

18th Annual Business Partner In Education Awards



Rookie of the Year: Over 20 volunteers from Ciccarello Financial Group worked along side students to plant and nurture beautiful flowers that created their butterfly garden. Through the efforts of this partner, Tillman Elementary received a beautiful butterfly garden and an opportunity to take science “field” trips without leaving their campus. Over forty-five hours were dedicated to this project that constantly stimulated the mind of the students and allowed them to develop respect for the nature around



Civic Partner of the Year: Four legged mentors have proven that reading is fun! On a biweekly basis the two-legged volunteers from the Sarasota Humane Society and their four-legged mentors visited Daughtrey Elementary giving each student the opportunity to read to their canine pal for fifteen minutes in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Thanks to the Reading fur Fun program, over 430 students received one-on-one help in improving their reading skills.



Good Things Come in Small Packages: Ballroom dancing and the 3 R’s? Who would have thought these two could become such a successful partnership? Sarabay Dance Club knew from the beginning that the education required to learn dance steps could also be applied to learning to read (or write, or even add and subtract). Through their partnership with Bayshore and Stewart Elementary, Lee Middle and Bayshore High Schools, they truly inspired a love of learning and dancing in their students.



Good Things Come in Big Packages: Golden Corral has been involved with local schools for many years. From the donation of food products at Sea Breeze and Prine Elementary Schools, to helping Lee Middle School students develop personal responsibility skills, they have committed much time and resources to the success of the schools and their students.



Business Coordinator of the Year: The partnership between the Mosaic Company and Duette Elementary has been thriving for over fifteen years. It is through the dedication of Mike Elliot and Mary Ann Harrell that Duette and its students are inspired to learn dream.



It’s a Two-Way Street: Southeast High School and their business partners have done a tremendous job in recognizing and supporting their partnership throughout the school year. The business partners with this school have done numerous projects that have helped students reach their educational and career goals. In turn, the school works very hard to promote the efforts of their business partners through public open house event, stories in the local media, and an appreciation dinner at the end of the year.



Partners Together: Through the overwhelming commitment of these 13 businesses and individuals, the “Let Freedom Ring” memorial courtyard dedicated to those that devote their lives to serving our country and protecting our freedom, became a reality and was dedicated at Freedom Elementary School on November 12, 2007. The students and visitors at the school now have a place that will enhance their learning and appreciation of the events that have shaped our community.



Special One Time Project: The “Let’s B Safe” program brought many businesses, organizations and individuals together in a project that touched over 2,100 first grade students in Manatee County. Through this unique literacy project, these children not only enhanced their reading skills, but learned the important lessons on how to be safe from predators and how to keep their bodies safe every day.



District Linked Partner: The partnership between the Tampa Bay Rays and the School District is a homerun for everyone! The Rays stepped up to the plate in early 2008 and have impacted all students through their fundraising efforts. From a new math curriculum to supporting Take Stock In Children, their partnership has set the table for success for years to come.



Partner In Excellence: The Arts Council of Manatee Co. partnered with over 20 schools to enhance the students’ education not only in the visual arts, but also organized numerous activities that helped students improve their reading skills, provided computers to Southeast High School, and even awarded grants and scholarships to staff and students alike. For such a small organization of volunteers, their efforts resulted in big rewards for the students.