

## NEWS RELEASE May 20, 2021

## Breckinridge County Schools has a finalist for statewide Fred Award

Frankfort, Ky – The Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) named Donnie Chambers, school resource officer in Breckinridge County Schools, as one of three 2021 Fred Award finalists.

The Fred program, now in its 14th year, seeks to honor support staff who are the heart and soul of our public schools today. KASA is proud to partner with author Mark Sanborn and American Fidelity to recognize Freds across the state. This year's awards will expand the program's reach to 43 school districts statewide.

“Freds are change agents who help determine the culture in their schools,” said KASA Executive Director Dr. Rhonda Caldwell. “They freely share the gift of encouragement to those who need it most. They give immeasurably more often at personal expense and sacrifice. They are quiet leaders with unofficial titles who unknowingly weave a legacy of greatness around them.”

A favorite for KASA members, the Fred Award Program draws in nominations from school districts across the commonwealth each year. The award, inspired by Fred Shea, the postman who became the subject of Mark Sanborn's national best seller, *The Fred Factor*, recognizes non-administrative staff statewide whose daily efforts are deemed extraordinary and integral to a positive learning atmosphere in their school communities. Finalists for this award must embody four guiding principles: makes a positive difference each day; has a heart for people; changes ordinary moments into memorable ones; and leads by example.

Finalists are chosen by a blue-ribbon judging panel representing education leaders from school districts across the state. The two finalists joining Donnie include:

- Kay Bowman, Instructional Assistant, Franklin County
- Daniel Lyne, Custodian, Daviess County

A film crew visited each finalist's district to capture the spirit of their service. The video will be used by the judging panel, representing education leaders from school districts across the state, to determine the statewide winner who will be named July 30 at KASA's annual leadership institute in Louisville. The winner and finalists receive a distinguished marble plaque, a copy of Mark Sanborn's book, *The Fred Factor*, complimentary lodging at the Galt House Hotel, and a financial gift of \$250 (finalists) or \$500 (winner).



*Continue reading to learn more about KASA's 2021 Fred Finalist Donnie Chambers*

After retiring from the Louisville Metro Police Department, Deputy Donnie Chambers joined the Breckinridge County Sheriff's Department to continue giving back to his community. Soon after, he began working with school administrators to form a school resource officer program. "From his first day on the job, Deputy Chambers exhibited a true love for students," said Mike Harned, chief of student services. "In front of the entire student body, he pledged to work tirelessly every day to ensure the safety of all students and staff. Since that day, he has been on a mission to make certain everyone who walks onto campus feels safe. His goal is to build strong, positive relationships with all stakeholders. As a result of his efforts and tremendous attitude, Deputy Chambers has earned the respect and trust of nearly everyone in the local education and law enforcement community."

Deputy Chambers is a man of tremendously high moral and ethical character. He is a true people person. He takes advantage of every opportunity to have a positive conversation with students, staff, and parents. He has become a father figure to many students who do not have a strong positive male role model in their lives and he takes that role very seriously. He works hard to build positive relationships with students who have had bad experiences with police officers. In addition to his duties as a school resource officer, it is not unusual to see Deputy Chambers wiping down tables at lunch, taking out the trash, helping maintenance staff, watching a class when a teacher needs to step out, shooting basketball with special needs students in the gym, reading a book to elementary students, working concessions at a game, or volunteering in any area where he can offer support. Whatever needs to be done, Deputy Chambers is the first to volunteer.

KASA is the largest school administrator group in Kentucky, representing more than 3,100 education leaders from across the commonwealth. Formed in 1969, KASA connects education leaders to policymakers, legislators, and other interest groups and provides numerous benefits and services to Kentucky's school administrators.

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