



## HUMANITARIAN AWARD WINNERS -- 2014

Kidsbridge is proud of this year's award winners. A ceremony honoring the recipients took place at the Third Annual Kidsbridge Walk2Stop Bullying on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Awardees received goodie bags and a certificate to commemorate their humanitarian efforts.

Please refer to the following pages to read about their accomplishments and to check out their photos. Way to go, UPstanders!!!

## 2014 Young Humanitarians -- Individuals



Nominated by school counselor Ben Samara, **Sharon Eastburn** is a fourth-grader at Riverside Elementary in Princeton who organized a fundraiser so her school could “adopt” an endangered Sumatran rhinoceros named Andalus. The \$95 that Sharon raised was sent to Andalus’ home, Way Kambas National Park on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia. Sharon hopes to organize more school-wide fundraisers to help the Sumatran rhinoceros, as well as its endangered neighbors -- the Sumatran elephant and the Sumatran tiger.

## 2014 Young Humanitarians -- Individuals



Eight-year-old **Maya Ferguson** “walked in the shoes” of a cancer patient when she became the first girl from Lawrenceville Elementary School to have her head shaved. Maya’s sacrifice raised \$1,925 for pediatric cancer research. She did it as a tribute to her Uncle Doug, who lost his cancer battle, and to her grandmother, great aunt, friends of her parents, and her pastor -- all of whom are cancer survivors. Just before she had her head shaved on March 15, she felt like she was about to get on a rollercoaster: “I was nervous but really excited at the same time.” Maya was nominated by LES counselor Kathy Jensen.

## 2014 Young Humanitarians -- Groups



Nominated by school counselor Nancy Sotomayor, the **Community Caring Coordinators** is a group of fifth-graders at Alexander Elementary School in Hamilton who volunteer during lunchtime to help others in the community. Isabella King, Dante Zamichielli, Gia Ferazzano, Zachary Finacchio, Gianna Genovesi, James Gilson, Tamyra Kennedy, and Alexa Vizzoni have undertaken a variety of projects, including a Thanksgiving food drive, a clothing drive, and a canned soup drive. They also trick-or-treated for UNICEF, raised money for Japan's tsunami survivors, and donated coats to the Trenton Rescue Mission.

## 2014 Young Humanitarians -- Groups



A trip to the Kidsbridge Tolerance Museum in the fall inspired 25 eighth graders from Timberlane Middle School in Hopewell to take action. Self-named the **Timberlane Kidsbridge Krew**, they created various activities to call attention to Respect Week -- including distributing quotes about respect and playing Aretha Franklin's song "RESPECT" in the cafeteria.

This group of students has worked very hard to have a positive impact on their school culture this year. They truly believe in peer education and empowering students to be role models, take charge, and **BE THE CHANGE**. The Kidsbridge Krew has gone far beyond these expectations, and truly live what they believe.

Nominated by a very proud school counselor Georgette Rogers, congratulations to Krew members: Jameson Ayers, Andy Blake, Jeremy Borges, Owen Burnett, James Cashier, Eddie Chmara, Jack Demareski, Lilly Flicker, Nina Genova, Katie Genovesi, Cameron Habig, Maya Horne, Anais Hou, Owen Hynes, Julia Immordino, Amanda Juan, Evan Kuehnert, Marissa Liu, Jessica Miele, Lauren Murray, Maya Nandy, Cody Panek, Francesca Sferra, Olivia Somogyi, and Nettie Strunk.

## 2014 Educator Awards



### **Donna Steinmetz, guidance counselor, Anheil Elementary School, Ewing**

A 39-year veteran of both teaching and school counseling, Ms. Steinmetz has a genuine gift for making students of all ages feel valued. In addition to working with youngsters at Anheil, she also mentors students at TCNJ -- some of whom were inspired to become elementary school teachers and counselors themselves. Donna works long hours and is a dedicated and devoted educator. Donna is retiring at the end of the school year, and she will be sorely missed by her colleagues and definitely by all the kids she has taught, counseled and inspired. Kidsbridge values the wonderful relationship with Ms. Steinmetz over the years and hope she stays in touch.

