



## LAKWOOD SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS COALITION

### 2018/2019 Status Report

**Mission:** To better serve the needs of the Lakewood community, particularly its young people, by creating stronger individual coalition members, and leveraging the strength of the coalition members to conduct projects that will have a significant positive impact.

The Lakewood Service Organizations Coalition (LSOC) started in 2017. Optimists, Rotary, Kiwanis, Elks and the Lions club are represented at meetings, held every two weeks, to identify community priorities and work collaboratively to support these priorities.

Since the LSOC began, they have taken on numerous projects listed below:

**Entryway Landscape for Rose Stein Elementary:** Rose Stein is a Title 1 school in Lakewood and re-opened in 2017 after being closed for a two-year renovation. Members of the LSOC worked together to secure financial contributions, donations from clubs, and donations of landscape materials for the project as well as provided volunteer help.

**Impact:** Students and their families felt the strong community support in ensuring the first day back in the new school was warm and inviting.

**Music Instrument Drive:** LSOC facilitated a music instrument drive for Rose Stein Elementary School and over twenty instruments were donated along with two music stands. A total of \$1697 was funded by LSOC for the repair of sixteen of these instruments. Through additional fund raising from related projects, sourcing instruments and finding mentors and volunteers to support student musicians after school, Rose Stein was able to meet their vision to ensure all students, regardless of financial limitations, could participate in the music program.

**Impact:** 100% of Rose Stein 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders now participate in band and orchestra. There is a noticeable change in the culture of the school. The students are excited about everyone participating and it's now considered cool to be in band and orchestra.

**Mentoring and Tutoring at Emory Elementary:** The LSOC joined forces with the Lakewood Faith Coalition to provide year-round tutoring from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade elementary students.

**Impact:** In addition to enhancing the reading and math skills of youth who have limited skills starting out, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers noted the change they could see in the students attending the homework club. Specifically, there was one student who worked for several months with one of the tutors to finally meet grade level standards. Without the homework club support, this achievement might not have been reached.

**Dear Friend Pals Program:** Dear Friend Pals is a pen pal program between students and seniors as part of LSOC. The program began in 2018 when LSOC partnered with the Village at Belmar Senior Living Community and Jefferson County Public Schools. Questions were designed to challenge students by encompassing leadership traits that incorporate International Baccalaureate learner profile traits. During the first year of the program, more than 100 children including students in the English as a Second Language (ESL) programs and senior residents from all walks of life participated. A “Dear Friend Pals” Exhibit was opened at the Lakewood Cultural Center in October 2019 and enjoyed numerous visitors and two special exhibit receptions.

**Impact:** Students enhanced their literacy skills in writing and formed intergenerational bonds with older adults. Some seniors found the bond with these children so important, that they are now volunteering at the schools. Finally, the program supports Superintendent Dr. Jason Glass’ new vision and strategic plan called Jeffco Generations that includes students taking an active role in the community.

### **2020 Action Plans**

- Continue to facilitate and grow the FriendPals Program
- Work with the Lakewood Faith Coalition and Coalition to End Hunger to collaborate on projects such as Title 1 School tutoring and Emory Hub
- Pursue a focus on Lakewood “bubble” schools where the LSOC may be able to collectively support the greatest needs
- Provide volunteer support to the Emory Elementary School back pack group in coordination with Mountain Backpacks, a non-profit organization
- Secure an ongoing representative from the Elks Club