(Frankfort, Ky) -- Frankfort, Ky – The Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) named Angela Shoemaker, custodian at Muhlenberg South Middle School (Muhlenberg County Schools) as the winner of the statewide Fred Award.

One of three finalists, Shoemaker was presented the award July 19, during KASA’s 51st Annual Leadership Institute, the largest gathering of school administrators statewide. Finalists are selected by a statewide judging panel representing leaders from school districts across the commonwealth.

The Fred Award was inspired by Fred Shea, a mail carrier who became the subject of Mark Sanborn’s best seller, The Fred Factor. The award recognizes non-administrative staff members who distinguish themselves as an integral component of a positive learning environment.

“Miss Angela is changing the world starting right here in Muhlenberg County,” said Brian Lile, principal of Muhlenberg South Middle School, as he described Shoemaker. “She is widely known for making a positive difference in the lives of children--not only in her building, but also throughout the county.”

Shoemaker has experienced her own share of personal loss, but rather than allow those events to drag her down, she has used them as a springboard to lift others up. She serves as the morning greeter for the school--making sure she arrives early to attend to her custodial duties before the students arrive.

“She gives out hugs and smiles and love in enormous portions daily,” said Lori Wilson, the head custodian at Muhlenberg South Middle School. “The students are so happy to see her and enjoy the time they spend with her.”

The students agree. “She can tell when someone is down or upset and it doesn't matter who it, she's always going to help them out,” according to one student. Another was equally high in singing her praises. “It's going to be almost impossible to find someone as positive as (she is).”

She gives of her own time and money.
She's a servant leader.
She is selfless.
She makes a difference for the kids--first and foremost.

Those are just a few notes of praise for Shoemaker from others in the district. More profound, perhaps, are her own words.
“A lot of students don’t have good home atmospheres, so I like to give them encouragement they don’t get at home to let them know there is someone out there who cares for them and that they are here on earth for a reason.”

“There are few recognition programs for support staff in our public schools,” said KASA Executive Director Dr. Rhonda Caldwell. “We are proud to partner with author Mark Sanborn and American Fidelity to recognize Freds across the state.”

Prior to the ceremony, a reception was held in honor of the finalists. Video footage captured in each of the finalists’ districts was presented during the final award presentation July 19. Each finalist received a $250 check, overnight lodging at the Galt House Hotel, and a distinguished plaque detailing the award. The winner, Shoemaker, received a $500 check.

KASA’s Leadership Awards program is provided in partnership with American Fidelity Assurance Company.

KASA is the largest school administrator group in Kentucky representing more than 3,100 education leaders from across the commonwealth. Formed in 1969, KASA connects education leaders to policymakers, legislators, and other interest groups, and provides numerous benefits to Kentucky’s school administrators.

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