Program Awards

Advocacy Award
Sterling Park Elementary PTA  Seminole County

This PTA supports their Pantry Program, so students can better focus on education. The PTA helps to fill the gap between school lunch on Friday and school breakfast on Monday with care packages that include weekend meals and basic toiletries for students in need and their families, identified by school counselors. Daily snacks are also provided. The PTA has collaborated with businesses, neighbors and community organizations to support the Pantry. They even collaborate with a local Girl Scout Troop who prepares Birthday Bags for the Pantry with cake mix, icing, candles and a handmade card!

Mulrennan Middle School PTSA  Hillsborough County

With the removal of courtesy busing within a 2-mile radius of the school, the PTA saw unsafe walking and biking conditions in addition to the increased traffic issues around the school. The PTA reached out to administration, law enforcement and elected officials to advocate for crossing guards. With the PTSA support, $13,000 was raised through a dodge ball tournament #DODGEBALLS NOTCARS, and enough funds were raised to support the school in hiring crossing guards to protect and educate the students and the community about safe school zones.

Hillsborough County Council PTA  Hillsborough County

HCC PTA advocated for the half-cent sales tax education referendum on the November 2018 ballot. The PTA saw the opportunity to educate the community about school needs, the significance of public schools, and the importance of voting for the referendum. A PAC including teachers, community organizations, and PTAs, began a Speaker Series in town hall meetings in schools, churches, neighborhood associations and senior centers to emphasize the importance of this increase in taxes. The referendum passed with 56% of the vote. The County Council’s efforts have helped to assure future collaboration with education stakeholders and has reaffirmed the relevance of Hillsborough County Council PTA in Hillsborough County.
All Children Are Our Children Award

Crystal Lake Elementary PTA     Seminole County

PTA conducted two programs, the **International Coffee Connection** and the **Special Tea Connection**, to reach out to underrepresented groups at the school. They included teachers and administrators to learn how PTA and the school could better serve all students. The International Coffee included an interactive map on the wall and conversations about cultures. The Special Tea reached out to those students with unique needs and their families. The results from these programs include bilingual flyers and floating translators, a sensory room and sensory friendly programs!

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts PTSA     Duval County

The PTSA focused efforts on **Mental Health Mondays** with a proactive approach toward mental health issues that impact students’ lives, relationships, and decisions. The program used social media to focus on wellness-based stories, resources and motivation for everyday life including issues of bullying, stress relief, and more so that students could work productively, manage stress, make meaningful contributions to their community and reach their full potential.

Seminole County Council PTA     Seminole County

Seminole County Council conducted two successful programs with countywide outreach. First was a **pajama drive**, offering sleepwear for children removed from their homes to be placed in foster care, with additional items distributed to students and families in need identified by district Social Services. The second was a **coat drive** for students and families in need. Both efforts collaborated with the schools throughout the district, the Foundation, and a number of community partners. These programs served to directly support the needs of these children and their families, and to educate the community of the needs of children of all ages.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award

(***presented at the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Breakfast*)

Alimacani Elementary PTA     Duval County

The PTA put together **Welcome Bags** to hand out to new families in our school containing coupons from local vendors such as restaurants and other services in our community. This Welcome Bag also includes names, addresses and phone numbers of important places and services such as doctors, dentist, vets, hospitals and pediatric specialties. With military bases nearby, they have also taken to celebrating the Month of the Military Child. Military children move often. It is hard sometimes for children and their
parents to get adjusted to a new school and new community. The students feel welcome and proud to see their parents take part in our school and PTA events. The PTA includes everyone, even those who do not speak English.

Julia Landon College Preparatory PTSA  Duval County

It has been reported that when fathers take an active role in education, student achievement has increased. This PTSA devoted many of their programs to fathers, father figures, and all men involved with students. They have had an overwhelmingly positive response to these programs from the students and the men in their lives. Continuing with programs like Donuts with Dads and All Pro Dads, the Principal, faculty, and PTSA have sustained success in their efforts!

Vivian Gaither High School PTSA  Hillsborough County

This PTSA supported a Talent Show where over 300 people attended. The show had 28 acts consisting of 52 participating students who had a variety of talents including singing, dancing, playing piano, playing guitar, playing ukulele, drumming, flags/rifles, and an orchestral string ensemble. The show included all grades from freshmen to seniors and included students from all cultural backgrounds represented at the school. It covered many genres of music ranging from smooth island groove to pop to rock to hip hop to classical. Several students performed pieces that they arranged, wrote, or choreographed themselves.

