



Office of the Superintendent

Dr. Susie Cook, Superintendent
4650 W. Sweetwater Ave.
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The Washington Elementary School District is committed to achieving excellence for every child, every day, every opportunity.

February 19, 2010

Chuck Nolan
We Care Foundation

Dear Chuck,

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations on earning the Lamp of Learning Award! The Lamp of Learning Award is the District's highest honor and recognizes the extraordinary extent to which you have contributed to our Vision, Mission and Values. We in WESD, our students, families, and peers, all benefit from your efforts. I am so proud of you; moreover, I hope you are proud of what you have accomplished.

Over the years, I have noticed that our Lamp of Learning Award recipients share common characteristics, even though each individual's contributions are unique. Some of these characteristics include unparalleled humility, an unselfish sense of service, an enormous commitment of time to helping others, and a deep caring about others. You certainly exemplify all of those traits and many more.

Congratulations! I look forward to honoring you on May 7, 2010. Thank you for all that you do. We are all better at what we do because of you!

Sincerely,

Susie Cook
Superintendent



Communication Services

Carol Donaldson, Director
4650 W. Sweetwater Ave.
Glendale, Arizona 85304

TEL: 602-347-2669 • FAX: 602-347-2722 • E-MAIL: carol.donaldson@wedschools.org

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February 19, 2010

Chuck Nolan
We Care Foundation

Dear Chuck,

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive the Washington Elementary School District's highest honor, the Lamp of Learning Award. Your commitment to the Vision, Mission and Values of the WESD is an inspiration to others and deserving of this prestigious honor.

The committee worked diligently to identify individuals who embody the spirit of the Lamp of Learning Award. You have continuously met the highest standards of the award and are to be congratulated.

Enclosed are the nomination form and letters that were submitted on your behalf. We hope you enjoy reading the many, many reasons friends, families, students and staff members believe you exemplify the best of the best.

Also enclosed is an information form for you to complete and return to me by **Wednesday, March 10, 2010, please.** (If you would like to receive the form electronically, please e-mail me at carol.donaldson@wedschools.org.) This information is used in the printed program as well as in the presentation ceremony. In addition, we will need to schedule a time to photograph you for the printed program. Please contact Christina McPheeters at 602-347-2893 by March 10 to schedule a time to come to the WESD Administrative Center for a brief photo session.

We look forward to celebrating with you at the Lamp of Learning Awards Dinner on Friday, May 7, 2010 at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel, 2620 West Dunlap Avenue, Phoenix. You will receive a complimentary ticket for yourself and one for a guest to the dinner and ceremony. Should you wish to purchase additional tickets, they may be obtained for \$15 each through the Communication Services office beginning March 10. If you would like additional tickets, please contact Christina. *Tickets will be made available to the public beginning April 1, 2010.*

The evening will begin with hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner, entertainment and presentation of our Lamp of Learning Awards beginning at 6 p.m.

Once again, congratulations and thank you on behalf of WESD students, staff, families and community. We look forward to honoring you on May 7.

Sincerely,

Carol H. Donaldson
Communication Services Director

Washington Elementary School District # 6 • www.wedschools.org

Governing Board: Tee Lambert, President • Chris Maza, Vice President • Bill Adams, Member • Clorinda Graziano, Member • Aaron Jahneke, Member
Dr. Susan J. Cook, Superintendent

January 19, 2010

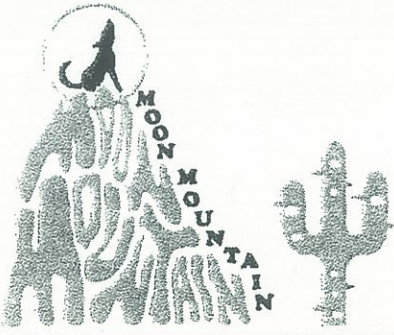
I would like to nominate Chuck Nolan representing The We Care Foundation. I have had the honor of being able to work closely with Chuck over the last four years and, the contributions that he and the We Care Foundation have made to our Moon Mountain families has been phenomenal. Every year Chuck and We Care Foundation provide a Christmas party for all of the headstart children here at Moon Mountain. The students receive a couple of gifts while sitting on santa's lap while also making sure that the younger siblings are not left out. The younger ones are always given a stuffed animal as well.

