

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.

Virginia PTA Secondary Volunteer of the Year 2010-2011

Jennifer Read Campbell

Westfield High School – Northern Virginia District

Jennifer has served in the PTA for the past 11 years at the high school, middle school and elementary school levels. At the time of submission, she was the PTSA president at Westfield High School. She also served as PTSA secretary, the local unit president at Cub Run Elementary PTA as well as on the board at Stone Middle School.

Quoted from her application:

As President of the Westfield High School PTSA, Jennifer Campbell has all the attributes of a successful president. What makes her an exceptional president is her vision, determination, drive and long-term commitment to Westfield High School and its students, teachers and parents. Jennifer is a pro-active president; she is always listening and always thinking of new ways to communicate with and educate the greater Westfield community. She has a seemingly boundless supply of energy. She refuses to let things fall through the cracks. She is everywhere: from writing newsletter columns to raising funds, organizing the installation of the school marquee, from manning the PTSA tables at events and checking coats at Homecoming.

Jennifer cultivates positive working relationships wherever she volunteers, and then uses these personal connections to facilitate collaboration between organizations with common goals. The most obvious examples of this are the educational programs sponsored by the PTSA with the input of the Westfield Community Coalition. These collaborative relationships ensure that all members of Westfield's staff from the administrators to those in maintenance support the PTSA in events and activities that enhance our student's safety and enrich their school experience.

Jennifer's personal statement:

Sixteen years ago, I never thought I'd be doing what I have been doing since I first stepped in Fairfax County Public Schools. Having moved to the area the year previous and passing by Virginia Social Work Licensure exam, my sister passed away unexpectedly, leaving behind her beautiful children, ages 2, 6 & 8. Shortly, thereafter, her estranged husband died from alcoholism; my husband and I found ourselves in a three year custody battle over their children. I pulled myself out of the job market. I know my family needed me. Life was full with 5 children, but I ached to meet new people and feel a part of the community and make a difference. Little did I know, PTA was just the anecdote for what started out innocently enough as the elementary publicity chair.

It has been a great journey and one that I've had little regret.