

I was getting the sickest, cruelest  
messages on a social media website  
named ask.fm....they said they would  
come to my house and murder me  
if I didn't commit suicide by Christmas.  
Colby Guy, Watson B. Duncan Middle School

Am I really that different  
than you?  
Is being different a crime,  
or rather something we should  
embrace in each other?

Chad-Aaron Walker, Western Pines Middle School

# DO THE UNUSUAL DO THE WRITING DO THE UNUSUAL

I know what it's like to have a mother and  
father who's been in the Dept. of Corrections  
for domestic violence. My mother went to jail  
several times for defending herself against my  
father....I focus on changes my mother made to  
break the cycle of domestic violence in our family.  
Being brave enough to finally move on with her  
life and removing herself out of a bad situation  
and a bad environment.

Zakiya Hobbs, John F. Kennedy Middle School

## NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO STOP VIOLENCE



# DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE

## 2015 PALM BEACH COUNTY

***Do the Write Thing Challenge provides middle school students with an opportunity to examine the impact of violence on their lives and communicate in writing what they can personally do to stop violence.***



The program involves a classroom discussion and a "Challenge" to answer three questions in written form:

**How has youth violence affected my life?  
What are the causes of youth violence?  
What can I do to reduce youth violence?**

The goal of the program is to reduce violence in homes, schools and neighborhoods by encouraging students to make a personal commitment to do something about this problem.

Complete information about the national program is available online at [www.dtwt.org](http://www.dtwt.org) and the local program at [www.dothewritethingpalmbeach.com](http://www.dothewritethingpalmbeach.com).

There are 36,620 students enrolled in 34 Palm Beach County district public middle schools. **27,093 students accepted the Do the Write Thing Challenge** and answered the three questions in writing. Many more participated in classroom discussions. 31 traditional schools had at least 50% of their students take the Challenge and they were eligible to advance their "Top 10" best student writings to the next level of judging. The top student from each of 3 fully participating alternative schools were also recognized. All 313 of these student writings are published in this book.

Since its inception, it is estimated that over a million students have participated in this Challenge and committed to do something about the problem of youth violence.

All of the entries in this book were read by multiple panels of volunteer judges who continued to narrow the field until 5 boys and 5 girls were chosen as the "Top 10" student finalists for Palm Beach County. The judges represent a cross section of Palm Beach County educators, prosecutors, criminal defense lawyers, parents, law enforcement officers and judicial leaders who are committed to solving the problem of violence in our community. We are grateful to all of the judges who contributed their wisdom and a considerable amount of time to read and select the best entries.

We are privileged to send one boy and one girl as guests of the local committee to serve as Ambassadors from Palm Beach County in the national recognition ceremony this summer. They will join other Do the Write Thing Ambassadors from across the country and meet with national leaders to address the problems of youth violence.

**Do the Write Thing Challenge** was established by the National Campaign to Stop Violence (NCSV) and is administered by the national office and by the local steering committee in each participating region. NCSV encourages individuals and businesses to make a difference in the lives of young people. If you would like to help NCSV with your time or resources, please contact the National Campaign to Stop Violence at

2021 Massachusetts Avenue,  
NW, Washington, DC 20036.  
Telephone: 202-293-4483 or  
800-256-0235.



**Bill Bone, Esq.**

You can contact the local steering committee through its chairman, Bill Bone, Esq., at 550 South Quadrille Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL 33401. Telephone: 561-832-0623.

