

**Region I - Youth**

**Avery Smith**

**Leon County**

Avery is a well-rounded, well-adjusted model student. He is very passionate about volunteerism and has logged hundreds of hours of community service with organizations such as Pierian National Honor Society, Boy Scouts of America, and Key Club. As the former president and current member of the Leon High Key club, Avery organized a UNICEF collection, raising money to help eliminate neo-natal tetanus worldwide. He reads books to kids at the Front Porch Library, a private home that provides reading materials and assistance to a local neighborhood that does not have easy access to the public library. His Boy Scout activities include 13 hours of service a week and over 100 hours a week serving as a Boy Scout camp counselor during the summer. He has also represented the United States at the International World Scout Jamboree in Rinkaby, Sweden. Avery has received numerous awards for excellence in the field of conservation. Coupled with his impressive volunteer service record, Avery is a stellar scholar enrolled in all Advanced Placement classes and is a member of several honor organizations.

**Region I - Adult**

**Andrea Sullivan**

**Santa Rosa County**

Andrea Sullivan, a military spouse and mother of three school-aged children, is dedicated to the students, staff, and the entire school community at Holley-Navarre Primary School. Her enthusiasm and commitment are a testament to her passion for public education. She actively volunteers endless days and hours at the school, assisting with PTO activities, school functions, classroom activities, fundraisers, the recycling program, the Holiday Market, Santa Shop, bake sales, and Spirit Nights, to name just a few. She also creates volunteer opportunities for parents and makes parents feel comfortable when leaving their children in the care of school personnel. Andrea is a definite asset to our literacy programs, motivating and helping our students reach their goals.

**Region I - Senior**

**Dennis Holley**

**Escambia County**

At Oakcrest Elementary, there are two mascots— the eagle and Mr. Dennis Holley, also known to the students as "Papa". Volunteering four days a week on average, Dennis Holley has logged over 1,000 hours within the last year. He starts each school day the same way—greeting students in the drop-off area. Arriving students form a line with Mr. Holley, just to get a chance to hear an encouraging word or get a quick hug. When it's time to eat lunch, Dennis Holley can be found helping every Pre-K and Kindergarten student get seated with their meals. On Family Nights, he can be found building meaningful relationships with families through conversations while serving them dinner. He is a football and basketball coach for Oakcrest Elementary and still finds the time to mentor three students. Dennis Holley is the heart of Oakcrest Elementary School.

**Region II - Youth**  
**Mimi A. Haley**  
**St. Johns County**

Mimi Haley is an active member of the English Honors Society, the Science Honors Society, the Senior Women group, and is vice president of the National Hispanic Honors Society. Mimi is also collaborating with the Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board in Jacksonville to help compile and evaluate resource information. Through all this, she maintains a high grade point average and states, "I don't need material things—I just want to make a difference in the lives of others." She has also volunteered numerous hours at the Humane Society, interacting with homeless pets and educating potential pet owners. As the No Phone Zone President, Mimi is credited with starting a letter-writing campaign that helped convince the state legislature to pass SB52 that bans texting while driving. Mimi serves as a role model for students by reading to them, playing educational games with them, helping at bus drop-off, assisting with technology, setting up classrooms, and organizing materials and events. She is the humble recipient of a Ronald Reagan Student Leader Award as well as an award given by her school district for her outstanding character.

**Region II - Adult**  
**Sue Berg**  
**Alachua County**

"The hand that rocks the cradle rocks the world" is the belief of Sue Berg. With her boundless energy and untiring attitude, she makes it easier for the hands that do the rocking; the word "no" does not exist in Mrs. Berg's vocabulary. Whether it is a monthly faculty meeting— where a delicious breakfast is served, school luncheon, dessert day, recognition programs, or tournaments to raise funds for the school, Mrs. Berg organizes the events like a pro. Students benefit greatly from her presence—she is seen on campus helping with the flu mist program, assisting with the French and Spanish Orals for the IB program, putting together the IB student directory, or starting up a lacrosse program. Since becoming the Eastside Volunteer Coordinator, both the number of volunteers and the number of hours of volunteer work performed has increased by over 125%.