Chuck and the We Care Foundation also adopt families at Thanksgiving time and provide them with a full dinner even down to the roasting pot to cook it in. The Foundation also takes into account that some of the families may not understand the concept of turkey because of their culture so they provide those families with gift cards to Food City so that they can go buy what they would eat on that day. From there Chuck and the Foundation members make a commitment to those families to take care of them for Christmas. During these hard economic times our families have been overwhelmed by the generosity of Chuck and the foundation. There have been smiles and tears of happiness for what they have done for our families, and Chuck and the foundation don't want recognition for what they do. Their happiness comes from getting to know the families, learning their stories, finding their needs and wants and then making it happen.

I have had the privilege of getting to know other members of the foundation as they help Moon Mountain, and every single one of them has a heart of gold. Their generosity and excitement to help is contagious and I cant help smiling when I get off the phone with one of them or finish a face to face conversation with Chuck. They are deserving of the Lamp of Learning award and so much more, more than a simple thank you that they are given. Please consider them for this award.

Tara Walter HT
Moon Mountain Elementary

TaraMwalterHT



Moon Mountain School

13425 N. 19th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85029-1698
TEL: (602) 896-6000
FAX: (602) 896-6020
Nurse: (602) 896-6010

January 22, 2010

I am pleased to recommend Chuck Nolan and the We Care Foundation for the Lamp of Learning Award. Chuck and crew have been graciously helping families with Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays for many years. Recipients of this great gift have expressed immense gratitude over the amount and presentation of these gifts.

Chuck and the We Care folks have made sure several families at Moon Mountain have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas. They take time to get to know the families, their wants and needs and then provide for them. Gifts are usually presented by Santa with tree and all and they have provided many things including household furnishings.

We Care is a community service who helps families during the stressful and expensive times of the year so children can smile and believe in the magic of Santa.

Sincerely,


Linda Femino

Moon Mountain



Moon Mountain School

13425 N. 19th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85029-1698
TEL: (602) 896-6000
FAX: (602) 896-6020
Nurse: (602) 896-6010

January 20, 2010

RE: Lamp of Learning Nomination

Dear Lamp of Learning Committee:

We are very fortunate to have several community partners that help our families in the Moon Mountain community. It is with great pleasure that I support the nomination of Chuck Nolan from the We Care Foundation for the Lamp of Learning Award for the Washington Elementary School District. This community partner is instrumental in supporting many of our neediest families. Chuck has helped to support our Head Start program during the holidays by bringing in toys and food for the families that attend our program. They also assist us in supporting many families in need. With the economic stress that currently exists, many of our families are struggling to meet their basic needs and the We Care Foundation is always there to support our families.

They want little recognition upon giving support and work to assist us in many ways, but especially during the holiday time of year. They provide holiday meals, help for the holidays so that families can provide things for their children and provide support for the families as well. This kind of selfless support for our community is such an asset for our school community. Receiving this prestigious honor is a great way to show our gratitude for the many wonderful things this organization does for our children and families. We thank you for your consideration of this award to Chuck Nolan from the We Care Foundation.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Palmer
Principal

Moon Mountain Elementary School
January 20, 2010

Dear Lamp of Learning Nomination Committee,

Our fifth and sixth grade cross-categorical, self-contained academic class would like to nominate Chuck Nolan of the We Care Foundation for the Lamp of Learning Award of 2010. He and his organization provide a Christmas party every year for Head start children and their families, with jolly Santa presenting carefully chosen gifts to each child. Unknown to most people is what they do behind the scenes very discreetly and without fanfare or expectation of notoriety, fame or recognition.

Every year Chuck, through the We Care Foundation, adopts a number of families from Moon Mountain School . They take the time to get to know the families, their wants and needs, and then proceed to provide what the families most desire. For Thanksgiving each family is treated to a wonderful festive meal with all the trimmings. During the Christmas season the families are also blessed with another special meal along with the yearly party and gifts chosen by good "Saint Nick". This organization is so gracious that they do not ask for anything in return, not even a logo of theirs on any item or gift to acknowledge their generosity.

We at Moon Mountain would like this community of generous people to know how very much we appreciate all that they do for our children on a regular basis.

Our personal "Thank you" just doesn't seem quite sufficient enough to express our gratitude for all their magnanimous giving. We would like to recommend that they be honored in a more public way to commend them for a tradition of heartfelt care and concern for the neediest in our community. Perhaps their Lamp of Learning Award would serve as an inspiration for other organizations and/or individuals to do likewise and thus contribute to the well-being and benefit of so many in our community who are in dire need during these difficult economic times. We ask you to give your earnest consideration to these wonderful people for the Lamp of Learning Award of 2010.

