Join Us For Great Fun at the OKC Farmers Public Market!

Are you full of anticipation about our upcoming Wall of Fame Celebration on April 19? I know we are!

Our honoree is Mike Mitchell, Hollywood director of Trolls, Shrek Forever After, and The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part currently in theaters!

In keeping with the fun nature of Mike’s work we’ve moved this year’s event to the historic Oklahoma City Farmers Public Market on Klein.

We’ll have door prizes, honor our teachers, enjoy a catered meal from another North graduate Ryan Parker, and be led in our fun by Lance McDaniel from deadCenter.

Get your tickets TODAY at WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG and plan to have a festive evening celebrating all of Putnam City’s achievements.

2019 Wall of Fame honoree Mike Mitchell (right) with Lance McDaniel (left) director of deadCenter Film.

Did You Know? We have an endowment

Thanks to the foresight of several businesses and families, the Putnam City Schools Foundation now benefits from a regular disbursement from an endowment. Not everyone knows what this means, but those who have one are so grateful for the guaranteed gifts they bring.

An endowment is like a savings account that earns money. You can access the earnings only, but over the years those earnings grow if you have the right people managing the endowment.

We partner with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation who invested our original amount and adjusts as needed for maximum growth.

They write us a check each year based on an average of the earnings. Currently, that check is about $25,000!

We use this to fund operations for our foundation, which is usually the most difficult thing for which to raise money.

Would you like to be a part of ensuring that the Foundation is around for decades to come? You are more than welcome to contribute to our endowment here WWW.OCCF.ORG/PCSF.
From the Blog: Principles and Principals

Did you know that the Putnam City Schools Foundation has a blog? It comes out each Thursday on our website www.PCF4KIDS.ORG, and includes news about Putnam City, musings on Jennifer’s time as a student and teacher in the district, and thoughts on the state of education in Oklahoma. The blog below is from Feb. 14, 2019. Please take time to read and comment on them each week!

Once again another facet of our staff population has brought me to tears. I know it’s a lot easier to do that as I’ve gotten older, but I still think it’s justified.

At all four of our YES! Grant Prize Patrol visits this week, the school principal was able to join us to surprise the winning teacher. They walk us down to the classroom, announce our presence and beam alongside their teacher. On the way to class and back, they tell us about fun things going on in their schools or share stories about their teachers.

Without exception these building leaders are proud of their schools. They point out various art projects or class activities on display. They recount stories of student successes. They rarely talk about themselves or any role they have in making their schools effective. They are just proud.

Justifiably so, if you ask me. The principals seem almost as amazed as those outside of education at what their teachers are able to accomplish with limited support.

I asked one of them what was their top pain point so we could better gauge how we could help, and she said they needed more adults in the building. These adults would alleviate some of the pressure on the classroom teachers to be all things to all students. If we had more teacher assistance to monitor that child with a sensory issue, then the teacher could devote more time to instruction. If we had a licensed counselor in the building, we could host groups for children with a high score on their Adverse Childhood Event assessment so they could self-regulate consistently and not disrupt lessons.

When you read that 30,000 teachers have left the profession in the past 6 years, you know some of that is due to the pay, but also know most of it — two-thirds in fact — is due to a need for more people who can share the load of educating our most precious resource. It is an emotionally-taxing job. One of our donors even described teachers as first responders, because they have similar burdens to nurses and firefighters. Teachers are often the ones who find out that a child needs food or clothing. They are the first to know that a child has been

Monthly Giving

Have you been making a yearly gift to the Foundation? Would you like to give more to help our children, but don’t see an easy way to do it? Consider monthly giving! It allows you to do more by doing a little at a time.

"As a retired teacher, I know how difficult it is to fund innovative ideas in the classroom. Putnam City Schools Foundation provides this much needed funding," said monthly donor Judy Mullen Hopper.

Visit www.PCF4KIDS.ORG and click on the donate button to see just how easy it is to set up a recurring donation through our secure site.

Gifts may be scheduled on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, bi-annual or annual basis and can be designated for a program or given in honor/memory of a loved one, respected teacher, or a graduate.

Start today, and see how monthly giving adds up to a big gift for our children! Thank you.

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**Mission Focus: Penny's Closet**

Have you ever heard that saying about how a duck looks all smooth gliding on the water's surface but a flurry of activity is happening where you can't see? That's kind of how Penny's Closet works.

Week in and week out a team of volunteers works behind the scenes to ensure that our children have the brand new coats and shoes they need to be warm and dry.

School counselors report the needs on a simple online form, and volunteers—many of whom are former Putnam City teachers—get to work filling those needs.

Named in honor of our favorite counselor Penny Poe who started the concept in our district, today’s Penny’s Closet is led by Barbara Minton and Sara Kersey. It just wouldn’t happen without them, literally!

If you’re looking for a volunteer opportunity, or want to make a gift just to this program, let us know. We have no shortage of need and can always use more hands.

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**Golden Apple Awards: The Oscars of Putnam City**

The **Golden Apple** recognizes outstanding work on behalf of Putnam City, and can be awarded to staff, volunteers, administrators or teachers.

It is the highest award one can get, and the Putnam City Foundation is honored to be a part of the process.

It’s like winning an Oscar for being an outstanding person in education!

Once again our committee had a difficult time choosing among the amazing people who work for our kids.

These individuals will be honored at a reception prior to being recognized at the board meeting on Monday, April 1st.

Congratulations to this year’s winners, and thank you to Foundation board member Michael Leake, Jr. and the entire selection committee for putting in the effort to recognize our best.

