



Lunch Pals 2019-2020 End of Year Report



Vision – 100% student success

Mission – Every child has someone who cares

Goals:

- Continue to increase the number of students with a Lunch Pal.
- Provide an exceptional experience for Lunch Pals and students

Lunch Pals Program

Lunch Pals is Pinellas County Schools lunch time mentoring program, recruiting Lunch Pals participation from the staffs of businesses and community organizations and from members of the community. Lunch Pals participants are paired with students who can benefit from the additional presence of a caring adult, as they are often facing social, emotional or academic challenges. The role of Lunch Pals is to support these students’ development, helping to lead to academic gains, and improved school involvement and attendance.

Prior to Covid-19, Lunch Pals would meet one-to-one with the same student each week at school during lunch for 30 minutes. As explained, in the **2020-2021 Goals**, presented later in this report, Lunch Pals will be virtual to start the new school year.

Lunch Pals is serving students in its fifth school year as a part of the overall Pinellas County Schools mission to provide the best opportunities for all students to succeed. In support of that mission, Lunch Pals is making a lasting and impactful contribution to our youth who need us most. The school district recognizes that these positive relationship outcomes benefit not only the students but also, their families, the mentors and the community.

In addition, businesses and community organizational partners find that Lunch Pals serves as a way to bring employees together towards accomplishing a shared purpose, enhancing morale and motivation as they make a timely and encouraging contribution within Pinellas County Schools.



“I feel that I was able to get my mentee to think before she acts. I feel her self-esteem has increased, and overall she’s trying harder to focus on her school work.” ~ Lunch Pal, Ridgcrest Elementary

Lunch Pals primary focus is elementary and a few middle schools, with students exhibiting the greatest need. As knowledge and appeal of the Lunch Pals brand expanded, the reach of schools and number of students served expanded as well.

Lunch Pals' Growth

	2015-16 School Year	2016-17 School Year	2017-18 School Year	2018-19 School Year	2019-20 School Year
# of Business & Org. Participants	33	51	61	130	130
# of Schools	51	81	99	99	116
# of Students	284	707	1,002	1,509	1811

How has Lunch Pals been able to grow quickly?

- Lunch Pals is making a significant impact on students and this is recognized by participants.
- Lunch Pals is making a significant impact on the participants. .
- The Lunch Pals commitment is only 30 minutes, once a week.
- Lunch Pals have been partnered with a convenient school.
- There is no cost to participate.
- Training is provided; including conversation starters and other resource materials to assure the experience is easy and fun.
- Businesses and community organizations are benefiting from their staff participation
 - Enhanced interpersonal, communication, and leadership skills
 - More engaged staff as a result of their appreciation for employers providing the opportunity to participate and give back.

“Getting to make a new friend and enjoy making new memories together. We enjoyed learning from each other and just being our true selves together.” ~Student, Mt. Vernon Elementary

Impact Data

Prior to the 2019-2020 school year, participants and integral school personnel were surveyed each year to help measure the impact of Lunch Pals. With the school year ending early, there was no opportunity to conduct surveys. However, informal discussion with students, mentors, principals and teachers indicated results very similar to the surveys conducted in the 2018-2019 school year.

The 2018-19 school year survey results from survey responses:

- 100% of students like having a Lunch Pals mentor.
- 100% of students want to continue meeting with their Lunch Pals mentor.
- 90% of mentors feel they had a positive impact on their student.
- 90% of mentors feel their experience was very good or excellent.

- 100% of principals feel the Lunch Pals mentoring program has benefited the students who have participated.
- 100% of teachers feel the Lunch Pals mentoring program has benefited the students who have participated.
- 100% of school liaisons said that Lunch Pals made a positive difference at their schools.