**The following localities are currently active in Do the Write Thing Challenge:**

**Los Angeles, CA; Colorado; West Palm Beach, Miami, FL; Atlanta, GA; Chicago, IL; Boston, MA; Detroit, MI; Helena, MT; Las Vegas, NV; Newark, NJ; New York; Charlotte, NC; Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, PA; Jackson, Memphis, TN; Austin, Beaumont, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, Odessa, San Antonio, Victoria, TX; Utah; Washington, D.C.; Milwaukee, WI.**

## DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE

### 2015 PALM BEACH COUNTY RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

**Tuesday, May 5th, 2015**

#### PROGRAM

**BILL BONE, ESQ.**

*Trial Lawyer with Larmoyeux & Bone  
Palm Beach County Chairman, National Campaign to Stop Violence*

**E. WAYNE GENT**

*Superintendent, Palm Beach County Schools*

**HONORABLE RIC BRADSHAW**

*Palm Beach County Sheriff*

**J. PEPE FANJUL, JR.**

*Executive Vice President, Florida Crystals Corporation  
Palm Beach County Sponsor*

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*President and CEO, William H. Pitt Foundation, Palm Beach, Florida*

**HONORABLE RONALD ALVAREZ**

*Retired Palm Beach County Circuit Court Judge Juvenile Division*

**HONORABLE DAVE ARONBERG**

*State Attorney 15th Judicial Circuit Court, Palm Beach County*

**2015 DO THE WRITE THING VIDEO PREMIERE**

*Palm Beach Film Institute, J. William Metzger, Chairman and the Youth Empowerment Center,  
Dwayne Taylor, Producer, and his team of students.*

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### STAND UP . . . UNCHAIN THE WORLD

**A Montage Performed by the Do The Write Thing Ensemble**



**Ensemble Performers:**

Clifton Adams, Jeanine Gangloff, Delatoiya Goodman,  
Courtney Poston, Justin Sims, Luis Ugarte

**Created from the writings of:**

Jadaya Bens-Burgess, Sabrina Berlinski, Edward "Scotty" Brooker,  
Hailey Cartwright, Kevin Brian Clinton, Ben Cooper, Colby Guy,  
Ethan Hardin, Jonah Jean-Baptiste, Lily Olsthoon, Lauren Ortega,  
Jason Robiero, Asmaa Shabi, Zack Sheppard, Faith Southwick,  
Taneria Tysinger, Matthew Valentine, Chad-Aaron Walker

The entire ceremony will be filmed for broadcast on The Education Network (T.E.N.) on Comcast Channel 234 and 235 at the end of the month.  
T.E.N. is the television station for the School District of Palm Beach County. For broadcast times, contact the station at (561)738-2926.

# PARTICIPATING MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND TOP 10 STUDENTS

## **Bak Middle School of the Arts**

### **Sally Rozanski, Principal**

Jennifer Oliver Gardner, Coordinator  
Jadayah Bens-Burgess  
Daisy Deutsch  
Eleni Gibson  
Jacob Isreal  
Kinsey Pastore  
Alex Shaw-Rodreguez  
Ariana Soodeen  
Elizabeth Tischuk  
Sydni Torrero  
Joseph Zibura

## **Boca Raton Middle School**

### **Peter Slack, Principal**

Jo Feller, Coordinator  
Anthony Colandrea  
Jason Frias  
Trebian Kimmey  
Sydney Levy  
Stacy Marchini  
Angela McCall  
Juliette Naudot  
Lily Olsthoorn  
Magda Palej  
Jordan Rosa

## **Carver Community Middle School**

### **Kiwana Alexander-Prophete, Principal**

Stephen Smith, Coordinator  
Mike Wisgathe Fontus  
Franco Fortune  
Sabha Hammad  
Kevens Jean Baptiste  
Eugene Jones  
Savannah Kane  
Kate Lievonon  
Yuelande Senatus  
Sarah Severe  
Jevon Timmons

## **Christa McAuliffe Middle School**

### **Jeff Silverman, Principal**

Penni Lee, Coordinator  
Hunter Behrman  
Kaitlyn Bradley  
Ashley Dean  
Rickey Duby  
Jake Glitzer  
Blake Harper  
Hannah Landsberg  
Abby Nussbaum  
Annalisa Tran  
Robert Wiehl