## 2014 Educator Awards



From left to right: Brian O'Reilly of Walk Presenting Sponsor Philadelphia Insurance Companies; Kristine Burns, honoree and co-author; Mercer County Freeholder Pasquale "Pat" Colavita; Kidsbridge Board President Frank Lucchesi; Kidsbridge Executive Director Lynne Azarchi (missing is honoree and co-author Susan Shields)

### **Kristine Burns & Susan Shields, Paul Robeson Elementary School teachers**

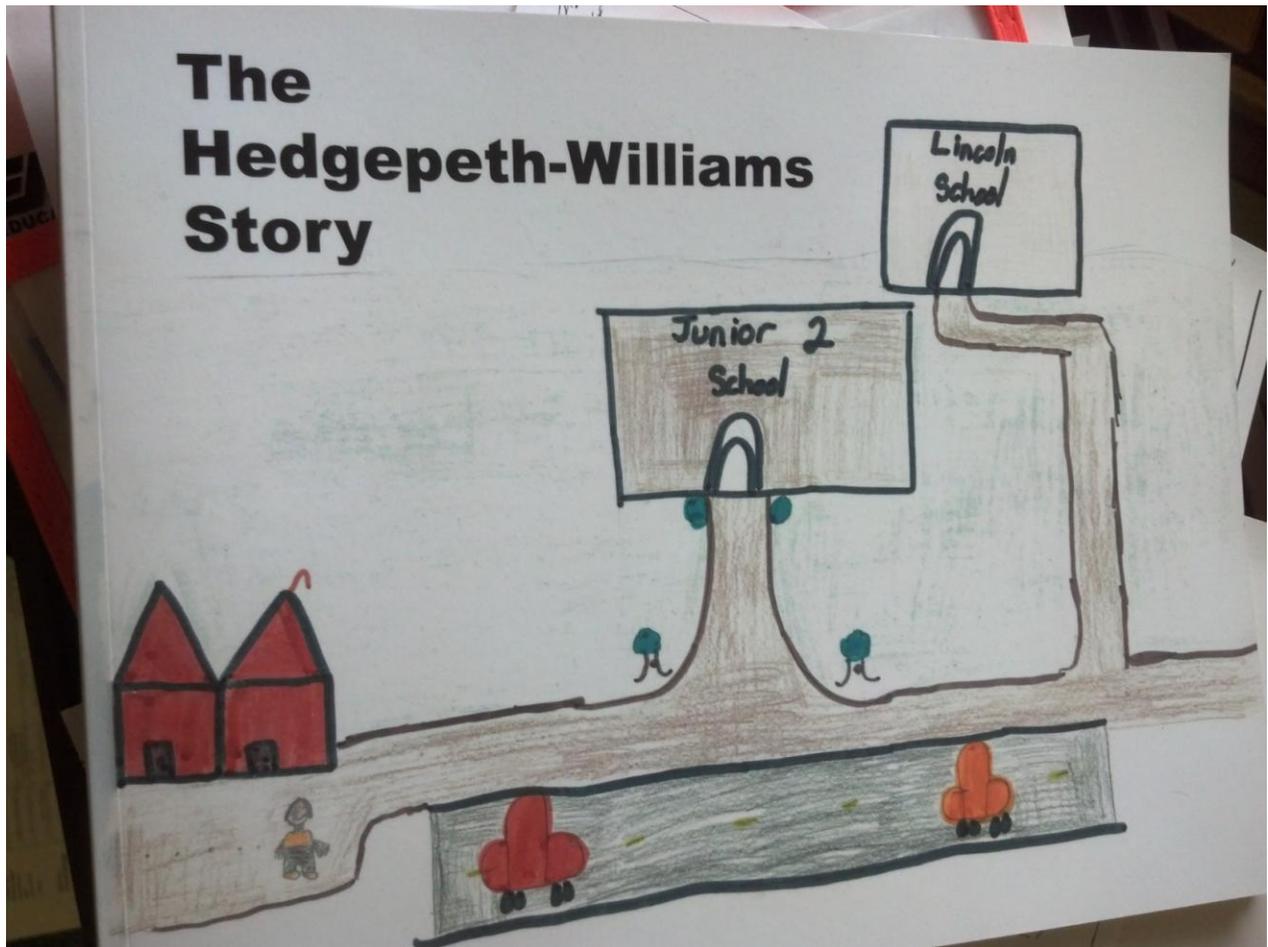
To properly honor these two teachers, we need to go back in time. In 1944, two women, Mrs. Berline Williams and Mrs. Gladys Hedgepeth went to enroll their 7<sup>th</sup> graders in the newly built school Jr. #2 in Trenton. The new school was two blocks away from their homes and they wanted their children to go to the new school. They were told in no uncertain terms, "NO." The School Superintendent told the parents that, "...the school was not built for Negroes/Coloreds."

In total frustration, the parents appealed to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and asked for their help to go to court.

In 1944, the New Jersey Supreme Court rendered a unanimous decision called the ***Hedgepeth and Williams vs. Board of Education***, which prohibited any local school board from refusing to admit any student on the basis of a student's race.

This historic New Jersey case is the precedent-setting case upon which **Brown vs. Board of Ed** in 1954 was based for the U.S. Supreme Court ruling -- the federal decision that it was unlawful to segregate children based on race.

These two devoted teachers led the efforts of their 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students to create a children's book that tells the significant story and outlines this historic event. We honor them here today, on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this renowned judicial decision in favor of what is just and fair.



The book, *The Hedgepeth-Williams Story*.