

News U Trust

APPRECIATING, DEVELOPING, AND SUPPORTING SCHOOL STAFF

2012 WRITING COMPETITION

*Pick up your pencil and start writing now
to win one of 17 cash prizes.*



Write and Win!

Who wouldn't enjoy a little extra cash just for telling a great story? That's exactly what the Make a Difference writing competition is all about. We are seeking stories from students and adults about someone in the school system who has made a difference in their lives. Is there someone about whom you can say "Her guidance and encouragement has helped me learn that anything is possible despite whatever else that I may be going through. That is something that I will remember, not only now, but for the rest of my life."? If so, let them and us know by writing about it.

The deadline for entries is November 30th and the guidelines are found at tnuct.com. With both an adult and student division, the opportunities to win are multiplied, so consider how you can help promote this competition in your schools.

One winner from last year wrote, "I am happy to say I have someone in my life like Ms. Glover that I can open up to and get guidance and inspiration from. She makes my life worth living each and every day." It is these kinds of comments and more that make this writing competition so special for both the writers and the subjects.

Click [here](#) for posters to put on your bulletin board.



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PASS THE TORCH

HELP
SOMEONE ELSE
IN NEED
TO HONOR
OUR
SUPERINTENDENT

GO FOR THE GOLD!

Get ready for a Superintendent Appreciation day of Olympic proportions! This year we celebrate superintendents on November 20th using an olympic theme that will affect lives long after the day is over.

In order to truly honor our fearless leaders, we are recommending that schools choose a charity drive that will ultimately benefit those in the communities around the

school. You will see that the various activities described in the packets offer ideas and suggestions of the types of drives to conduct as well as fun ways to get your students involved.

What better way to honor the superintendent than, in his or her name, to help the students and families in your community.

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Custodian Appreciation Day Celebrations

Yee haw, pardner, so many schools went to infinity and beyond showing love and appreciation to their special employees, the custodians. Our respect and admiration for all the students and school coordinators shot to the moon for all the time and effort spent making this special appreciation day out of this world.

Cumberland County is our newest system to report activities using Phanfare. And they're off to a good start. The students at **Brown Elementary** signed a kind thank you note; **Crab Orchard** created a thank you poster for their custodian. The custodian at **Homestead Elementary** was so appreciative, he asked the students to give him a picture of the bulletin board so he could take it home to show his wife. "Some tears were shed as the appreciation team realized just how

much this truly meant to our custodial staff." Wow, what a great day! **Phoenix school** treated their custodian to a spa day...something everyone deserves and the students at **Pine View Elementary** plastered adorable thank you notes all over the custodian's door to show their appreciation. To view a slideshow, click [here](#).

In **Hamblen County**, Union Heights had an adorable background collage covering the entire wall with Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head with the students holding appreciation posters up for the custodians to enjoy. Click [here](#) to see pictures.

Hancock County treated their custodians with goodie bags and signs created by their students. To see pictures of the day, click [here](#).

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Benton County Uses Toy Story to Celebrate Custodians

The sky's the limit to how much the students in Benton County love and appreciate their custodians, and they showed them on their special day.

Big Sandy School gave goodie bags and had a terrific Mr. Potato Head bulletin board that said, "We'd fall apart without our custodians".

Briarwood Elementary went above and beyond honoring their custodians. The students created great artwork with personalized messages of thanks. Thoughtful and meaningful thank you notes and coloring sheets from the students were given to the honorees. Math was even incorporated into their preparations for the day's festivities.

Camden Elementary flew to great heights in their appreciation day activities. The A-Team created their own special "Mr. Potato Head" for each of the custodians; students sang the rewritten song and made up their own cheer. Both were performed for the custodians on their special day. Students in Toy Story costumes were found all over the school as well as thoughtful posters with sincere

expressions of thanks. The custodians were interviewed and asked what is your one wish? The answers were priceless such as "Don't go potty on the bathroom floor".

Camden High School had great student body involvement by having classes and clubs create and display thoughtful thank you posters all over the walls of their school.

Camden Junior High School made a fun and creative slideshow about their Toy Story pizza party and even gave their custodians the night off from cooking by giving them Subway gift cards for dinner.

Career & Technical Center/ CHS gave gift bags and horse shoes to honor their custodians.

Holladay School presented their custodians with adorable Mr. Potato Head gift bags filled with their "favorite items and much needed hand cream". Every school in the system participated which earns them a shining star in our galaxy! Click [here](#) to view a slideshow of all the celebrations in Benton County.

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Hawkins County Celebrates Students' "Friends"

Boy, do the custodians have a friend in the students in Hawkins County!

Bull's Gap honored their custodians with a homemade cake.

Carter's Valley Elementary created door posters for each of the custodians with thank you notes taped all over the door.

Cherokee High School decorated the custodian's cart with thank you messages to enjoy all throughout the day.

Church Hill Elementary said "We have the best custodians and greatly appreciate them" so they were treated to a special BBQ meal.

Church Hill Intermediate - the A-Team went all out for their custodian by creating a huge thank you poster for her and giving her a

decorated water bottle and chocolate bar, t-shirt, and a gift card.

The students and a teacher at **Church Hill Middle School** decorated the planning room area and made lunches and gift bags for all our custodians.

The custodians at **Clinch School** were given a special gift by each teacher having their class clean their room and two of the Senior boys hauled off the garbage.

Keplar Elementary treated their custodian like royalty giving him an awesome bucket filled with goodies and asking him questions about the day.

The students at **McPheeter's Bend School** made thoughtful thank you notes honoring their custodians.

