

# The Putnam Pioneer

A PUTNAM CITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION PUBLICATION

WINTER 2018

## Dr. Bob Blackburn Named 2018 Wall of Fame Recipient



*Dr. Bob Blackburn, 1969 Putnam City High School graduate and 2018 Wall of Fame Honoree.*

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Bob Blackburn, a 1969 graduate of Putnam City High School, will be the Foundation's 2018 Wall of Fame Celebration honoree.

He currently serves as the executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, a post he has held since 1999.

Previous Wall of Fame inductees include award-winning country music artist Bryan White, (PCW Class of 1992), NFL Hall of Famer and former U.S. Congressman Steve Largent (PCH Class of 1972), and actor James Marsden (PCN Class of 1991).

Visit our website today to purchase your tickets for this exciting event. We are holding it at the beautiful Skirvin Hilton Hotel again this year, and look forward to honoring Dr. Blackburn and recognizing our staff on this occasion.

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## Wall of Fame Celebration

Thursday, April 19, 2018  
Skirvin Hilton Hotel

Tickets available now at [www.pcf4kids.org](http://www.pcf4kids.org)

## PC Foundation's #GivingTuesday Campaign Raises \$3,630 for Early Birds



Thank you to all the donors and friends who supported our Giving Tuesday campaign this year!

It was an exciting one thanks to the generosity of one Putnam City family who pledged a matching gift for our efforts.

Because of these gifts 66 Early Birds Parent Literacy Kits will be available for families to use.

These materials help parents improve their relationship with their

children, which pays dividends for years.

Recent research in Putnam City shows that the gains made in kindergarten by our Early Birds children hold through 3rd grade! That is exciting news, and further proves the validity of this project.

We could not do it without your support! Thank you so much.

# Mission Focus: YES! Fund Grants



*An all-female team of Western Oaks Middle School students expanded their STEM knowledge with help from a YES! Grant requested by teachers Scott Richards and Christy Woodson.*

Our teachers have some of the most innovative ideas. They implement many clever methods to impart knowledge to students in a meaningful way.

Their creativity, however, is unfortunately outmatched by the funding shortage schools are experiencing.

We at the Putnam City Schools Foundation are grateful to assist teachers in reaching their educational goals for children by providing small grants we call YES! Grants.

We want to be able to say YES! to every teacher who asks so that no children feel the economic struggles of our district.

We want our teachers to feel empowered that the research they do to find the best materials possible for their students is not wasted time.

This year, we've had the opportunity to fund numerous worthy projects, sometimes alone and sometimes with the support of other organizations.

Our first grants this year went to the Link Crew program, a bullying prevention plan that matches high school freshman with juniors and seniors willing to mentor them. It is part of our efforts to increase graduation rates in the high school,

as well as make high school a more comfortable experience for students. All three high schools received money from the Foundation to buy supplies for their own Link Crews.

Our next YES! Grant went to Engage Oklahoma so that

an all-female team of Western Oaks students could extend their STEM knowledge and work with power tools to build a phone charging station – in the shape of a beautiful butterfly – for the OKC Zoo.

**YES! GRANTS**

2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR TO DATE

**19**  
grants funded

**\$13,808**  
total dollars funded

**2,900**  
students impacted

**11**  
school sites impacted

We partnered with a local family foundation to provide strings for the orchestra at Capps Middle School. The students had already done their own fundraising efforts to buy new strings, but needed a little more to get them for all instruments. Our board members were treated to a small concert by the grateful musicians in November.



*A student in Jamie Taylor's classroom at Arbor Grove Elementary uses flexible seating funded by a YES! Grant.*

We've provided a voice translator, supplies for reading centers, MakerSpace materials for a library, iPad keyboards and flexible seating options. In a few days, I get to join our students at the Colonial Day at the Capitol for which we paid the entrance fees.

Often the requests are under \$1,000, but those resources can make a visible difference to a student and their desire to learn.

Teachers spend on average \$500 per year from their own pockets on items for their classrooms. Our aim with the YES! Grant program is to get that number to zero in Putnam City.

**WE LIKE TO SAY**  
✓ **YES!**

Visit [www.pcf4kids.org](http://www.pcf4kids.org)  
for grant guidelines  
and applications.

*We have a blog! It comes out each Thursday on our website, 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. Below is the blog from Nov. 16, 2017. Please take time to read and comment on them each week!*

## From the Blog: We Have a Sub Today

As part of this week's American Education week celebration, we focus on the substitute teacher — the unsung hero of the education world. They come in with nary a clue about what their day will hold except what area they might be in. And still they come.

Oh yes. I've heard it echo down the halls many a time. Coach Pecore is absent, or Ms. Black is out. "We have a sub today," the kids would whisper. The news travels quickly, and the kids are all excited thinking that they get a day off, so to speak. I, too, was absent here and there, but my kiddos certainly didn't get a break. I think they even grew to hate my absence because it was more difficult with me gone.

