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LOCAL

Roots and Wings: Improving students' reading skills

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What does Roots and Wings do?

Roots and Wings helps second- and third-grade students in Delray Beach's public schools with their reading skills, and honors teachers and staff who go above and beyond in their duties and responsibilities.

How does your agency benefit the community?

Our agency benefits the community by rewarding the teachers and staff who work so hard every day to educate the youth of Delray Beach. We offer assistance to students who want a hand to help them with their reading in the critical second and third grade years.

What is your agency's focus for the future?

Our focus for the remainder of the school year is to expand the Above and Beyond Awards into several schools in both Boynton Beach and Boca Raton. We will expand our Project Uplift reading program to more of Delray Beach's elementary schools in the fall of 2019.

Recently, we added second-graders to the Project Uplift program to achieve a broader impact. Due to the extraordinary generosity of foundations and friends, we added Orchard View Elementary. Students are encouraged to apply based on their needs, but it is strictly a voluntary program for which the student applies and is accepted. We are therefore able to help those that really want the help.

How can the community get involved?

Our community can become involved with our projects by lending their support through attendance to award presentations and financially by helping to support Project Uplift's reading and reading comprehension program.

Contributed

Mission Statement

Roots and Wings was established to serve children in need and their families to improve their access to education, health care, transportation and recreation, and to encourage strong, cohesive families.

Key Programs

Project Uplift: In 2017, we initiated a pilot program at Pine Grove Elementary to help children in third grade with their reading comprehension. Third-graders need to pass the state-mandated FSA reading test to move on to the fourth grade. The program was highly successful in improving the iReady test scores, and 94 percent of the students showed growth at the end of the school year. Students are encouraged to apply to the program based on their needs. Once students are accepted, we are able to help those that really want the help.

Above and Beyond Awards: The Above and Beyond Teacher and Staff Recognition program began in 2016 as a fun, celebratory way to honor the hard work of public school teachers who often go unrecognized. Principals of each school pick the winners, many times with the help of faculty and staff. Members of the board of Roots and Wings, along with donors, community leaders and interested members of our community attend these award presentations. Since its inception, Roots and Wings has honored over 400 teachers and staff.

Project Imagination: is a speaker series where various members of the community, regardless of age, can speak to students to encourage them and provide messages of empowerment.

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