

## **Virginia PTA Elementary Volunteer of the Year 2010-2011**

Kate Trussell

Union Mill Elementary School – Northern VA District

Kate has served three years at the Union Mill Elementary School PTA. At the time of submission, Kate served as the Vice President of Ways and Means, Bread Basket Chairperson and Room Mother.

### **Quoted from her application:**

Kate gives countless hours of her time to help our school. Not only is Kate on the PTA Executive Board, a chairperson of our community outreach project, "Bread Basket," and a Room Mother, but whenever other help is needed at the school – Kate is there. She makes copies for teachers in the copy center one a week. She helps answer phones in the office when they are short-handed. She helps the children in the cafeteria when the Cafeteria Hostesses are not there. Kate reads to her daughter's class. She puts away books in the library and helps the children check out books once a week. Kate volunteers at field days, fundraisers, field trips, book fairs, class parties, and class plays. Kate is kind, caring and patient with the children and she has an excellent relationship with the staff and administration. Kate is very much respected and admired by the students, staff and parents.

Kate Trussell coordinates the "Bread Basket," which is one of our school's community outreach programs. The way the program works is, every Wednesday a class from our school (grades 1 – 6) makes sandwiches that are donated to a local food bank. These sandwiches are sometimes the only meal of the day for needy people in our area. The Bread Basket program has already surpassed last year's goal of 7,500 sandwiches.

### **Quote from a Teacher - Mary Eads, Second Grade Teacher, Union Mill Elementary**

*Mrs. Trussell also has a wonderful relationship with the students in my classroom. She is kind and patient. My students love it when she comes to read to them as a guest reader. I cannot begin to express the amount of gratitude I have for all of the help she has given to our class this year. I can honestly say that because of her we have been able to complete more special projects this year than ever before. Perhaps what stands out most about her is her unfailing, "can-do" attitude that comes with a smile. I know that she is willing to do whatever is needed, whenever it is needed to help support me and our classroom. She is one of a kind and is one of the most amazing volunteers I have ever had in my twenty years of teaching.*