

Bill MacAloney

Bill MacAloney is the chairman/CEO of Jax Market. Bill's support for Sycamore's Needy Family Program has allowed them to serve 25 needy families in the community each year. He opens up his store to allow student program members to "shop" for food and household items for families in need. Bill then turns around and writes a check to donate half of the money spent back to the program. Bill's kindness has helped over 600 families over the years.

Project SAY: Mario Morales and Teresa Rodriguez

Mario and Teresa work for Project Say and serve Sycamore Junior High School. They go out of their way to help students in need of support and to provide needed resources. Recently a Sycamore student was going through a difficult time because his father had been deported. Mario made contact with the student's family the same day that the student was referred to him. He is very prompt in his responses to students in need. He never says no to any referral, even though he is overwhelmed with requests for service.

Mayor Tom Tait

Mayor Tait provides leadership in our responsibility as citizens to demonstrate kindness. He exemplifies what it means to walk his talk as he engages with citizen groups to spread the word about kindness. His "Hi Neighbor" program encourages citizens in the community to come together and watch out for each other. He meets with groups to solicit and encourage participation as a gentler, kinder community. Mayor Tait not only talks about kindness, he demonstrates it. He is a catalyst in our community to effect change in the arena of community care and concern.

Charles Williams

Charles Williams is the Vice President of IT with National Creditors Connection, Inc. He provides support to Cypress High School baseball and football teams by randomly providing pizza, BBQ and restaurant meals to team members. Sometimes he feeds the entire team. He also selects a day each summer to provide BBQ, games, and activities to the Cypress Boys, and Girls Club. His kindness is unexpected and makes it wonderful to live in the same community with him.

Genesis Escobar

Genesis Escobar is a student at Sycamore Junior High School. She has such a positive energy and is very willing to help her peers. Genesis recently helped promote the Tiger Woods Learning Center careers program. This is a very positive program that can help students in exploring future careers. She could have just turned in her application. Instead, she spoke to her peers about the invaluable opportunity. The counseling department exceeded its target number of applications because of Genesis's efforts.

Maria Cristina Marti

Cristina is a student at Magnolia High School. She is always looking for places to volunteer. She is currently a student aid for the autism class at Magnolia High School. As soon as she knew this program was opening up, she asked her assistant principal if she could be involved. She is also a volunteer at Grateful Hearts and at Lord Baden Powell School where she helps with the special education children. She has participated in a program in Mexico called Unidos Sonos Iguales for 6 years. This program promotes the social integration of all classes of people with disabilities. Cristina is always seeking places that need her help.

Michael Vicente

Michael is a student at Kennedy High School. He is a volunteer at the La Palma Neighborhood Watch, Tiger Woods Learning Center, and Helping Other People Every Day, where he has been involved since the 4th grade. Michael feels strongly about his commitment to helping those in need. He spends every 1st and 3rd Saturday waking up at 6 A.M. to help set up and distribute food. Michael is very kind and giving and feels that he can make a difference if he shows someone that he is there for them.

Oscar Ramirez

Oscar is a teacher at the Independent Learning Center at Anaheim High School. Oscar is constantly encouraging students, exhibiting generosity towards others, and supporting the efforts and ideas of everyone around him. Oscar brings snacks and drinks to school every week and shares them with students and staff. His generosity often goes unnoticed, but that does not stop him from continuing to do for others. He is constantly supporting the efforts of his students and his colleagues. He praises all around him and is a constant supporter and encourager. Oscar always cares for others.

Cori Esperanza and Tony Barber

Cori and Tony are teachers at Sycamore Junior High School. Last year, when tragedy struck the Sycamore community with the death of a 7th grade student, Cori and Tony worked tirelessly with the students closest to the young man. They both spent hours counseling and supporting the students. They met with the family, helped the students organize fundraisers, and continued meeting with the students once a week over the summer. Additionally, Cori spoke at the young man's funeral. Tony took students to events, such as Angel's games, during the summer. Both teachers gave their guidance, time, and heart to these students.