**Region II - Senior**  
**Beano Roberts**  
**Nassau County**

Every day for 27 years, Mr. Roberts has been coming to Fernandina Beach Middle School with coffee cup in hand and wearing a tie. Over the years he has assisted various math teachers and now is tutoring students in a 6<sup>th</sup> grade math class. In addition to helping in the classrooms, Mr. Roberts serves on the School Advisory Committee and has been instrumental in helping to get the school's auditorium renovated. He also helps keep the drama program going. Outside of school, Mr. Roberts is active with community events such as the annual Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival and serves as an usher at church every Sunday.

**Region III- Youth**  
**Benjamin Herstein**  
**Volusia County**

Benjamin, a dynamic and caring 8<sup>th</sup> grader, with over 1500 volunteer service hours, has taken “heart and soul” to a new dimension. Ben volunteers to benefit others not himself. As an enthusiastic volunteer, Ben shares his time and talents tutoring struggling peers in math. For the past two years this “geek” has attended the school’s evening “Open Math Nights” where he makes learning math great fun by using math games and magic card tricks. He also started a “Peanut Butter/Jelly” food pantry to help raise needed donations for his community. Ben’s spirit of compassion doesn’t stop at the end of his school day; when he’s not helping in Math Counts (an after school program) or the Robotics and Chess Clubs, he can be found serving meals to the homeless in the DeLand community.

**Region III - Adult**  
**Mark Krismer**  
**Orange County**

For parents of students with special needs and learning difficulties, the 3D Animation Technology program provides a safe environment for students who want to enter the workforce as 3D production assistants, modelers, texture artists, riggers, or animation and motion capture technicians. That is where Mark comes in. Each day, Mark arrives at Orlando Tech thirty minutes before school starts to meet with the instructor on the lessons and challenges of the day. He then leads whole group presentations on the latest 3D animation techniques and technology, supporting the classroom curriculum using materials and videos he created. This creative volunteer has a talent for demystifying complex concepts. Not only has Mark worked with instructors to update the classroom curriculum, but as an advisory board member he has recommended relevant changes to the state curriculum framework. Through his talent and passion for technical education, Mark is in a unique position of not just helping in a classroom but making an impact across the state.

**Region III - Senior**  
**Mrs. Berdyne Williams**  
**Indian River County**

“Miss” Berdyne, as she has been called for the past 18 years, is a compassionate and positive force at our school. Every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, she reports to class with a smile, a willingness to help and a soft grandmotherly manner. In her long history of volunteering, she has run thousands of photocopies, stapled mountains of paper, cut tons of laminated items, deciphered illegible teacher scrawls on a zillion small post-it notes and organized school supplies. If that wasn’t enough, she has sharpened every pencil that has passed the classroom threshold. “Miss” Berdyne is also a “Jack of all Trades” as well. She has fixed more than a handful of collapsed cabinet shelves; Allen-wrenched wobbly desks and tables; checked problematic bathroom issues; washed dirty, sand-filled rugs; washed blackboards, whiteboards and tables; boxed up and moved classrooms seven times; as well as hammered, drilled, nailed, threaded, sewn, quilted, painted and hot glued hundreds of art projects. There are not enough words in the English language, nor is there enough money on this planet, to pay her for all she has done over the years.

**Region IV - Youth  
Viktourea Hamill  
Pinellas County**

Although Viktourea is a high school sophomore, much of her time is spent in the STARS\* classroom at Ridgecrest Elementary where she works with individual students on a daily basis helping them to understand and master the skills and concepts that are being taught. During these sessions, students are assisted with addition, multiplication facts, story maps and science experiments. This enthusiastic volunteer supports the teachers by correcting papers, making die-cuts for classroom use and taking on any task asked of her. Viktourea often takes materials home to study so that she can become comfortable with them prior to working with students. The most astonishing accomplishment was her presentation at a school board meeting on behalf of the STARS program, which was scheduled to be eliminated by the district. The result of her impassioned speech was that the board was instructed to find the money to keep it going. She is a reliable and dedicated volunteer who helps bring success to the students she works with each and every day. *\*The STARS program provides additional support and guidance to students identified as at-risk.*

