12 states and has recruited hundreds of student volunteers in Palm Beach County and numerous businesses throughout the country to support the mission. Kayla Cares 4 Kids has donated nearly 15,000 items to 425 children's hospitals and Ronald McDonald houses in all 50 states.

Adult

**Terri Priori**

Palm Beach School District

Terri Priori has served in five different schools during her 14 years as a school volunteer. She has held several executive positions with parent teacher associations at various schools; served on the Student Advisory Council; coordinated the Five School Star Awards at four schools; and created the framework for annual fundraising events, which most recently raised more than \$40,000. She has also served as room mom and joined committees that oversee Project Graduation, book fairs, dances and carnivals, Food for Families and blood drives.

Senior

**William Schwab**

Broward School District

William Schwab serves as a ReServist Success Mentor and is tasked with helping at-risk students improve their attendance records. He identifies students with high rates of absenteeism and works collaboratively with students, families and the school community to get to the heart of the issue. Because of his service, 40 percent of the students have improved their academic performance and their attendance records. Schwab authored an orientation program for retired volunteers that was approved by the district, and he has presented this program at district conferences.