David Ek

Coach Ek is a PE teacher at Magnolia High School. A former student wrote: Coach Ek made me a better person. He gave me the strength to take on this world and the knowledge to judge between right and wrong. As the year went by, and I heard Coach Ek's pep talks and his life stories, I understood the power he has. I was too young at the time and not smart enough to save all his powerful words in my mind. Now I wish I could go back to those Fridays in the weight room and listen to his words once again. Coach Ek has been an inspiration to me.

David Dorosky

Mr. Dorosky is an assistant principal at Lexington junior high school. A parent wrote: On the first day of school, dropping off my daughter at a new school was nerve breaking. Mr. Dorosky greeted us and assured me that my daughter would be in good hands. Even though, it was a very busy morning, he treated everyone with sincerity and professionalism. All worry went away instantly. I am glad that my daughter goes to Lexington. Every morning dropping off my daughter, I'm sure that there is Mr. Dorosky, and other staff at Lexington, who I can trust to leave my kid with and go to work.

Jack Jensen

Jack Jensen is an assistant principal at Kennedy High School. A parent wrote: Mr. Jensen has overseen the accommodations for our daughter's academic needs. He made a personal effort to develop a positive relationship with our daughter. This effort created trust. He truly cares for the needs of his students and his positive

demeanor is refreshing. Leadership is a great quality that Mr. Jensen possesses. He is a great mentor.

Shari Cary

Shari Cary is an assistant principal at Orangeview Junior High school. A parent wrote: When my daughter had a problem at school, I went to Ms. Cary. She was ready, willing, and able to listen to what I had to say. She assured me and put me at ease. She was so positive that she was going to get to the bottom of the matter. She was in constant contact with me and my daughter and nipped the situation in the bud. Whenever I see her on campus, she always has a smiling face. Ms. Cary is a very warm, kind spirited person who will go leaps and bounds to protect our children at Orangeview.

Elizabeth Cardenas

Mrs. Cardenas is a counselor at Western High School. A parent wrote: Mrs. Cardenas always has time to talk to me about my children. She has been supportive when needed and authoritative with my son when needed. When questions are asked, she either has or gets the answers. Mrs. Cardenas really cares about the student's future. Doing ones job is expected. Showing kindness while doing one's job takes a special person. Mrs. Cardenas shows kindness while doing a very difficult job and makes it appear effortless.

Lisa Cruz

Lisa Cruz is the senior administrative assistant at Savanna High School. A parent wrote: Mrs. Cruz has always shown kindness and professionalism to me as a parent throughout my daughter and son's years at Savanna. When I have a problem, I know I can count on her. She knows how to calm a person down, put things in perspective, and offer solutions. I have gone to her on several occasions when advocating for my children. When I attend football games, Mrs. Cruz always says hello to us and refers to me by my name. I know that she deals with many parents, staff, and students, but she always shows professionalism and kindness. I know I can always count on Mrs. Cruz.

Marilyn Burgner

Marilyn Burgner is the registrar at Oxford Academy. A student wrote: Mrs. Burgner was the first person my mom and I met when we were registering for the Oxford

Academy test in 6th grade. She was very respectful and told me I could always come to her if I needed to. When I pass her, she takes the time to say Hi and ask how my family and I are doing. Her tone of voice is always so soothing and makes me feel like Oxford is my home away from home. Mrs. Burgner is very understanding and relates to my feelings. If I am having a bad day, she says she feels sorry for me. Mrs. Burgner is more than a registrar. She makes students feel at home at Oxford.

Jessica Garcia

Jessica Garcia is the School Community Liaison at Sycamore Junior High School. Ms. Garcia has worked hard to assist McKinney Vento families with various resources such as school uniforms, school supplies, bus passes and food. She recently was asked to help with a student that was being teased about not having a backpack. The next day, the student had a backpack. Another parent requested information about shelters. She and her family were being evicted from her apartment. Ms. Garcia provided the parent with a list of shelters and places in which she could receive food for her family. Ms. Garcia never turns families away. She is always willing to lend a hand and offer information and resources to families in need.