**Region IV - Adult  
Mrs. Susan Bane  
Collier County**

Among all the amazing volunteers here at Osceola Elementary School, Susan Bane stands out far above all the rest. For at least the past year and a half, Susan has volunteered for a *minimum* of eight hours a day, five days per week. She volunteers in a variety of ways that benefit students including, but not limited to the following: assisting with student drop-off and pick-up, helping in the cafeteria, and the media center, handling PTA business, and classroom and office assistance. Her day begins at 7:30 a.m. and concludes when the last car leaves the afternoon car line. Regardless of what life throws at Mrs. Bane, she comes to us with a smile on her face, a positive attitude and a genuine desire to give back to her school community.

**Region IV - Senior  
Bessie McCoy  
Hillsborough County**

Bessie McCoy is not viewed as just a volunteer at our school; she is an integral part of our school family. During the year, she volunteered at every grade level, in almost every department, and with every type of student. She volunteered in the classrooms and the cafeteria and now is full time in the media center. In addition to a regular school day, she volunteers her time at special after-school activities, family nights and celebrations. She has been asked to assist with certain ESE students who need extra one-on-one assistance with their lunches. She was the only individual for whom they would eat properly. Ms. Bessie seems to have a true understanding of what these children need in order to get them to eat at lunchtime and successfully focus on a task. Over the years, she has touched thousands of lives and has demonstrated true caring and dedication.

**Region V - Youth**  
**Ms. Harrison Harward**  
**Palm Beach County**

Harrison Harward, a senior at Suncoast High School, has been volunteering since she was in elementary school. Her contributions include making newsletters for various schools; working on projects such as feeding the homeless; working with the American Cancer Society and with Green Day events; letter-writing campaigns; and peer student support. At her brother's elementary school, she created a news program for the school that is shown at lunch each day. The program includes school news and various topics of interest, including astronomy pictures and facts, the "day" in history, weird science facts, and a math problem of the day. Through her ingenuity, she founded Communitenz, a website that has brought together a close-knit group of nearly 300 teenagers with one common goal...to volunteer. The program is now in six high schools and growing. Through Communitenz, students can find out where a volunteer is needed, sign up for events and log their hours. The program spans multiple social media sites and is connected to various schools and organizations within Palm Beach County. Additionally, schools, organizations and businesses can use the website to add events and list volunteer needs.

**Region V - Adult**  
**Lenore Hodges**  
**Palm Beach County**

You would be hard pressed to find a more involved and flexible school volunteer than Lenore Hodges! She has volunteered in schools for 32 years and in 8 different Palm Beach County schools for 17 years. Lenore has tutored students in reading and created an aid that helped increase test scores. As a veteran volunteer, Lenore led a campaign to see that students ate healthy meals and helped underserved students obtain scholarships, home computers, and internet access. Her contributions include assisting in the media center, working at Fun Fairs, field days, book fairs, photo days, dances, productions, and appreciation events, to name just a few. Her fundraising skills brought in more than \$40,000 to Palm Beach County schools. She has even prepared the Five Star School Award portfolio for two different schools. Last year, when Lenore had to take some time off, six people were needed to cover all her responsibilities. Needless to say, Palm Beach County is proud to say Lenore Hodges is one of theirs.

**Region V - Senior**  
**Ms. Dorothy Zarfjian**  
**Broward County**

If you visit North Side Elementary, you will see that Ms. Zarfjian, a Foster Grandparent Volunteer, is an essential part of the school environment. As is a team player and a wonderful person who cares for children, she has played many roles that have had a positive and sustaining impact on students' lives. Dorothy excels in student outreach, resource collaboration, and specifically academic support for students who are learning English as a second language. In her role as an advocate for students who lack support for schooling, Dorothy became a personal tutor for three students who arrived in this country from Haiti. She dedicated her time to collaborating assessments, homework support and home resources in order to provide a strong foundation for each child's education. Because of her consistent, instructional support each day, these students can now fully participate with the rest of their classmates.