Crafting your absence well is a skill learned from lots of bad experiences.

First off, you need to get in good with a couple subs on whom you can call. They know they can trust you to provide helpful instructions to not make their day a living nightmare,

and you know you can trust them to do what needs to be done.

Second, you need to make good lessons. Don't leave the sub with too



little to do.

Third, maybe offer a reward — aka bribe — to the classes if you get a good report, and let the sub know so he or she can remind the students as needed.

I've been on the other side. While I was still getting my master's degree, I subbed around Putnam City a lot. I have also done a couple of long-term substitute roles in music education, so I know a little about the life of a

sub. You can get the feel of an entire building just by entering the front office. Sometimes that's all you need to know to find out how your day will go.

It was never really as bad as Mr. Garvey on "Key and Peele," but that skit does ring true in a few ways. Kids will try to pull one over on you as a sub, taking advantage of the fact that you don't know them or their class routines. Hopefully, there is a kind kid in the room who doesn't think it's right to take advantage of the substitute.

It is hard to find people willing to live this transient teaching experience. The pay isn't ideal (though Putnam City pays more than a few other surrounding districts), but the responsibility is not heavy. Sometimes the students don't behave, which is draining for sure. But at least the hours are pretty good. It's been a good fit for me at different times in my life.

If you're in a position to serve the district in this way, please visit [WWW.PUTNAMCITYSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.PUTNAMCITYSCHOOLS.ORG) to

## Did You Know? A Gift to Future Children Made Easy



You can make a tremendous impact in the lives of future Putnam City

Schools students with one simple sentence.

By including the Foundation in your will you won't have to give away any of your assets today, but by doing so, you ensure future generations will have a world class education that prepares

them for their chosen futures.

Here are a couple samples to share with your financial advisor:

1. Bequest of a specific dollar amount, "I hereby give, devise and bequeath [dollars] to Putnam City Schools Foundation, a non-profit organization located at 5401 N.W. 40th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73122, Federal Tax ID: 73-1309115, for Putnam City Schools Foundation's general use and purposes."
2. Bequest of specific personal

property, "I hereby give, devise and bequeath [description of property] to Putnam City Schools Foundation, a non-profit organization located at 5401 N.W. 40th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73122, Federal Tax ID: 73-1309115, for Putnam City Schools Foundation's general use and purposes."

Don't hesitate to reach out to us for more information, or check out our website at [WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG](http://WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG)/PLANNED-GIVING.

# Foundation Scholarship Deadline Approaches



Thanks to the generosity of several families over the years, the Putnam City Schools Foundation offers scholarships for both students and faculty each year. The scholarships are named after people who made a difference in our district, and offer their families a way to leave a legacy of their loved ones. Below are brief descriptions of each scholarship currently offered. Applications can be found on our website, and are due by Feb. 28, 2018, at 4 p.m. Good luck!

STUDENTS		
Dorothy Nixon Scholarship	\$1,000	Awarded to a Putnam City Schools senior who plans to pursue a career in teaching.
Roger Barrios Scholarship	\$250	Awarded to a Putnam City North senior who wishes to pursue a career in engineering, chemistry, physics, biology or technology.
Thomas Glenn Scholarship	\$1,000	Awarded to a Putnam City High senior who is involved in sports or other activities. <i>(Applications for this scholarship are handled by the Putnam City High counselor's office.)</i>
Clay Culver Scholarship	\$500	Awarded to an outstanding ninth grade student attending Putnam City North. <i>(Applications for this scholarship are handled by the Putnam City North counselor's office.)</i>
FACULTY		
Ralph Downs Scholarship	\$500	Awarded to a Putnam City faculty member who wishes to pursue graduate or undergraduate courses in the subject areas of administration or counseling.
Roberta Jo Lowe Scholarship	\$1,000	Awarded to a Putnam City faculty member who wishes to pursue graduate or undergraduate courses in one or more approved academic subject areas.

## Nominations Open for 2018 Golden Apple Awards



2016 Golden Apple recipient Eric Boswell with Foundation President Jennifer Seal.

Each year, the Foundation recognizes up to five staff and/or patrons of Putnam City Schools who consistently go above and beyond, standing out above the rest for their dedication to education.

Recipients receive a cash award of \$200 and an engraved "golden" apple. Plus, winners and their families are invited to a special reception prior to being recognized at the April 2, 2018, school board meeting.

Nominees can include: volunteers, secretaries, cafeteria workers, custodians, aides, nurses, coaches, and teachers.

There are so many amazing people associated with Putnam City Schools, and we need YOU to tell us about them!

Nomination forms are available on our website or by contacting the Foundation.