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**2019 Golden Apple Award Recipients**

- **Dianna Carter**
  Volunteer & Substitute Teacher
  PC North High School

- **Judy Hohne**
  Volunteer
  Harvest Hills Elementary

- **Jae Miller**
  Social Worker
  Wiley Post Elementary

- **Herb Nelson**
  Assistant Chief
  PC Campus Police Dept.

- **Tony Shoemaker**
  Financial Secretary
  Rollingwood Elementary
Shadonna Watkins: Putnam City Teacher of the Year

The Putnam City Schools has had a long streak of selecting strong candidates for state teacher of the year, and 2019 is no exception. This year’s winner is Shadonna Watkins, a first grade teacher at Tulakes Elementary. Shadonna has been teaching at Tulakes for three years.

The Putnam City Schools Foundation had several board members interview some amazing people from all over the district. The decision was certainly difficult for them and for the district committee who reviews the written materials. Shadonna stands out because of her level of dedication to her students. We were floored to hear stories of her taking students’ clothes home to be washed, of her having lunch with a different group of her students daily, and of her work on behalf of the profession. Shadonna represents all the dedicated teachers working in our classrooms all over the district, and we look forward to her being with us a long time!

Read more about Shadonna on the DISTRICT’S WEBSITE.

Rumble Visits Wiley Post

Students at Wiley Post Elementary were thrilled to learn about STEM during a rally with OKC Thunder mascot Rumble the Bison on March 8. You may recall that the school won the assembly in a video contest held last fall. Thank you to Devon Energy and the OKC Thunder for making this possible!

More Fun to Come!

It’s not too early to start thinking about who will be on your team for Indoor Recess this June!

Besides, you’ve got to ask that one gal who’s really good at math, or that teacher who knows a lot about history to be on your team before someone else asks them.

The prizes will be even better, the venue will be hip, and we will all enjoy a great time to benefit our students and teachers.
Meet Foundation Intern Jorden Richard

My name is Jorden Gonzales Richard, and I am originally from Denver, CO but have spent most of my life in Oklahoma City.

I am a senior at Southern Nazarene University (SNU), from where I expect to graduate in the Spring of 2019 with a degree in Political Science and Law. Politics, law, and public service have been a passion of mine after I first became a campaign volunteer while attending Putnam City North High School.

Since then, I have served in roles with Sally’s List under now Rep. Kendra Horn. I interned at the state capitol for Rep. George Young during the 2016 legislative session and was the Finance and Fundraising Associate for then Rep. Scott Inman’s Gubernatorial Campaign.

As the Community Relations Intern with the Putnam City Schools Foundation, my main function is to be a liaison to community resources for targeted school sites.

I’m meeting with principals for initial discussions of community partnerships currently being used and if there is no connection it is my job to build those relationships.

I also want to use the knowledge that I have learned in collaboration with what I will learn through this internship to help me in my journey of issue-based advocacy. More importantly, however, I hope to further the investment in Oklahoma City’s most underserved and underrepresented communities.

As such, I want to learn how to organize my community and create programs for the disenfranchised and less fortunate. I believe that this internship can teach me the tools and skills to make a real change. I have the passion and determination to keep pushing, but need the knowledge required to make the most efficient and effective progress. This opportunity can do just that for us and our City!

RECOGNIZING DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES

Putnam City Schools’ graduates have gone on to become pilots, authors, teachers, and leaders in various businesses and we want to recognize those accomplishments.

Each year, the Board of Trustees for the Putnam City Schools Foundation has the challenging task of choosing one person to be inducted into our Wall of Fame. This honor is reserved for graduates of one of the three Putnam City High Schools who have experienced significant success in their chosen field.

At an induction ceremony typically held in April, the entire Putnam City community joins in celebrating the individual and the great things taking place in Putnam City Schools. The Wall of Fame resides in the Putnam City Schools administration building as a collection of portraits of all the honorees. Visit https://pcf4kids.org/wall-of-fame-honorees to learn more.

If you know a graduate who should be considered for this honor, please let us know! We are always looking for impressive graduates to celebrate.

Principles & Principals

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neglected or hurt in the home.

Principals in our district know this, and want to do everything they can to alleviate the frustrations their teachers are experiencing. They spend money from their own pockets too, just to provide little things to show the teachers they are appreciated.

It was so heart-warming to see the enthusiasm the principals have for their staffs. I want to do more to thank them too! It’s a matter of principle. What do we really value as a society? What can we as a foundation and a community do to help those who help our teachers be their best?
Thanks to YOU

As you can see from the photos and note below, the first graders in Chelsie Titsworth’s class at Central Elementary are thrilled with their new Osmo learning system. Ms. Titsworth reports her students have grown in phonics skills and vocabulary. Using the microphone to record themselves has increased their confidence in reading. This project was funded with a YES! Grant that wouldn’t have been possible without YOU!

About Us

Established in 1987, the Putnam City Schools Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization managed by a board of trustees which is comprised of involved patrons in the district, and two staff members.

The mission of the Putnam City Schools Foundation is to enhance and enrich educational opportunities of children in Putnam City Schools. The Foundation develops relationships with local businesses, foundations, and individuals, in order to garner resources and energies necessary to address the pressing needs of Putnam City Schools.

The Foundation supports many district activities, including Early Birds, ELL for Immigrant Parents Classes, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Labs, Golden Apple Awards, Teacher of the Year/Excellent Educator Awards, YES! Fund Grants, and the Community Fund.

Annual fundraising events include a golf tournament, Indoor Recess Trivia & Game Night, and the Wall of Fame Celebration which recognizes distinguished alumni.

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