## **Congress Middle School**

### **Denise O'Connor, Principal**

DeeAnne Feulner, Coordinator  
Steven Behar  
Anna Berrios  
Hailey Cartwright  
Nafiah Choudhury  
Romy-Lisa Daniel  
Giana Gaetano  
Anna Galicia  
Dylan O'Dell  
Zoe Prucien  
Annie Wu

## **Conniston Middle School**

### **Oscar Otero, Principal**

Don N. Inscoe, Coordinator  
Barbara Castro-Schell  
Ethan Hardin  
McCarty Hickman

## **Conniston Middle School con't**

Jonah Jean-Baptiste  
Paul McCue  
Victoria Mitchell  
Isabella Ostrowski  
Juan Pacheco  
Matthew Valentine  
Thomas Volante

## **Crestwood Middle School**

### **Stephanie Nance, Principal**

Tracie O'Connor, Coordinator  
John Barry  
Rochelle Dennis  
Isabella DiStefano  
Bangine Estimable  
Skylar Gray  
Paige Kerchville  
Dominic Lanni  
Alvanna Liwanag  
Jaz Pottinger  
Grace Wishart

## **Don Estridge High Tech**

### **Middle School**

### **Laurie Riopelle, Principal**

Annette Levine, Coordinator  
Keyanah Alexis  
Aaron Chau  
Kevin Clinton  
Shelby Godfrey  
Jeanna Hadi  
Catherine Hook  
Skyler Hyman  
Michael Lesh  
Kyleigh Rachel  
Jordan Stein

## **Eagles Landing Middle School**

### **Cindy Chiapetta, Principal**

Kendra Gremaux, Coordinator  
Jackson Domenico  
Hannah Loliyong  
Jared London  
Jacqueline Pinos  
Marie Preuss  
Ilana Richman  
Josh Rosenthal  
Crystal Schers  
Austin Stein  
Ben Terkiel

## **Emerald Cove Middle School**

### **Eugina Smith-Feaman, Principal**

Karen Franklin, Coordinator  
Fletcher Albright  
Alphonse Alfred  
Amelia Campos  
Nadia Chaudry  
Francesca Etienne  
Addison Fiorillo  
Madilyn Gertsen  
Socrates Ricetti  
Sonya Smith-Tembe  
Taylor Wvassell

## **Howell L. Watkins Middle School**

### **Dr. Don Hoffman, Principal**

Chris Rumsey, Coordinator  
Falencia Aulibrice  
Akeem Blake  
Alesheia Daniels  
Christ Dufour-Cordero  
Tra'Khya Hayes  
Sean LaVassaur  
Malik Nelson

## **Howell L. Watkins Middle School con't**

Diamond Philippe  
Quincy Sasson  
Asma'a Shalabi

## **Independence Middle School**

### **Kathryn Koerner, Principal**

Melinda Dzenutis, Coordinator  
Aleida Cartagena  
Lynea Cruz  
Sydney Darden  
Courtney Giang  
Kate Kendrick  
Maya Monson  
Dhroov Patel  
Amy Serrano  
Gabriel Sosa  
Caitlyn Turner

## **Jeaga Middle School**

### **Kevin Gatlin, Principal**

Lashonda Siddique, Coordinator  
Evans Antoine  
Delia Dabreu  
Alex Escalante  
Jannira Herrera-Juarez  
Sean Martinez  
Sakenya McGriff  
Dawnelle Robinson  
Rachel Starr  
Brittany Stewart  
Mikertha Zetrenne

## **John F. Kennedy Middle School**

### **Corey Brooks, Principal**

Marvin Beach, Coordinator  
Chanel Cannon  
Taneisha Graham  
Derrious Harmon  
Zakiya Hobbs  
Nancy Joseph  
Taivon Peddie  
Samatha Powers  
Felicity Rizzi  
Taneria Tysinger  
Alfred Williams

