



February 18, 2010

Congratulations to the Springbrook HS PTSA for being chosen as a winner of the Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education (MCBRE) Champions for Children Award. The PTSA is being recognized for their volunteer program called PALA - Padres y Alumnos Latinos en Acción. This award recognizes and celebrates an outstanding local PTA/PTSA program or individual volunteer who is a role model for parent involvement. The PTSA will receive a check for 1,000 dollars and a plaque to display as an accomplishment of the PTSA and their volunteer work.

**More about the Program:**

Program Title or Individual Parent Volunteer Name: Kathleen Indart, PALA Co-Founder and Board Member (PALA - Padres y Alumnos Latinos en Acción – at Springbrook HS)

**I. Description**

PALA- Padres y Alumnos Latinos en Acción- (Latino Parents and Students in Action) was formed by a dynamic group of parents who were concerned about the progress of latino students at Springbrook High School and decided to do something about it. This core group of parents, which also started the PALA group at White Oak Middle School, was energized by a program held at WOMS in the spring of 2006 called Conquista tus Sueños. PALA - Springbrook was founded in the spring of 2007.

PALA is a grass-roots group led by parents with the support of the PTSA and the school administration on a very limited budget. The group has been so successful that other schools have taken notice and are forming similar groups. We know that effective parent advocacy is a key indicator of student achievement, and one of PALA's primary goals is to "Promote parental involvement" by educating Latino parents about the critical importance of understanding the educational system in America and how to ensure that their children are able to take advantage of the outstanding opportunities available to them in MCPS.

We recognize that the health of a school can be measured by how connected every person in the community (students, staff and parents) feels to the school, so PALA "works together with the PTSA and the school administration to improve the education of all children" by promoting activities that serve this goal.

The goal of PALA-Springbrook is *"Academic and social success for Latino students at Springbrook High School."*

**More about the Event:**

<http://mcbre.org/events-cfc.shtml>

*Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education (MCBRE)  
Champions for Children*

*Champions for Children is an annual awards celebration that highlights and rewards quality teaching, outstanding leadership, and exceptional supporting services in our schools. Exemplary support for youth programs by businesses and parent associations also is recognized at this ceremony. Ten awards are given out at this gala including the award for Montgomery County Public Schools Teacher of the Year who then goes on to compete at the state level. The gala is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors which include several of MCBRE's board member organizations and many non-board companies. The 8th annual Champions for Children Awards Celebration will be held on **Wednesday, April 28th, 2010 at MedImmune (One MedImmune Way, Gaithersburg, MD 20878) from 4:30-7:00pm. The event will be hosted by WTTG Fox 5 Meteorologist Sue Palka.***

*The awardees are honored at the event and receive recognition by over 250 attendees including Superintendent Dr. Jerry D. Weast, County Executive Ike Leggett, and several other distinguished guests. The awards celebration airs in its entirety on Montgomery County cable channel 34.*

Kay Romero, President  
Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA)

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