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Hawkins Celebrates Custodians to Infinity & Beyond

Mooreburg Elementary

students had a lot of fun dressing up in the Toy Story theme and interviewing other students about their custodians to honor them.

Mt. Carmel Elementary

submitted a video of the A-Team and student body saying thank you to the custodians.

Pathways Alternative School

students made amazing posters in honor of Custodian Day and treated their custodians to a Pizza Planet lunch buffet fit for kings.

Rogersville Middle School

created awesome wall posters with thank you messages from the A-Team and other students.

Surgoinsville Elementary

treated their custodians to

massages and a lunch fit for any good cowboy.

Surgoinsville Middle School

submitted a fantastic newsletter of the appreciation the students have for their custodians.

And the students at **Volunteer High School** went over the moon celebrating Custodian Appreciation Day at their school. Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head, 2 friendly aliens and Jessie made an appearance!

Appreciation signs were all over the school made by the students. A Pizza Planet luncheon was held for the custodians with A-Team students present to give them chocolate bars and water bottles with themed-labels, and cupcakes were for dessert. Click [here](#) to view the slideshows for each of the schools.

Custodian Appreciation Day Celebrations

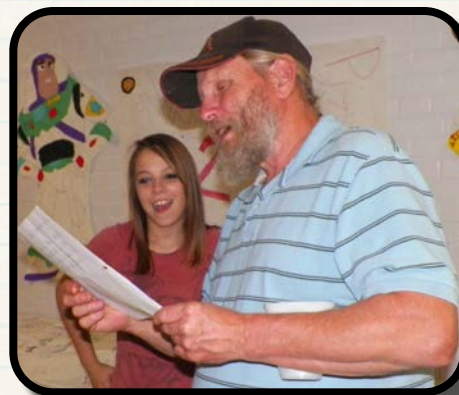
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Custodians Have a Friend in Sumner County

In Sumner County at **Beech Elementary**, the A-Team students presented each custodian with a goodie bag filled with goodies and a smilebox.

They also gave the custodians the day off after lunch by sweeping and mopping the cafeteria floors and emptying the trash while they enjoyed a Pizza Planet lunch. To view a smilebox of the activities for the day, click [here](#).

The day was extra special at **Knox Doss Middle School** because students worked hard on posters, signs, adorable Mr. Potato Head goodie bags filled with things from the community,

PTO and a Smilebox made by an A-Team student.

On the appreciation day, 3 A-Team students sang the rewritten song to the custodians to honor them. One custodian received a beautiful, thoughtful letter from a student expressing how her special words helped him cope with his mom's sickness that brought her to tears.

Without the school participating in the program, she never would have known how he felt. To view a slideshow of pictures, click [here](#).

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Custodian Appreciation Day was alive and well in **Jackson County**. Superintendent Joe Barlow and System Coordinator Freda Hammock visited all schools to personally thank these hard-working employees in the system and presented each one with thank you letters and gift bags decorated by Jackson County Middle School 6th grade students. The students at Gainesboro Elementary School also celebrated the special day with their custodian. To view a slideshow of their day, click [here](#).

The A-Team at **Trousdale County Elementary** honored their custodians by having all students participate in making thank-you cards, decorating the custodian office door and hallway. They decorated a bulletin board in the

theme and provided two small gifts as well as, cupcakes and other refreshments for their wonderful custodians. The A-team also sang an appreciation song called 'Home At Our School'." Adorable thank you notes were plastered all over the custodian door filled to overflowing. Click [here](#) to see all of the pictures of the celebrations.



We have had technical difficulties with Phanfare in recent days. We hope the problem is corrected and that you will now be able to enter your photos and videos without issue. Please call us if you experience difficulties.

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A Night To Remember...

Beautiful weather + great people + fun program + excellent food = Utrust Member Appreciation Dinner.

A great time was had by all on board the General Jackson November 4 as the Utrust members gathered to celebrate and fellowship. From the cast off to the docking, members enjoyed a festive atmosphere as they feasted both on food and then on the amazing night view of the Nashville skyline.

Three different systems received awards during the Utrust program. **Van Buren County** and **Humphreys County** were both recognized as the first Charles Bridwell award winners for lowest unemployment claims. This new award is named after long time Sullivan County School Board member and former chairman of the Utrust Board of Trustees. Van Buren Superintendent, Michael Martin was grateful for the award and said "We have been very blessed with our employee

retention the past several years". Van Buren was the only system with zero unemployment claims and represented those systems with less than 250 employees.

Humphreys County was the winner for systems with over 500 employees. Superintendent Jimmy Long said their success is simple because "We only hire employees that we plan to keep".

Hawkins County was the third time winner of the Best Employee Appreciation Program Award. Superintendent Charlotte Britton received \$200 checks for each of their 19 schools for use by the A Teams in program activities. Britton was "very pleased and excited about winning the award" but expressed her appreciation for the program itself by saying "it means so much to us to be able to reward and show appreciation to our school employees". Britton credits much of their system success to Coordinator Nedra Jackson and the individual schools who have taken

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ownership of the program over the past 4 years. She also expressed the importance of having a school board that is in support of the EAP.

Thanks to all our members for joining us and we look forward to seeing those of you who couldn't make it soon.



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CUSTODIAN APPRECIATION DAY BRIGHTEST STAR WINNERS

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Elementary division winner is **Camden Elementary** in Benton County who provided a great video summary of the appreciation day activities including headshots of each of the custodians as their own "potato head". Click [here](#) to view.



Middle/High School division winner is **Volunteer High School** in Hawkins County because of the great participation by the students in appreciation day activities including some of the most creative thank you phrases for their custodians on their "Mr. Potato Heads". Click [here](#) to view a slideshow.



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