## **Jupiter Middle School**

### **Colleen Iannitti, Principal**

Derek Kervi, Coordinator  
Mia Brunson  
Izabella Buell  
Isabelle Gonzalez  
Nicole Ignatowicz  
Delaney Johnson  
Erin Kittelson  
Christopher Migoya  
Lauren Ortega  
Sophia Riso  
Adrianna Ruffo

## **Lake Shore Middle School**

### **Shundra Dowers, Principal**

Caroline Miller, Coordinator  
Gerardo Albor  
Angel Alfaro  
Warnshara Butts  
Mya Carey  
David Carreon  
Kindaejan Foster  
Tajelia Green  
Marquice Greer  
Shelly Louis-Jeune  
Fre'Nya Robinson

## PARTICIPATING MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND TOP 10 STUDENTS

### **Lake Worth Middle School** **Tanya Daniel, Principal**

*Shannon Dyer, Coordinator*  
Samir Ahmed  
Yohanan Bernard  
Samantha Boutros  
Diana Joseph  
Lorena Maldonado  
Aida Matias  
Rafael Nunez  
Julian Pascual  
Sky Patterson  
Melanie Rivas

### **Lantana Middle School** **Edward Burke, Principal**

*Jeannette Henrich-Utech, Coordinator*  
Jessica Baran  
Victoria Boone  
Martha Gaytan  
Yuleysi Jimenez-Lopez  
Alyson Marrero  
Lisandra Medina  
Stephanie Mendez  
Autumn Perez  
Jaciah Rashid  
Sahadia Saintyl

### **LC Swain Middle School** **James Thomas, Principal**

*Lakeisha Nathan, Coordinator*  
Mackenzie Dariah  
Matthew Escalera  
Orande Francis  
Joanne Frederic  
Malik Hayes  
Skarlet Jimenez-Tapia  
Jasmine Kilian  
Gabriel Patino  
Emmanuel Toussaint  
Kaitlyn Voitus

### **Okeeheelee Middle School** **Dr. David Samore, Principal**

*Frank Argain, Coordinator*  
Michael Cevallos  
Jessica Hurtado  
Yodeline Jean  
Jacob Jones  
Kenrice Levy  
Sofia Manning  
Richard Marcellin  
Iftishamul Nihal  
Jason Roblero  
Sophie Sunderland

### **Omni Middle School** **Gerald Riopelle, Principal**

*Dennis Pfeil, Coordinator*  
Sabrina Berlinski  
Edward Brooker  
Hayley Cohen  
Ben Cooper  
Amanda Defeitas  
Isabella Diaz  
Alexis Gonzalez  
Jeffrey Knight  
Samantha Marks  
Jenny NG

### **Osceola Creek Middle School** **Nicole Daly, Principal**

*Carn Aldoretta, Coordinator*  
Isaiah Drummer  
Joshua Fletcher

### **Osceola Creek Middle School con't**

Michael Rosario  
Zack Sheppard  
Joey Shipe  
Arron Sturrock  
Chasity Goodin  
Kyteria Hamilton  
Ariana Hoblin  
Justice Sperruggia

### **Pahokee Middle School** **Michael Aronson, Principal**

*Sonia Soto-Granville, Coordinator*  
Jason Campbell  
Ashanti Finney  
Stephanie Garcia  
Abigail Hernandez  
Fabian Machaen  
Teodoro Osegueda  
Kayla Rivera  
Jermaine Robeson  
Emily Rodriguez  
D'aujalonne Scarlett

### **Palm Springs Middle School** **Sandra Jinks, Principal**

*Jill Murray, Coordinator*  
Shelly Anyzeski  
Kimberly Castro  
Paola Cerna  
Jhonny Martinez  
Shiyanna McLoed  
Maria Miguel  
Harlin Orbe  
Cassandra Pucein  
Makayla Trinidad  
Shayla Zamora

