

Partners in Education awards:

Honoring those who enrich our educational system

2007-08 was an outstanding year for Forsyth County Schools' (FCS) Partners in Education program. In partnership with the Cumming-Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce, FCS grew from 350 to approximately 450 active partners working with our 30 schools and various departments within the school system.

Activities have sought to improve student achievement in all subject areas, boost educator support and morale, enrich life experiences for students and grow career opportunities.

Schools have stepped up their efforts in recognizing and thanking their partners. On May 5, "The Celebration of Excellence" was held to honor not only FCS' Teachers of the Year, but also to celebrate our Partners in Education.

Listed below are the partners that received outstanding recognition awards for 2008.

Volunteer of the Year

Nominated by Daves Creek Elementary, Mary Nix's volunteer participation dates back to 1996. Mary is involved in PTA, the talent show, WDBS newsroom and has assisted for seven years with the Oratorical and Spelling Bee. Mary is known across the school system as "Petunia" where she encourages the students to recycle their milk cartons along with Keep Forsyth County Beautiful and the "Drink It, Then Sink It" recycling program.

Mentor of the Year

FCS has outstanding mentor program in each of its schools. All of these



mentors deserve an award for their time and dedication. They touch many lives, and may never see the long lasting effects they have on a child's life. This year's recipient, Mike Collins, nominated by Riverwatch Middle, has been a mentor for the past four years. Mike works a full time job, is a spouse and father and has been a foster parent. His mentee says, "Mike is a grade motivator and helps me with issues and has instilled in me the need and desire to succeed in school."

Friend of the School

A Friend of the School is a partner that is involved in a specific and often one-time activity. This year's winner, RBM of Atlanta-North, nominated by Midway Elementary, not only was a new partner to our system, but also a new business and asset to our community. RBM gave a very generous donation that was used to enrich the life experience of students and to improve academic performance.

Silver Program of the Year

This year, FCS honored two partners in education with the Silver Program award. Advance Disposal/Eagle Point Landfill, nominated by Coal Mountain Elementary, and Atlanta Gas Company, nominated by Otwell Middle. These two partners participated in at least two of the four areas of partnership success. These areas are: Improving academic performance, providing for educator support and moral, enriching the life experience for students, and growing career opportunities.

Gold Program of the Year

The Gold Level Partner requires an even greater commitment from the business/community partner by participating in three of the four key areas of partnership success. This year's recipient, Georgia Federal Credit Union, has been an active and valuable Partner in Education since the program's inception. They are involved throughout the year in almost all system events. This partner is always

a phone call away to assist our employees with banking needs in anyway they can and their support of our Hispanic employees has been essential to their financial security.

The Don Hendricks Partnership Award

This award is the highest honor that a Partner in Education can receive. It is given to the partner who best exemplifies the mission of the Partners in Education program and demonstrates loyalty to the school system and to the community.

This year's recipients are known throughout the community for their relentless dedication and sense of giving, not only monetarily, but also by giving of themselves. The inspiration of Jim and Jeanne DeSana has fueled efforts to form the Forsyth County Educational Foundation, which will help promote more scholarships for students as well as employees, grants for classrooms and honorariums for outstanding performances in the school system.