Sincerely,

Mary Welch, Ann Kroll and students of MM cc/sca, 5, 6 class

Mary Welch	Ann Kroll
Jennifer Gonzalez	Gabriel Gomez
Raine Mason	Karina Nunez
Alvaro Encinas	Alonzo
Clint Elzey	Patrick Lopez
Nathan Martinez	Bailey Whitten
Ivan Gutierrez	Hector Mena

Raymond Adams

Lamp of Learning Nomination Form 2010—Moon Mountain Nomination of We Care Foundation for Lamp of Learning
page 2

Explain in detail, in no more than three pages, why this person should be recognized with the Lamp of Learning Award. The examples cited may include the following general areas, based on the nominee's category/position:

- Classroom contributions
- School contributions achievements
- Community contributions
- Special activities
- District contributions
- Special

Please provide specific examples of the nominee's involvement in the school and/or District.

1. Please give specific examples of ways in which the nominee goes above and beyond expected job performance on behalf of students.

We Care Foundation has worked with Moon Mountain as a community partner for the past five years as we work together to meet the needs of our families. Chuck Nolan is the coordinator of this organization and has done a stellar job of helping to support our students. They have helped our needy families during the holiday seasons, both at Thanksgiving and the Winter Holidays, as well as supporting the needs of students throughout the year.

2. Please give specific examples of ways in which the nominee shows excellence in performance of his or her job duties.

Chuck does a great job of checking in with our school health technician to identify any needs among our families or student needs that might be supported by this organization. They are willing to help with school supplies, have assisted us with additional back packs for children who cannot afford them and supplied toys during the holiday season for those children in need. At the Head Start celebration this year they not only supplied toys for each of the children in the program, but circulated in the audience in the cafeteria to ensure that every child (even toddlers) who had come to see their siblings perform received a teddy bear.

3. If the nominee is a volunteer or community member, please provide information on the variety of ways the nominee volunteers meaningful time and expertise to the school and/or the WESD.

Nothing is ever too much trouble for this group and recently one of our families experienced a fire in their apartment. Chuck has worked to get this family supplied with household items, clothes and is even working with an agency to help them relocate. This kind of assistance for those who have experienced the trauma of losing their home is so vital to providing a sense of security and comfort to children so that they can continue on their pathway of learning.

4. Please provide examples of ways the nominee actively and creatively seeks to improve public education.

While this foundation does not provide services directly related to the classroom learning, the support they offer to families helps to relieve the stress of not having enough money to provide for their children. What research tells us is that when children have their basic needs met—food,

clothing and shelter- they will be ready to learn and have a better chance at being successful at school. The We Care Foundation offers our school that kind of support.

5. Please provide specific examples of the ways the nominee is a positive role model of customer service for students, staff and community.

We Care Foundation through the help of Chuck Nolan certainly is a great example of a positive role model and customer service like none other. Chuck is always willing to help in any way he can within the guidelines of the organization.

6. Please provide examples of the ways the nominee serves as an inspiration to others while fulfilling the District's Vision, Mission and Values.

Our District's Mission and Vision statements certainly align with the focus of this organization that helps to make sure both children and families can achieve.

7. Please give specific examples of new or innovative materials and/or operational procedures created by the nominee.

Since the beginning of our work together, this organization has worked closely to improve and enhance the service they provide to our community. At any time when there is a need, they work with us to meet that need, or refer us to anyone else that could help to solve the concern. This kind of support is important as the demographics of our community is constantly changing.

8. Please provide specific examples to show that the nominee always represents the District in a positive and professional manner.

Chuck, as the representatives of We Care Foundation, certainly represent a positive focus on helping our community. This partnership has been strong for over five years and this organization is choosing to do community service through a school that is also the hub of the community and we both believe that if families are supported, have food and clothing, then children come to school ready to learn and families feel supported by their school. This organization has also broadened their service to not only Moon Mountain, but responded recently to a need in the Acacia school community where they are helping a family who suffered the loss of their home due to a fire. Again, this organization is responding to needs of families and children. This kind of support is vital to a true professional learning community as it relates to both strong community partnerships and strong parent involvement.