### **Polo Park Middle School** **Ann Clark, Principal**

*Craig Corsentino, Coordinator*  
Alyssa Angulo  
Bryce Broackway  
Jacob Ecker  
Milan Jean-Louis  
Arianna Mullings  
Mohamedameen Osman  
Lauren Shtogrin  
Grace Skinner  
Lucas Storey  
Victoria Tarazona

### **Roosevelt Middle School** **Jeff Pollard, Principal**

*Melinda R. McCray, Coordinator*  
Ahnaf Bari  
Jakorey Dunbar  
Andino Nguyen  
Justin Peith  
Jerivonna Pryor  
Samuel IV Rolle  
Shivani Shah  
Paola Soto-Perez  
Zion Taylor  
Amani Waugh

### **Tradewinds Middle School** **Becky Subin, Principal**

*Jennifer Blakeslee, Coordinator*  
Vanessa Castellano  
Kendrick Hamon  
Delilah Le  
Aaron Piercy  
Griselda Roman  
Antonio Ruiz  
Autumn Stanley

### **Tradewinds Middle School con't**

Arianna Suarez-Ramades  
Syre Williams  
Tristan Young

### **Watson B. Duncan Middle School** **Phillip D'Amico, Principal**

*Martha Griffith, Coordinator*  
Christian Beine  
Samantha Bigot  
Kiera Brown  
Jared Craig  
Taylor DiTommaso  
Tyler Gollin  
Colby Guy  
Delaney Nelson  
Alexis Shuck  
Riley Tanner

### **Wellington Landings Middle School** **Blake Bennett, Principal**

*Jennifer Cosolito, Coordinator*  
Jordan Fallan  
Michael Greco  
Karla Herrera  
Natalia Insuasti  
Bianca Lartitegui  
Amanda Liu  
Julie Petit-Frere  
Cheyenne Robinson  
Chynna Tackett  
Charterria Wilson

### **Western Pines Middle School** **Robert Hatcher, Principal**

*Cheryl Sall, Coordinator*  
Janelle Barron  
Casey Codelle  
Katelynn Frontela  
Rebekah Gilmer  
Shelby Hatcher  
Petriena Patterson  
Valerie Rangel  
Katerina Tsekhmayster  
Chad Walker  
Lewis Wilson

### **Woodlands Middle School** **Jeff Eassa, Principal**

*Carolyn Jackson, Coordinator*  
Taven Bowen  
Timothy Carpenter  
Teresa Casa  
Caleb Cordes  
Ethan Fayad  
Lauren Hansel  
Sara Morales  
Halley Nuro  
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Whitney Surpris

### **Gold Coast School of Choice** **Timothy Abrams, Principal**

*Shakena Wadley, Coordinator*  
Anne Monde

### **Palm Beach Virtual School** **Debra Johnson, Principal**

*Marcy Zalecki, Coordinator*  
Lancelot McKnight

### **Turning Points Academy** **Anthony Allen, Principal**

*Charlotte Henry, Coordinator*  
Dontriel Riley

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Larmoyeux & Bone

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## 2015 "TOP 10" PALM BEACH COUNTY FINALISTS

Selected from the Fully Participating Middle Schools in Palm Beach County

### **BOYS**

#### **Ambassador**

Colby Guy, 8th Grade  
Watson B. Duncan Middle School

#### **1st Runner Up**

Chad-Aaron Walker, 7th Grade  
Western Pines Middle School

#### **2nd Runner Up**

Michael Cevallos, 7th Grade  
Okeetchee Middle School

#### **3rd Runner Up**

Alphonse Alfred, 8th Grade  
Emerald Cove Middle School

#### **4th Runner Up**

Edward "Scotty" Brooker, 7th Grade  
Omni Middle School



*help*  
STOP THE VIOLENCE!