“Students paired with a “lunch pal” light up when they see their mentor arrive for lunch. They get very excited and often share that they are their “best friend”, “I want to do what they do when I grow up”! The positive reaction from the students is overwhelming. In addition to the students, all the mentors have noted what a joy the program has been for them. Only 30 minutes a week can make you feel so good! This year ALL of our mentors have agreed to return to see their students next year. Some have even showed interest in taking on an additional student.” ~ Principal, Safety Harbor Elementary School



2019/2020 Mentor Survey Result Responses

I am amazed at what I learn from children every day. I am reminded of how amazing our world and lives are, as well as to enjoy imagination and creativity. Everyone should interact with children on a regular basis because we get too caught up and bogged down by the adult serious things in life.

Mentor, Bauder Elementary

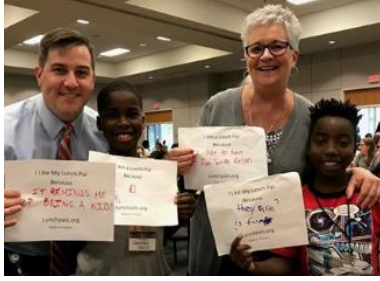
Mentoring students gives a unique perspective into the lives of our local youth. We are all met with various challenges and realizing the impact a few minutes a week can have on someone else is life changing. We are all in this together and mentoring really emphasizes that statement. Mentor, Campbell Park

Watching my mentee mature with good common sense and working hard in school makes me feel like I am doing something very worthwhile. Mentor, Northeast High School

It has made me realize that times have changed and it’s important on a personal level for me to change and what better way is to be involved with our future. These children/young adults have bright ideas and need someone to listen and not judge. Mentor, Fairmont Elementary

Business and Community Organization Participants

Lunch Pals community support continues to grow as the impact of Lunch Pals gains momentum throughout Pinellas County Schools. Each organization plays a vital role in supporting students through Lunch Pals. This investment by the community will pay dividends for generations.



“Mentoring has opened my eyes to the needs in my community and helped me see that I do have something to give.” ~ Lunch Pal Mentor

“This has been the most humbling experience of my life. I am honored to be so trusted by my mentee and committed to her continued growth.” ~ Lunch Pal Mentor

Lunch Pals Participants

- 360 United Anona Multi-Site
- AAR Composites
- Ajax Building Corp
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
- American Strategic Insurance (ASI/Progressive)
- Anona United Methodist Church
- Anthem
- Bay Area Legal Services, INC
- Bayfront Health St. Petersburg
- Berkshire Hathaway Realty
- BigSea
- Blessed Trinity
- Blue Ticket Consulting
- BMC Software, Inc
- Boys and Girls Club of the Suncoast
- Cale America INC
- Calvary Chapel Clearwater
- Calvary Chapel St Petersburg (Calvary Chapel Pinellas Park)
- Calvary Church Clearwater (Calvary Baptist McMullen Booth)
- Catalina Marketing Corp.
- Ceridian
- Chase
- City of Clearwater
- City of Gulfport
- City of Largo
- City of Madeira Beach
- City of Oldsmar
- City of Pinellas Park
- City of Safety Harbor
- City of St. Petersburg
- Community United Methodist
- Cox Media Group
- Cross Bridge Church
- Digital Marcom, LLC
- Domingos Law
- Eckerd College
- Eckerd Youth Alternatives
- Friends of Woodlawn Elementary
- First Presbyterian Church
- First United Methodist
- First United Methodist Church
- FIS Global
- Friends of North Shore Elementary School
- GTE Financial
- Gulf Coast Jewish Family &Community Services
- Heels of Success
- Highland Lakes Community Association
- Home Point Financial Corporation
- Innisbrook
- James B. Sanderlin Family Center
- Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital
- Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns, LLP
- Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County
- Keller Williams Realty, Seminole
- Kiwanis Club of Dunedin
- KnowBe4
- Kobie Marketing
- L-3 Technologies
- Lampert's Therapy Group
- Law Office of Bobby L. Reynolds P.A.
- Leaven Law
- Lipply Real Estate
- Masterson, Hoag & Smith, P.A.
- Men or Yesterday, Today and the Future
- Morgan Stanley

