

Rockcastle schools win UNITE Clubs of the Year

Ten school anti-drug UNITE Clubs have been recognized as "Clubs of the Year" for their outstanding efforts and accomplishments during the 2012-13 school year.

Among the winners are Mt. Vernon Elementary School, Rockcastle County High School, and Rockcastle County Middle School.

In addition to a trophy, each of these clubs will be allocated \$750 by Operation UNITE to fund anti-drug activities during the current school term.

Last school year there were 118 registered UNITE Clubs in 26 counties with a total of 9,572 students participation – the largest participation since clubs were first established during the 2005-06 school year.

To qualify for Club of the Year honors, students submitted scrapbooks showcasing their monthly activities, service projects and mentoring activities. Scrapbooks were judged in elementary, middle and high school categories to determine regional winners.

"Once again the selection committee was impressed with the amount of amazing and innovative activities UNITE Club members were engaged in throughout the school year," said Debbie Trusty, UNITE education director. "These students help raise awareness about the dangers posed by substance abuse or misuse, not only among their classmates but throughout their homes and communities as well."

Participation in a

UNITE Club increases the students' protective factors, such as providing positive role models for other students, building self-esteem, engaging in healthy lifestyles, striving for high student achievement, and creating positive relationships.

Students participate in service projects at school and in the community that are aimed at increasing their awareness of civic responsibility and development of leadership qualities," Trusty said. "UNITE Clubs help youth develop healthy attitudes and behaviors by learning and practicing life skills, enhancing academic performance, connecting peers, adults, communities and learning through service."

For more information about Operation UNITE visit their website at www.operationunite.org.

Mt. Vernon Elementary

For the seventh straight year, Mt. Vernon Elementary's UNITE Club has been recognized for its outstanding efforts. They have been named "Club of the Year" six times, and were recognized with UNITE's "Youth Impact Award" in 2010. The club had 217 students during the 2012-13 school year. Projects conducted by club members included the "Wipe Out Drugs" contest in conjunction with the annual UNITE Bowl football game to benefit local treatment facilities, collecting and mailing 350 cards for the American Red Cross's "Holiday Mail For Heros" campaign, and conducted a "Pair Up Against Drugs" shoe drive for the Family

Resource Center and clothing bank. The group helped distribute and collect quilt squares for a Friendship Quilt sent to Sandy Hook Elementary School, presented at the Rockcastle UNITE Coalition community dinner, hosted a Remix Education drug prevention assembly program, hosted Kevin Fletcher to share his experiences with the effects of drugs, and manned a booth at parent-teacher conference with anti-drug information. Sponsors were Kristy Parkey and Cindy McCullough.

Rockcastle County High

Rockcastle County High's UNITE Club has been recognized for excellence every year since 2009. They have been named "Club of the Year" four times and received the "Youth Impact Award" in 2010. There were 122 student members during the 2012-13 school year. Activities included helping plan in the annual UNITE Bowl football game and memorial balloon launch, participating in the "Fire in the Mountains" prayer rally, and mentoring elementary students in after-school programs and through their "Rocket Readers" program. Community outreach efforts included UNITE Presents performing the acclaimed "Everything" skit across the region, partnering with the Family Resource and Youth Service Center, participating in the "Love in the Box" project for needy children, and helping to plan the annual Rockcastle County UNITE Coalition annual celebration dinner. Sponsor was Dustin

McClure.

Rockcastle County Middle

For the fifth consecutive year, Rockcastle County Middle School's UNITE Club has been honored for its excellent programs. They have been named "Club of the Year" four times and were a "Youth

Impact Award" recipient in 2010. With 225 students during the 2012-13 school year, members participated in the "Wipe Out Drugs" contest in conjunction with the annual UNITE Bowl football game to benefit local treatment facilities, raised \$1,000 in a "Pennies

for Patients" campaign, hosted an anti-drug assembly program with Ron Cole, and hosted the Rockcastle County Community Awareness celebration. Sponsors were Leshia Cromer, Angie Payne and Kim Hunter.



Rockcastle Regional coordinated a Community Food Drive and delivered over 800 pounds to each of the local food pantries, CAP Grateful Bread and First Baptist Mission. In addition, the hospital donated \$500.00 to each pantry for holiday food purchases. Above, Betty Purcell, Rockcastle Regional Hospital Wellness Coordinator presents the \$500 donation to volunteers from the CAP Grateful Bread food pantry. Pictured are, front from left: Steve Hilliard, Lillie Bullock, Sherri Barnett, Betty Purcell and Janet Mostrom. Back row from left: Kay Bullock, Tele Gallagher and Symmer Cano. Below, Leolla Hurley, Rockcastle Regional Hospital, left, presents the \$500 donation to Debi Moore, Pat Doan and Bethanie Bretz, volunteers at the First Baptist Mission.



National Hospice Month Care on Your Terms

As we celebrate National Hospice & Palliative Care Month, we want to thank you. For over 30 years, you have welcomed us into your homes and lives. You have blessed us with caring for your loved ones. You've let us honor the lives of your mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters. You've trusted us with their hopes and wishes. You've let us comfort you in your grief.

You've also generously supported our organization. You've given us your time as volunteers, your dollars to make our programs possible, your good will and partnership to help us care for more patients and families each year.

You've made Hospice Care Plus the gold standard for compassionate, quality care in our community.

Thank you, Rockcastle County.

The staff of Hospice Care Plus



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