Friends of the Environment Award

North Shore Elementary PTA  Pinellas County

Partnering with the Edible Peace Patch Project and Junior League of St Petersburg, the PTA designed and installed a Learning Food Garden and implemented curriculum with elements of science and math for students to have hands on learning experience with healthy homegrown fruits and vegetables. With the garden came the need for Compost and the school cafeteria joined in. Students now sort between compost, recycle, and trash. Then came the Recycle Program which also focuses on reducing waste.

MAST Academy PTSA  Miami-Dade County

The PTSA added a Sustainability Committee after students voted to become the first net-zero energy and zero waste school in Florida. They became the first 6-12 Green Apple School in Florida, and when the U.S. Green Building Council hosted their Green Apple Day of Service at MAST Academy, and the PTSA helped fund the lighting retrofit and lighting sensor installation to collaborate with industry experts to teach students about energy efficiency. The Green Champions Program, supported by the PTSA Sustainability Committee, gives students from all grade levels an opportunity to work toward creating a
model for saving money and resources. Parents and students have attended Green Champions meetings, work days and coastal restoration events.

**Literacy Award**

**Goldsboro Elementary Magnet PTA**  
**Seminole County**

The PTA holds two **Book Fairs** each year, and purchases sets of Sunshine State Readers for classrooms and the Media Center. Students who read all 15 Sunshine State books receive incentives. They host **Picnics and Paperbacks** with each Book Fair. PTA Volunteers help to shelve books in the Media Center, and help student find books and use resources correctly. Other programs like **Reading Rockets, Guest Readers, the Free Library**, and **Book Swaps** focus on literacy throughout the year. Even this year’s fundraiser was a “Read-A-Thon”!

**Palmetto Middle School PTSA**  
**Miami-Dade County**

The school Media Center has been entirely run by PTSA Volunteers for several years. **14 PTSA volunteers staff the Media Center** from 8:30-10:00AM daily. They support computer-based learning opportunities, and organize, label and check out books for students. The PTSA purchased **Sunshine State Reading Books** for classrooms and for the Media Center, and created a **Reading Lab** in conjunction with the Reading Teacher to help motivate struggling readers. They collected sofas and bean bags, shelves and crates of books, to create an inviting place to relax, read and work on improving reading skills.

**Pinellas County Council PTA**  
**Pinellas County**

Pinellas County Council supports a county-wide **Book Drive** with 9 community Partners currently serving as drop off locations. This provides free books to help promote the joy of reading, especially in areas of poverty where children encounter barriers to access to books. They continue to promote ideas and program information to local units to support literacy.

**Local Unit Achievement Award**

**Paul B Stephens School PTA**  
**Pinellas County**

They participated in trainings, records were audited, the budget was approved, they have required General Meetings, increased their Membership this year, and communicated with members through a variety of platforms. They had great programs including **Family Movie Night, Holiday Shop for Students, Holiday Make & Take**, and gathered donations of food, treats, and toys for the SCPA. They followed through on the required procedures and had a very successful year overall.
Julia Landon College Preparatory PTSA Duval County

Landon PTSA had an election, provided training for their board, had an audit and approved a budget. They had Board Meetings, General Meetings and communicated with members using a variety of platforms. They followed thru on the requirements for a PTSA as well as many worthwhile programs including All Pro Dads, Muffins with Mom, Hospitality support, Donuts with Dad, and Teacher Grants.

**President’s Local Unit Achievement Award**

Cordova Park Elementary PTA Escambia County

Cordova Park PTA completed many best practices to have a productive and successful year. They made training a priority and attended FLPTA and County Council learning opportunities, and created peer to peer training within their own board. Records were audited, a budget was approved, they communicated with their Members using a variety of platforms. They conducted many successful programs including the Kindness Challenge, Fall Festival, and the Family Color Run which was so successful they were able to share funds raised with other communities impacted by Hurricane Michael.

Christa McAuliffe Middle PTSA Palm Beach County

Christa McAuliffe Middle School PTSA worked through best practices this year to have a successful year. They increased membership this year and communicated regularly with their members in a variety of formats. Records were audited, budget approved, and Board Members attended Leadership Convention. They chose to focus efforts on a Vaping Education program and a Campus Beautification Program that resulted in a Memorial Garden Honoring the 17 that lost their lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School last year. The garden was dedicated on the morning of February 14, 2019, one year after this tragic event.

