

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Locals win Writing Contest**

Five Trousdale County  
students have written prize



winning essays in the Utrust Make a Difference Writing Contest. Sarah Henry, Salem Sullivan, Mason Quinn, Mary Jo Spears and Sydney Beaver were all big winners this week. All five students attend Jim Satterfield Middle School. Utrust Administrator, Dr. Dan Tollett, and Kristi Coleman, Utrust Director of Finance and Administration presented the awards on Wednesday, December 12. Superintendent Clint Satterfield also participated in the presentation of the awards.

Sydney Beaver won \$500 for her essay “A Smile is Worth 1000 Words” about how Vice Principal J. Brim McCall made a difference in her life. She stated “He has given me large dreams and given me the knowledge I needed to prepare me for high school and beyond.” Her essay describes how Coach McCall at Jim Satterfield Middle School, encouraged and supported her when she was struggling and she says “Coach McCall is more than a simple principal-He’s a friend!”

Mason Quinn wrote about Coach Stephen Jackson. In his essay entitled “An Inspirational Teacher” he said what encouraged him the most about Coach Jackson

was the feeling that “he had confidence in me and knew I could do it”. It was this confidence that helped Mason develop into the starting football player that he is. Mason wrote that Coach Jackson “Inspired me a lot. He is my favorite teacher.” He received \$100 for writing the essay.

Salem Sullivan won \$100 for “My Inspiration”, her essay about Mrs. Sarah Walczyk. She wrote that Mrs. Walczyk is “a friend to everyone and someone they know they can talk to if they need to.” Sullivan shared his about how fun her teacher is and how she goes the extra mile for her students. She ends her essay with this high praise: “Mrs. Walczyk is a role model in this school. I just hope one day I can be as kind, knowing and humble as Sarah Walczyk.”

MaryJo Spears chose to honor Ms. Lindsey Lankford in her \$100 prize winning essay. She described Ms. Lankford as not only her teacher but also her friend. She says that during a difficult time in her life, Mrs. Langford “helped me through up-and-down, left and right.” Spears wrote. “ Ms. Lankford not only helped me with my school work, she also helped me with my life”.

Sarah Henry wrote her \$100 prize winning essay about Superintendent Clint Satterfield. She told about how her life has been changed by the kindness he and his wife showed her during a difficult time in her family life. Sarah described how the Satterfields graciously went above and beyond the call of duty to reach out to her and to take her into their home and treated her as a part of the family. She credited

them with being outstanding examples while teaching her so many things. She says "they hold a very special memory in my heart."

Utrust awarded 18 cash prizes to winners across the state for entries like these about school employees who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference in the lives of students.

"Many school employees across this state go above and beyond what is required of them every day," said Dr. Tollett. "We want their stories to be written and celebrated. We ask every person who submits an essay to share it with the person about whom it is written. It makes a big difference in staff morale. It also makes a difference in students' lives when they learn to recognize and express appreciation to others. We want to see students develop and display an attitude of gratitude," he continued.

Utrust is a statewide organization that assists local school boards, administrators and students to recognize and appreciate school employees. Utrust sponsors the School Employee Appreciation Program that includes celebrations throughout each school year to honor school employee groups. Utrust awarded 18 cash prizes ranging from \$1000 to \$100 to winners of the writing competition across the state.

These special stories will be permanently added to the Utrust Make A Difference Library.

Visit [www.tnuct.com](http://www.tnuct.com) for more information or to read the essays.