**Student Winner: Jimmy Peterson**

Eric (Jimmy) Peterson is a quiet, reserved, young man in the 11th grade who has made contributions to our school environment over the past 2 years he has been enrolled here above and beyond what our students traditionally do. Jimmy has spent numerous hours helping club sponsors meet their needs and these are not clubs he is even a member of. Some examples are building props for a festival and Prom and setting up and cleaning up for the Prom yard sale. He is always willing to help and many of these tasks are things other students don’t have the skills for or simply do not want to do. He always does these things cheerfully. Since our club sponsors are teachers, Jimmy’s reliability and assistance allows them to focus on classroom instruction and not have to worry about their clubs getting what is needed done.

Jimmy is also regularly asked to serve as a student ambassador for school wide events. Sometimes these are during the school day, but many times these are in the evenings. Jimmy makes himself available and serves as a phenomenal representative of our school when interacting with parents and community members.

Although Jimmy maintains a very full course load of college courses, he is always willing to assist with anything that benefits our students or staff. His contributions help our overall family like climate. Since transferring here in 10th grade, he has spent well over 100 hours giving back to our school through completing projects, welcoming guests, building things, hauling stuff…. The list goes on because basically anything anyone asks Jimmy to do, he does with a smile.

**Adult winner(s): Katie Carroll and Kathy Peterson**

Kathy and Katie have served as our school parent volunteer co-coordinators for the past two years. In that time, they have made significant improvements in terms of organization and fundraising. For several years, our students have been requesting additional seating in the common areas (we always called these comfy chairs). When we survey students annually, this was the number one request consistently. When Kathy and Katie heard about this at a parents as partners meeting, they immediately took action and inquired why we didn’t have the additional chairs that students wanted. This was simply a financial issue, so they made a commitment to fundraising over the next 2 years to be able to buy more chairs. Katie introduced and fully coordinated plant and herb sales twice and year and Kathy coordinated our first ever family Bingo Night. They also reached out to our parents to request donations. Because of their efforts, we were able to raise the funds within about 7 months and the students were ecstatic to see the new seating throughout the school. The impact was pretty significant on school climate as students still talk excitedly about all of the new comfy chairs and how this allows them to work on school work comfortably on off blocks.

Even though the fundraising goal was met ahead of schedule, Katie and Kathy continued these fundraisers into this year and the funds raised are being used for student and staff recognitions throughout the year. Motivating teens is tough, but when we now can offer some fun incentives from the parent club, they are excited to be recognized for academic achievements as well as acts of kindness and character.

The above example is one of the major projects that Katie and Kathy contributed to. However, they also coordinate all of the following school activities: volunteer meet and greet breakfast, business partner recognition breakfast, tracking volunteer hours, placing parent volunteers for a variety of school events, general office help, textbook distribution, holiday staff events, teacher appreciation week, and more. Not only do they find us the help and resources, they show up to everything and act as liaisons with our parents as partners group. All 250 of our students benefit from their contributions. I cannot even account accurately for the number of hours they have collectively given to our school over the past 2 years since they do so many things behind the scene to make these events so successful. I know that they each spend hundreds of hours annually with the purpose of making and keeping students and staff happy here at Clark.