

3rd Grade Reading Success Matters

Kindness in words creates confidence.
Kindness in thinking creates profoundness.
Kindness in giving creates love.

- Lao Tzu



HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

Volunteer Opportunity

The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR) has another inspiring volunteer opportunity available from Tuesday, January 23 through Thursday, January 25. SCGLR is looking for a minimum of 80 volunteers to help assemble 3,400 Kindergarten Readiness Bags for children in Sarasota, Manatee, and DeSoto counties. Each day, shifts will run from 3:00pm-6:00pm and 6:00pm-9:00pm. The bags will be filled with items to prepare kids for kindergarten and encourage parents to work with their kids. The goal is to help students transition between pre-k and kindergarten.

Holiday Fun for the Entire Family ♥



Rainbow Magic

Before participating in this fun activity, you can create a clue game for your kids to solve. Write down a clue which will lead to the next. After a series of clues, the last one will reveal a surprise -- Rainbow Magic! Use a recent book that you and your child read together as clue inspiration!

EVERYDAY HERO

If You Cannot Do Great Things, Do SMALL Things That Are Great.



It was a special moment when Beth Duda, director of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR), LeeAnne Moody, SCGLR Engagement Team, and The Patterson Foundation honored José Rojas at the Dutch Valley Restaurant in front of guests and colleagues.

"I love my children."

It is Saturday afternoon, and I am on a mission. After several attempts to connect with the owners of area laundromats through email, I am not making the progress I hoped. I want to see how a collaboration between the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR) and local laundromats can support local families. It becomes clear that I will have to go to them. The list I have pulled off the internet is of very little help as it is long and non-specific. However, I do know where four Title 1 schools in Sarasota County are located, so I decide to start there. I pull up Google maps and drive to the school nearest me. From there I ask Siri to please find the nearest laundromat. Within five minutes, I am pulling up to a rundown strip mall. I am instantly aware that I probably need to pay attention to my surroundings. I grab a small stack of Vroom and Mind in the Making supplies, five promotional pencils, my phone, pen, and notepad. My keys and business cards are in my pocket. The office is closed until Tuesday, and there is a handwritten note to call Lamar if you need to report a problem with the machines. I quickly jot down his number and hours of operation.

I walk around the side of the building and quickly enter. It is small and

confining. As I enter, a young man of 30 or so turns and looks at me. I smile, and he smiles back. I move through the small maze of machines and metal-wheeled laundry baskets looking for a manager on duty. A young man wearing headphones looks at me and lifts up one side of his headset but doesn't say anything, so I ask him if there is someone who works there. He says, "No, Miss, they are closed. His number is on the door, but you can just use the machines." He is kind, and I am grateful. As I thank him, I turn around in the narrow space to head out the way I came in. It is the only path open.

I notice now that the young man who first smiled at me has two young children with him, both boys, and it crosses my mind that he shielded them from me with his laundry cart when I first walked in. They are sitting in their chairs eating pizza at a cramped laundry-folding table wedged between a double-stacked washer and a vending machine.

I approach the man, introduce myself, and he tells me his name is José. I ask if I can share some information with him about the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and our goals of making sure all children can read by the end of 3rd grade. Instantly, he smiles and his eyes light up as he says, "Yes!" He puts his hand on his son's back and shares proudly, "My older son loves to read!" then continues, his tone changing to concern, "My younger son, not so much..." Both boys look up as they hear themselves acknowledged, and we all smile. José says, "I bought them a dictionary, and they have to bring me five new words a day; EVERY DAY. We all talk about them and what they mean, and now my son is bringing me all kinds of crazy words I have never even heard of, and he keeps laughing at me!"

CONTINUE READING

Community partners are helping to spread the word about Everyday Hero. ABC7 My Suncoast is sponsoring a [Facebook contest](#). **Parents are encouraged to submit their own Everyday Hero tips and photos for a chance to win an iPad and an opportunity to appear in an upcoming Everyday Hero television commercial.**

You can text EverydayHero to 77453 for up to three weekly tips on how to create learning experiences for their children ages 0-10yrs.

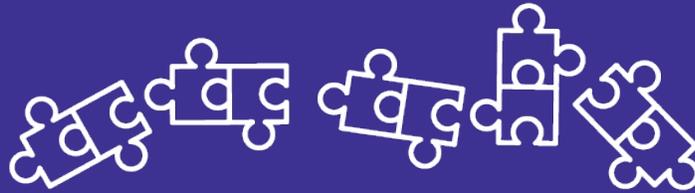
Everyday Hero is a gift to the community from [The Patterson Foundation](#).

Message and data rates apply. Text STOP to cancel or HELP for help. Go to gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net/tools/ for privacy and terms.

SEE YOU IN 2018!

On behalf of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, wishing you and yours a joyful holiday season, and a bright New Year!

[Visit the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading "Library" Archive](#)



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We welcome your thoughts.
Contact us at info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net.

Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Lead



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