

# NMB School Volunteer Makes the Honor Roll

BY BEVERLY PERKINS

During the last two years, Volunteer Florida (VF) grants have helped Learning for Success expand and develop their foundation of skill-based volunteers for the Kids and the Power of Work (KAPOW) and My Future Is Now (MFIN) programs.

KAPOW, now in its 27th year, serves over 6,000 students annually. The unique collaboration between the school district, almost 200 area businesses partners, 500 volunteers, and 75 South Florida schools introduces and exposes students to career awareness through professionally designed lessons taught by volunteers in the classroom and on work sites.

At the end of the 2017-2018 school year, Volunteer Florida presented an "Excellence in Volunteerism" award. This exceptional recognition went to Greg Williams from North Miami Beach.

For the past six years, the dedicated individual not only volunteers himself,

he recruits and manages all the volunteers at Fulford Elementary, coordinates students' workplace field trips, and assists in securing funding for the non-profit program. He has facilitated a true KAPOW partnership with the City of North Miami Beach.

"Greg's passion for KAPOW is extraordinary. Greg exemplifies this award which is Florida's official award honoring outstanding commitment to service," said John Casbarro, President

Learning for Success, Inc. "He helps students connect to their futures through the lessons he teaches while providing tools for teachers to incorporate the application of the skills they teach on a daily basis. He is also the pastor of his church. His uniqueness comes from incorporating his deep spiritual beliefs to inspire and transform those around him."

"Greg Williams is a great example of the City's increased commitment to community engagement via the



Greg Williams with Learning for Success President John Casbarro

newly formed Division of Public Affairs and the desire of elected officials to expand communication efforts citywide," said Nicole Gomez, Chief of Staff, City of North Miami Beach. "He and KAPOW have brought significant value to North Miami Beach and its students."

"Young people need to understand that there is a reason for studying beyond doing so for the sake of learning. Realizing early in life that reading, writing,

and math are vital to success in life is a powerful incentive. Greg has accomplished this by delivering KAPOW's career awareness and workplace skills lessons with his partner teachers throughout each school year and arranging students' visits to City facilities," added Casbarro.

**KAPOW is always looking for business or individual volunteers, as well as schools interested in participating in the program. For more information about volunteering or how your school can participate, email KAPOW Program Director Tania Reynolds at [taniakapow@gmail.com](mailto:taniakapow@gmail.com) or call 305-338-5548.**



Greg Williams (C) with Miramar Commissioner Max Chambers (L) and Miramar Mayor Wayne Messam (R)