



The School District of Osceola County, FL
Terry Andrews, Superintendent

Press Release (English and Spanish)

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Osceola School District's School Volunteers of the Year

Each year, the Florida Department of Education sponsors the statewide Outstanding School Volunteer Award competition to recognize the many school volunteers who give of themselves unselfishly to help students and schools. This year, Osceola schools recognized 56 volunteers for the honor at the school level, significantly more than in the past years:

Boggy Creek Elementary: Larry Eason (Senior)

Celebration High: Susan Bona (Adult), Mike Macchiorola (Senior), and Annie Curtis (Student)

Celebration K-8: Leah Carius (Adult)

Central Avenue Elementary: Judith Belchere (Adult), Carroll Zeuli (Senior), and Nicole Hill (Student)

Cypress Elementary: Alma Gonzalez (Adult)

Discovery Intermediate: Jennifer Crookendale (Adult), Jose Colon (Senior), and Brennan Woodruff (Student)

East Lake Elementary: Sherri Case (Adult)

Flora Ridge Elementary: Frances Rivera (Adult)

Four Corners Charter: Cindi Mumm (Adult) and Ellen Bollman (Senior)

Harmony Community School: Reynaldo Villabona (Senior)

Harmony High: Norma Najorka (Adult), Beverly Reitz (Senior), and Peter Fiji (Student)

Hickory Tree Elementary: Linda DeRosa (Senior)

Highlands Elementary: Timothy Green (Adult)

Horizon Middle: June Novak (Adult), Rubve Neugin (Senior), and Chelsea Schneider (Student)

Kissimmee Elementary: Kenneth Meyers (Senior)

Lakeview Elementary: Geraldine Parke (Senior)

Liberty High: Tina Bailey (Adult), Douglas Goodman (Senior), and Kimberly Fontanez (Student)

Michigan Avenue Elementary: Ann Hasselberger (Adult)

Mill Creek Elementary: Kathleen Everett (Adult) and Paula Szuch (Senior)

Narcoossee Elementary: Sabine Chipman (Adult) and Joan Bogle (Senior)

Narcoossee Middle: Barbara Cox (Senior)

Neptune Elementary: Darla Kelly (Adult)

Neptune Middle: Richard Colon (Adult)

Osceola County School for the Arts: Robert Noguerras (Adult)

Osceola High: Jenna Adams (Student)

Parkway Middle: Christina Schladen (Student)

Partin Settlement Elementary: Martha Sanders (Senior)

Pleasant Hill Elementary: Maria Estevez (Adult) and Aliene and Wesley Glass (Seniors)
Reedy Creek Elementary: Michael Link (Adult) and Rosa Diaz (Senior)
St. Cloud Elementary: Lynne Larkins (Adult)
St. Cloud High: Kim Glasscock (Adult) and Maris Caruso (Student)
St. Cloud Middle: Rebecca Laisch (Adult)
Sunrise Elementary: Andrea Nickel (Adult) and Dorothy Umstot (Senior)
Thacker Avenue Elementary: Heather Garcia (Adult)
Westside K-8: Patricia Merritt (Senior) and Felix Diaz and Tyrone Pierre (Students)

There were so many great nominees; the judges had a hard time selecting the top three winners to represent the district at the state level. In the end after a very difficult voting process, the panel selected Jenna Adams, Norma Najorka, and Joan Bogle as this school year's Youth, Adult, and Senior Volunteers of the Year, respectively.

Jenna Adams, Osceola High School - District Youth Volunteer of the Year

In the three years Jenna has been enrolled at Osceola High, she has compiled over 344 hours of service to the school community in a variety of ways. She has volunteered in the Reading Buddy program at Thacker Avenue Elementary, kept the school's Kowboy Kiosket/Pantry stocked, been part of the Reach Out Club to promote anti-bullying education, provided service through the Keyettes, held the position of Flight Leader in ROTC, and served as a Peer Mediator for other students. A member of National Honor Society, Jenna has managed to serve all of these hours while maintaining an unweighted grade point average of 3.7, lettering three times in swimming and water polo, and working part time as a lifeguard at the Bob Makinson Aquatics Center. Osceola High School is extremely proud of Jenna, who is described as quiet in demeanor, responsible, hard working, reliable, and very dedicated.

Norma Najorka, Harmony High - District Adult Volunteer of the Year

As the founding Director of Pawsitive Action, Norma has been one of the driving forces behind the Veterinary Assisting program at Harmony High, which features an on-campus clinic. Through the program, students are provided educational experiences that are unlike anything offered in a high school setting in the state of Florida. Veterinary Assisting students learn valuable job skills through hands-on experiences in working with several veterinarians and many volunteers. Those students seeking industry certification are able to earn required clinical hours as part of the curriculum. The partnership with Norma and Pawsitive Action has made the school's Vet Assisting program a high-quality career training program and a tremendously popular choice for students.

Joan Bogle, Narcoossee Elementary - District Senior Volunteer of the Year

Just over the past year and a half, Joan has spent over 634 hours with the children of Narcoossee Elementary and has given teachers the precious gift of time, an extremely valuable resource. She takes an active role in building the foundation of literacy and fostering the love of reading with kindergarten students, as well as the at-risk third grade student she meets with once a week as a Bookmark Buddy. She has assisted in the media center, trained new parent volunteers, and donated supplies to teachers and students. When a teacher became injured and was unable to prepare her kindergarten classroom for her incoming students at the start of the school year, Joan not only made sure that the classroom was ready but she was waiting at the door during Open House for the students and parents with a smile. Narcoossee Elementary is truly grateful for the dedication of such a passionate and talented volunteer in action.

These three special volunteers will be recognized for their outstanding service in front of the Osceola County School Board in February.