Mount Olive AME Church	Silver Airways
MUFG Union Bank	St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
Naomi Titus 2 Covenant Alliance (NT2CA)	St. Nicholas Cathedral
National Aviation Academy	St. Pauls United Methodist Church
Nielsen	St. Pete Seminole Campus
NOAA	St. Petersburg Bar Association
North Western Mutual	St. Petersburg College
Oakhurst United Methodist Church	St. Petersburg Police Dept.
Our Savior Lutheran Church	St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Palm Harbor Fire and Rescue	State Attorney 6th Judicial Court
Palm Harbor Rotary	Stetson University College of Law
Palm Harbor United Methodist Church (Palm Harbor UMC)	Sunshine State Economic Dev. Corp.
PARC	Tampa Bay Rays
Pinellas County Administrator Office	Tampa Bay Times
Pinellas County Government	Tarpon Methodist Church
Pinellas County Health Dept.	Tarpon Springs Police
Pinellas County Schools	Tech Data
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office	The Poynter Institute
Pinellas County Urban League	Thomas Kirszenstein Licensed Florida Realtor
Pinellas Park Fire Department	Town of Kenneth City
Pinellas Sheriff's Police Athletic League	Transamerica
Public Defender 6th Judicial Court	Ultimate Medical Academy
Raymond James	Unity Church St. Petersburg
RCS Pinellas	University of South Florida - St. Petersburg
Reinforced Structures, Inc.	University of Tampa
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P.)	US Air Force
Retired Pinellas County Teachers Assoc.	US Army
Sanderlin Family Center	US Marines
Sembler	US Navy
Seniors in Service	USAA
Signature Flight Support	USCG Air Station
	Word of Life Church

"She has been introduced to things I cannot show her. She has fallen in love with sewing, all because of her Lunch Pal. I believe all youth need a mentor in their life. This relationship will last a lifetime." ~ Parent, Ridgecrest Elementary

2020-2021 Goals

The goal for the 2019-2020 school year was to increase the number of students with a Lunch Pal to 2,000. Due to Covid-19 and an early school closing, Lunch Pals ending the school year reaching 1,811 students. Had schools not closed, all indications were that the goal of 2,000 would have been reached. Our goal for 2020-2021 is to ensure all students who were matched at the end of 2019-20, will continue to meet with a Lunch Pal in the new school year and to increase the number of new students with a Lunch Pal by 20% in the current COVID environment.

Lunch Pals will be virtual when school starts. While meeting in person is always ideal, virtual Lunch Pals offers advantages to those participating. Lunch is still 30 minutes, but there is no travel involved. In addition, people can mentor from anywhere. In addition, Pinellas County Schools will provide a weekly curriculum of materials that Lunch Pals can share with their students.

Due to the unprecedented times – COVID 19, heightened awareness of racial injustice, and economic uncertainty - children are especially overwhelmed socially and emotionally, especially those living in poverty. As a result, while Lunch Pals has always focused on the children who need us most, virtual Lunch Pals allows the program to focus both on the children and the schools that need us most. Current Lunch Pals are encouraged to continue to have lunch with their students. New Lunch Pals will be encouraged to allow Pinellas County Schools to select a student at one of the neediest schools.

2020/2021 plan to achieve the goal:

- Recruit additional individuals, as well as companies and community organizations to become partners.
- Build expanded awareness and understanding, continuing with the Lunch Pals campaign theme “***Change your lunch plans. Change a child’s life.***”
- Increase awareness with the Lunch Pals newsletter – *and other promotional announcements.*
- Motivating partners to encourage additional employees to become Lunch Pals.
- Lunch Pals website - lunchpals.org - has been significantly enhanced, including a meaningful video, and useful attachments.



"They listen to me, they talk to me and also they are so nice to me and they care for me. Mentors are the best!" ~ Student, Mount Vernon

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"I am lucky to have two "lunch pals" and have been involved with them since first grade - watching them grow, learn and enjoy our visits makes me feel like I receive more than I give."

~ Lunch Pal, Bear Creek Elementary

Lunch Pals

Learn more/join us lunchpals.org



RAYMOND JAMES

A partnership between Pinellas County Schools and Raymond James, with participation from more than 130 businesses and community organizations.