

BRIDGES OVER BARRIERS AWARD WINNERS - 2015

by Leslie Hall, President-Elect, Family Resource & Youth Services Coalition of Kentucky

Lexington (KY) — The [Kentucky Family Resource and Youth Service Centers \(FRYSC\)](#) have chosen their Bridges Over Barriers Award Winners for 2015. Bridges Over Barriers is a recognition of outstanding community partners by the FRYSCs through the [Family Resource and Youth Services Coalition of Ky \(FRYSCKy\)](#). The [FRYSCKy Coalition](#) is a professional advocacy organization made up of over 700 members across the state that support families and children. There are three categories for the Bridges Over Barriers Award, the best partner for a non-profit organization, the best partner for a for-profit business, and the individual best partner.

The Non-Profit Best Partner Award:

Debbie Cox of Creekside Elementary School Family Resource Center located in Sonora, Kentucky made the nomination for this year's non-profit winner, the US Army Human Resource Command, Operations Division located on Fort Knox. Ms. Cox stated, "They have developed a very strong Partnership in Education with the active Military and Civilians in this division and that their commitment, hard work and dedication to the families and students continue to grow year after year."

They assist with the following events:

- Hygiene product Drive – to support the new Health Habit Program
- Winter Coat Drive
- Red Ribbon Week
- Veteran's Day Program
- Holiday Assistance Program
- Career Day
- Testing Support
- And Field Day Obstacle Course

Ms. Cox continued to say, "They are a year round resource for Creekside Elementary as well as phenomenal role-models and mentors to the students there." Ms. Cox has made it clear that they are not only an integral part of Creekside Elementary but that they have become FAMILY. Brigadier General Lynn Owens was at the ceremony to receive the award.

For-Profit Best Partner Award:

Julia Goodman of Beechgrove Elementary Family Resource Center located in Independence, Kentucky made the nomination for this year's For-Profit winner, Cummins Filtration of Walton, Kentucky. Ms. Goodman stated, "They not only help, but they go over and beyond to make sure everything is special. The involvement of this wonderful business and the support that they provide is greatly appreciated. They have a genuine concern for the students and the school community. They want to see our students achieve their goals. Rena Gibbs has been an excellent point of contact."

They assist in the following ways:

- Advisory Council Representation
- Adopt a Family Program

- Born Learning Academy Sponsorship
- KPREP Celebration Assistance
- The Bee Store where students at Beechgrove receive Bee Tickets for positive behavior choices and are rewarded with a monthly shopping trip to the Bee Store. Cummins filtration allows 6 – 8 employees to come and work at the Bee Store. Students learn a valuable lesson in counting, saving and spending their Bee Bucks. Cummins employees recognize that about 1,800 treasures are purchased each month by the students and they also help provide these little treasures.

Ms. Goodman praised the company adding, “We are grateful for all the volunteered time from this company and its employees.”

Individual Best Partner Award:

Brenda Chaney of the Barren County Youth Services Center located in Glasgow, Kentucky made the nomination on behalf of all the FRYSCs in Barren County, Caverna Independent and Glasgow Independent school systems. This year’s Individual winner is Dr. Bharat Mody of Walton, KY. Ms. Chaney stated, “Dr. Mody is an individual that goes above and beyond to provide ‘Bridges Over Barriers’ for students and families. Anyone who has the pleasure of his acquaintance is continually inspired and motivated by his kindness, concern and compassion for others. Dr. Mody gives of his time and resources to ensure that children who are faced with barriers that would negatively affect their education is addressed so they have the opportunity to succeed academically and become productive adults.

He assists in the following ways:

- Coordinates Children’s Day Celebration as a means to raise much needed funds to assist children with everything from shoes to band instruments. The promotion of this event reaches over 7,000 students and their families. Over the last 3 years over \$150,000 has been raised from the Children’s Day event.
- Assists with the Backpack Program
- Scholarships to WKU and Bowling Green Tech
- Supports the Rotary Club, Boys and Girls Clubs, Community Soup Kitchen, Habitat for Humanity and Relay for Life
- Dr. Mody initiated the “To the Brim” project to collect non-perishable items for the local food pantries.

Ms. Chaney stated, “We are all blessed to have such a kind, caring and giving individual as part of our community. Dr Mody is truly a champion for children.”

Bridges Over Barriers A Recognition of Community Partners Presented

by the Family Resource and Youth Services
Coalition of Kentucky, Inc.

Non-Profit Organization Best Partner



U.S. Army Human Resource Command,
Officer Personnel Management
Directorate, Operations Division

Individual Best Partner



Dr. Bharat Mody

For-Profit Organization Best Partner



Cummins Filtration