**Mentor-A-PTA Award**

Roosevelt Elementary PTA Hillsborough County

Roosevelt Elementary PTA has offered support to Lanier Elementary PTA. It began with support of a Teacher Appreciation event at Lanier, then a clothing drive to benefit students. Now a true partnership exists where funds in the budget are set aside for Lanier Elementary, and Roosevelt PTA members join Lanier PTA to volunteer in support of programs. Roosevelt Elementary PTA members feel they too have learned and grown from this partnership and shares this recognition with Lanier Elementary PTA.
Crystal Lake Middle PTSA has offered ongoing support and guidance to Dillard Elementary PTA which has included basics of PTA Board procedures, PTA Board Meetings, General Meetings, and program development. Dillard Elementary PTA Board Members were invited to Crystal Lake programs to participate and learn. Dillard reached out for help, and this partnership has benefited both units.

**Outstanding Administrator of the Year**

Chris Mulholland  
Goldsboro Elementary Magnet PTA  
Seminole County

Goldsboro PTA describes their Administrator as engaging, passionate, and dedicated. She is not only supportive of planned PTA programs; she promotes them and attends as well. She is helpful in resolving conflict, and helps to find alternatives if problems arise. She has been taped to the wall, dunked in the tank and more, in support of PTA efforts on behalf of the students at Goldsboro Elementary!

Claire Mawhinney  
General James D Randall Middle PTSA  
Hillsborough County

Her PTSA nominated her because she is not only and active and involved in the PTSA, she promotes PTSA and encourages teachers and staff, parents and students, to join, support, and participate in PTSA activities. She includes PTSA in school programs, and maintains ongoing communication with PTSA leaders. She strives to develop cooperation between parents, teachers and the community through her support of PTSA.

**Program Award**

North Shore Elementary PTA  
Pinellas County

The PTA developed and implements programs that support education outcomes for students, which they have done with the 7th Hour Enrichment Program. What started as a fee for service program with 5 options, now has 16 after school options supported by teachers, community members and professionals. 45% of the students participate. Scholarships and busing are available so cost and transportation will not be barriers to participation. Funds are raised from the annual “Turkey Trot.

Tech High PTSA  
Pinellas County

Tech High School PTSA collaborated with the Nursing program students at the high school to research, develop, and implement a program for students and parents and the community with information about the Dangers of Vaping and ways to help students and parents to quit. The PTSA also had support and participation from Tobacco Free
Florida. District officials also attended. 100% of the students participated in this new high school of 9th graders.

Duval County Council PTA

Duval County Council offered two Lunch & Learn Programs. The first was Suicide Prevention and Mental Health, discussing how PTAs and parents can become more proactive in identifying and protecting youth in crisis. The second was Raising Children in the Digital Age. The presentations were offered by professionals in each area, and supportive documents were provided along with lunch. Attendance increased with each presentation.

**President’s Program Award**

Layer Elementary PTA

Seminole County

The PTA implemented a Family Engagement Program in honor of Veteran’s Day. All students and their Grandparents were invited to a patriotic-themed breakfast before school. During the Breakfast, we invited Veterans to stand and be recognized. Our Music Teacher and students sang “This Land is Your Land”, and families decorated paper stars together to add to a banner that was presented to the Winter Springs VFW that evening. The Veterans were honored to receive the banner that read “Thank You Veterans!” and displayed it throughout the Veterans Day holiday weekend.

West Boca Raton High School PTSA

Palm Beach County

The program offered by this PTSA was personal following the events at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School 10 miles away. They implemented a Mental Health Symposium, with two goals in mind. First, to offer a place for honest, open discussion about teen mental health. Secondly, to share information that students, families and the community could use now. The PTSA received support from community partners who shared resources and materials, and 100% of the students participated.

Seminole County Council PTA

Seminole County

Seminole County Council conducted an “Auditpalooza!” with the support of community partners, to encourage and support local units in completing their financial reviews. Reviewing the process and completing the documents in a setting where questions were answered and support was available helped those units who needed it and maintained awareness of PTA compliance requirements countywide.

