



A Special Interest Group of the
INTERNATIONAL
Reading Association
Literacy and Social Responsibility

Mrs. Lisa Peart, School Counselor
Northwest Elementary
14302 Cobra Way
Hudson, FL 34669

March 18, 2014

Dear Mrs. Lisa Peart,

It is with great pleasure that we inform you that the committee for the *Literacy and Service Recognition Award* has selected your students as first place winners of the fourth annual award. We commend the work of Jillian Butler, Josh Langley, Shelbey McGee, and Jaren Rinaldi for participating in and expanding the OCHO Project over time. What began as a summer book fair grew to a “pay it forward” initiative with the commitment of these four students and others that ultimately put books in the hands of children around the world, including Africa, India, Viet Nam, New Guinea and Namibia, creating infinite opportunities for literacy experiences. Their compassion and efforts have contributed to the literacy successes of many, as well as their own. The care, action and persistence they have shown in organizing and implementing the OCHO project exemplify the kind of leadership we want to recognize. As noted in your letter, the entire school, staff and students, can be recognized for the success of this work while these four students have been a persistent force over six years.

We will announce your students as winners at the meeting of the Literacy and Social Responsibility Special Interest Group at the annual convention of the International Reading Association in New Orleans on Saturday May 11, 2014. We will recognize your group with an engraved plaque and certificates of recognition to be sent to you. Our meeting time has been unexpectedly shortened this year but we would like to invite you to present your work at next year’s annual meeting. Should you be able to do so we will offer additional information; another possibility is to have a skype session with you and your students next year. Thank you for your exceptional submission and for all the work you do. Let me know if you have any questions. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

Denise H. Stuart, Ph.D.
Co-Chair, Literacy and Service Award
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LSR-SIG purpose: To study, understand, and promote high-quality programs which foster community service, participatory citizenship, social responsibility, appreciation for diversity, environmental stewardship, and caring behavior that occurs within the development of literacy across the curriculum.