**Deadline:** All forms must be submitted to the Foundation office no later than 4 p.m. on Feb. 23, 2018.

For additional information: Contact Kris Baggerly at 495-5200, ext. 1205, or KBAGGERLY@PUTNAMCITYSCHOOLS.ORG

# Lemon Family Warms Hearts at Hilldale and Arbor Grove

Some of you might be familiar with the Lemon family, as they have supported Putnam City Schools in a variety of ways over the years.

They funded the purchase of some of our first iPads, a program which has grown to providing nearly 1:1 devices for all children in Putnam City.

This time, the Lemons wanted to provide uniforms for children. We discussed the project with Larry Lemon who met with principals at two schools before deciding to fund them both!

This generosity amounted to one brand new uniform for each child in both schools, or over \$27,000!

We are very grateful to have a benefactor like the Lemon family in Putnam City.



*From left: Larry Lemon, Lemon Family Foundation; Arbor Grove Principal Brenda Davis; Foundation President Jennifer Seal; and Foundation Board Member Manisone Hubbard.*



*Larry Lemon (left) poses with students and Principal Shanda Brody (right) at Hilldale Elementary.*



## This Is Why We Do It!

A sincere THANK YOU to everyone who supports the Putnam City CareShare program.

Because of YOU, almost 400 families, more than 1,140 children, experienced the wonder of Christmas this year. At a minimum of \$75 per child, that's over \$80,000!

We COULD NOT DO THIS without the love and support of our wonderful Putnam City community!

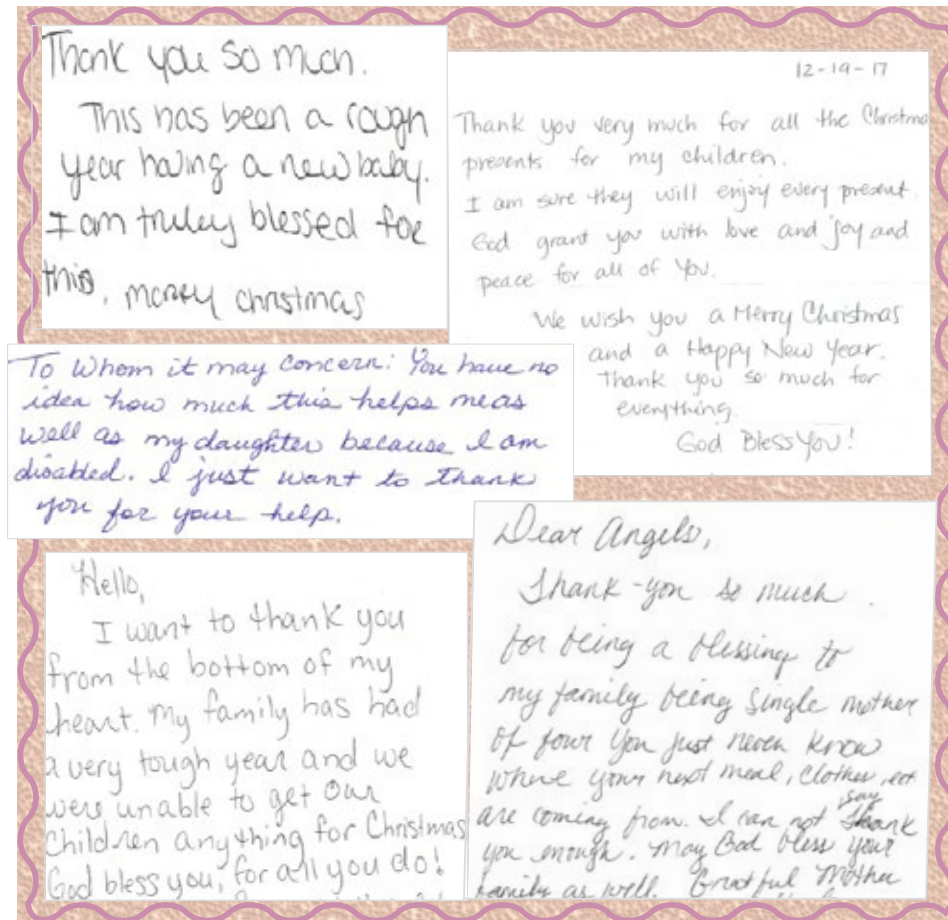
Throughout the year, Putnam City CareShare also provides new coats

and shoes to students through Penny's Closet. Last year, we provided 275 coats and 125 pairs of shoes.

If you, your business, your church group, or someone you know would like to help, please contact the Foundation at 405-495-5200 and ask for Jennifer Seal or Kris Baggerly. They will have a CareShare volunteer contact you as soon as possible.

# YOU Truly Make a Difference

Here are just a few of the many thank you notes from families expressing gratitude to our CareShare adopters and donors.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## 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 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 Community Fund.

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

Follow Us! @PCF4Kids



## Contact Us!

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