**Safety Award**

Alimacani Elementary PTA

Duval County

Several elements of safety were included in the programs that were conducted by Alimacani PTA in collaboration with community partners. The first was Water Safety, the next was Family Fitness focusing on safe exercise. Red Ribbon Week activities, pictures
and fingerprints in case of emergency, and **Internet Safety** were other programs focusing on safety education throughout the year.

**Newsome High School PTSA**  
**Hillsborough County**

A week long program in collaboration with Student government, Law enforcement, an insurance agency, and Tampa General Hospital focusing on **safe driving** this year at Newsome. They also supported a “**Start with Hello**” program to prevent student isolation, **Lock Down Drill** procedures, and an **Anti-Vaping Program** to focus on safety awareness throughout the year.

**Pasco County Council PTA**  
**Pasco County**

Pasco County Council opened their safety related programs to the community throughout the year. Their programs included topics such as **Suicide Awareness and Prevention, Cancer Awareness/Breast Cancer Awareness** at the PCCPTA Pink for the Cure Event, **Get Connected with Your Community**, an Interactive Expo to increase knowledge of safety and health resources available to parents and students, a **Human Trafficking Awareness Program**, and a Town Hall Meeting to discuss school safety programs in Pasco County.

**Thomas Newsletter Award**

The following units had excellent newsletters that included all the elements on the FLPTA check list including messages from the PTA President, a calendar of events, report on membership, information from national, county, state and local PTA and a proper masthead that included the pertinent information needed by members:

**Coral Reef Elementary PTA**  
**Miami-Dade County**

**Newsome High School PTSA**  
**Hillsborough County**

**Student and PTSA Recognition Awards**

**Student Advocate**

**Elaine Feaster**  
**Liberty Middle School PTSA**  
**Hillsborough County**

Elaine is in 8th grade, and was **nominated by her PTSA at Liberty Middle School** in Hillsborough County. Elaine has focused her efforts on literacy over the years as she herself was diagnosed with a reading disability. She researched the issue and chose to make a lasting impact on the lives of others through **Literacy**. She collected almost 200 books for Parents and Children Advance Together (PCAT) family literacy center.
She tutored children, visited Kindergarten classes to read and to discuss the importance of reading, attended community events to spread the importance of literacy, and collected books to donate to at-risk children in elementary schools.

With a donation box placed at the YMCA, 1500 elementary level books were donated to Foster Elementary as 98% of the students receive free/reduced lunch and the reading testing scores were below average.

After five more months, another 1700 books were donated to Edison Elementary, another underperforming school.

This year, she collected another 2900 middle school level books. After sorting, 50 books went to the Salvation Army and 70 books to my middle school library and ELA classrooms. The rest of the 2800 books were donated to another underperforming school: Witter Elementary.

In case you’re counting, that’s a total of 6000 books donated to Title 1 Elementary schools in Hillsborough County! Elaine’s efforts have been appreciated by the Hillsborough County School Board, and last year she earned her Girl Scout Silver Award with her efforts to promote literacy. Her motto “When you can read you can learn anything!”

**Student Community Service Award**

Blue Lake Elementary PTA Volusia County

**High Achievers** is a Student Service Organization which has provided over 260 volunteer hours in support of school events. Our events would not have been possible without their hard work to set up, work tables, and clean up after events.

West Boca Raton High School PTSA Palm Beach County

The PTSA focused on a Family Night event to create awareness and offer information about Food Insecurity. The students coordinated their efforts in groups, and were speakers at the event. The students created an informative video about food issues in our community with data and local maps. Students also created a Cookbook with 90 family meals on a budget with a nutritional guide and spending tips, and a Children’s Cookbook with child friendly recipes and information. Both books were distributed at the event.

Students also repaired and rebuilt the school garden, taught lessons on food deserts to Environmental Science Classes, and created a food mural placed in the cafeteria. The students totaled 650 volunteer hours. The program was promoted to nearby elementary schools, and they hope to “grow” the program next year.

**Membership Awards**

**President’s Membership Award**

Local Unit Achievement Award winner for incorporating PTA best practices throughout this year, AND shows the highest numerical increase in individual memberships over the previous year.

Alimacani Elementary PTA Duval County

Alimacani completed the business of PTA and increased membership by 150!
Douglas Anderson accomplished so much this year, and increased their membership by 215!

**Membership Plus Award**
The highest numerical increase in individual memberships over the previous year.

Coral Reef Elementary PTA  
Increased their membership by 324!  

Palmetto Middle School PTSA  
Increased their membership by 542!!