### **GIRLS**

#### **Ambassador**

Maya Monson, 8th Grade  
Independence Middle School

#### **1st Runner Up**

Zakiya Hobbs, 7th Grade  
John F. Kennedy Middle School

#### **2nd Runner Up**

Sydney Levy, 7th Grade  
Boca Raton Middle School

#### **3rd Runner Up**

Catherine Hook, 6th Grade  
Don Estridge Middle School

#### **4th Runner Up**

Annie Wu, 8th Grade  
Congress Middle School

### **The Ambassadors from Palm Beach County**

The first place boy and girl are given the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC as Ambassadors representing Palm Beach County in the national recognition week ceremonies held July 11th through the 15th this summer. Students are accompanied by a parent and a teacher from their school. The local committee pays all the major expenses of the Palm Beach County delegation such as air travel and hotel accommodations. The National Campaign to Stop Violence is grateful to Florida Crystals Corporation, the William H. Pitt Foundation, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Trust Fund, Kuwait America Foundation, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, Marriott Foundation, Southwest Airlines, and the law firm of Larmoyeux & Bone for helping to underwrite all expenses of the Palm Beach County Do The Write Thing Challenge.

### **The Published Writings of the Top Student Submissions**

The Ambassador, along with the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th runner-ups for both the boys and girls, appear at the front of this book. Thereafter, all student writings are listed in alphabetical order by school.

In an effort to honor stylistic decisions and in recognition of the fact that the Challenge is more about finding solutions for the problem of youth violence, then it is about the "skill" of writing, the 313 top submissions published in this book have not been edited for grammar, spelling and structure. Students were judged on the content of their work and their response to these three questions:

- How has violence affected my life?
- What are the causes of youth violence?
- What can I do about youth violence?

**NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO STOP  
VIOLENCE**

**Congratulations to Every Student who Participated in this Program!**

## PREVIOUS DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE FINALISTS

### 2014 FINALISTS

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#### BOY

##### **1st Place Ambassador**

Michael Lesh, Don Estridge High Tech Middle School

##### **1st Runner Up**

Dakota Downs, Pahokee Middle School

##### **2nd Runner Up**

Keimoni Hunter, John F. Kennedy Middle School

##### **3rd Runner Up**

Josue Rendon, L. C. Swain Middle School

##### **4th Runner Up**

Jamarian Green, Lake Shore Middle School

#### GIRL

##### **1st Place Ambassador**

Kennedy Thomas, Crestwood Middle School

##### **1st Runner Up**

Kaitlynn Adams, Conniston Middle School

##### **2nd Runner Up**

Caira Palmer, Lantana Middle School

##### **3rd Runner Up**

Patricia Willoughby, Christa McAuliffe Middle School

##### **4th Runner Up**

Manula Leyva, Boca Raton Middle School

### 2013 FINALISTS

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#### BOY

##### **1st Place Ambassador**

Brandon Schloss, Okeeheelee Middle School

##### **2nd Place**

Coltrane MacKendrick, BAK Middle School of the Arts

##### **3rd Place**

Noah Friedman, Western Pines Middle School

#### GIRL

##### **1st Place Ambassador**

Della Gaylor, Okeeheelee Middle School

##### **2nd Place**

Desirae Merrit, Western Pines Middle School

##### **3rd Place**

Joy Sohn, BAK Middle School of the Arts

### 2012 FINALISTS

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#### BOY

##### **1st Place Ambassador**

David Dunleavy, Don Estridge High Tech Middle School

##### **2nd Place**

Nathaniel Sybron, Howell L. Watkins Middle School

##### **3rd Place**

Christopher Burrett, Watson B. Duncan Middle School

#### GIRL

##### **1st Place Ambassador**

Ashley Coons, Western Pines Middle School

##### **2nd Place**

Melanie Camejo, Lake Worth Middle School

##### **3rd Place**

Joy Sohn, BAK Middle School of the Arts

### 2011 FINALISTS

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#### BOY

##### **1st Place Ambassador**

Jacob Wesson, BAK Middle School of the Arts

##### **2nd Place**

Nathanael Carman, Osceola Creek Middle School

##### **3rd Place**

Robert (RJ) Brown, Western Pines Middle School

#### GIRL

##### **1st Place Ambassador**

Christina Gambale, Palm Springs Middle School

##### **2nd Place**

Kara Speranza, Western Pines Middle School

##### **3rd Place**

Candice Arthur, Lake Worth Middle School



## PREVIOUS DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE FINALISTS

### 2010 FINALISTS

#### BOY

##### 1st Place Ambassador

Maxx Melanson, Boca Raton Middle School

##### 2nd Place

Christian Coury, Watson B. Duncan Middle School

##### 3rd Place

Chad Bonincontri, Western Pines Middle School

#### GIRL

##### 1st Place Ambassador

Jessica Stone, Palm Springs Middle School

##### 2nd Place

Joelishia Banfield, Osceola Creek Middle School

##### 3rd Place

Vanessa Guerrero-Cruz, Christa McAuliffe  
Middle School

### 2009 FINALISTS

#### BOY

##### 1st Place Ambassador

Christian Correa, Palm Springs Middle School

##### 2nd Place

Roy Brown, Tradewinds Middle School

##### 3rd Place

Brandon Ives, Osceola Creek Middle School

#### GIRL

##### 1st Place Ambassador

Kaaza Lightbourne, Congress Middle School

##### 2nd Place

Kira Ogburn, BAK Middle School of the Arts

##### 3rd Place

Destiny Martinez, Omni Middle School

### 2008 FINALISTS

#### BOY

##### 1st Place Ambassador

Nicholas Galarza, Congress Middle School

##### 2nd Place

Thomas Baker, Watson B. Duncan Middle School

##### 3rd Place

Ryan Roy, Congress Middle School

#### GIRL

##### 1st Place Ambassador

Madeleine Kaye, BAK Middle School of the Arts

##### 2nd Place

Caroline Sans, BAK Middle School of the Arts

##### 3rd Place

Bridgette Gamble, Palm Springs Middle School

## 2015 DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE FILM PRODUCTION

This year's Do The Write Thing Challenge and the finalists were put on film to document the program's success. The Palm Beach Film Institute and its Chairman J. William Metzger helped to oversee the film production which was done by Dwayne Taylor and the students in his Audio and Video Production class at the West Palm Beach Youth Empowerment Center in Gaines Park. Some of the students participating in the creation and edit of the film are pictured here.



## FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Nothing makes a more lasting impression on young people than acknowledging and rewarding their efforts. Through the generosity of **Florida Crystals Corporation** we are hosting the “Top 10” students, their parents and teachers from each of the participating middle schools at the recognition luncheon on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Florida Crystals paid for the recognition luncheon and sent the Palm Beach County ambassadors to Washington, DC this summer. We are grateful for Florida Crystals’ financial support and for the active participation of **Mr. & Mrs. J. Pepe Fanjul, Jr.** in organizing the Palm Beach County effort. Florida Crystals, headquartered in Palm Beach County is the world’s largest producer of refined sugar.

Each middle school Principal who took the effort to make sure that at least 50% of the students from his or her school participated in the challenge received a \$500 gift from the **William H. Pitt Foundation**. We thank the foundation for underwriting these “no strings attached” grants. The William H. Pitt Foundation is headquartered in Palm Beach, Florida. **Robert G. Simses, Esq.**, is the Foundation’s President and CEO and its local Directors are Pauline Pitt and The Honorable Lesly Smith.

The thoughts and ideas of the “Top 10” best students who took the challenge at each school have been published in this book for the benefit of all who care about the problem of youth violence and struggle to do something about it. The total cost of this book was paid by the **Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office** Law Enforcement Trust Fund. and we are grateful to **Sheriff Ric Bradshaw** and his entire office for their commitment to this program especially **Captain Jeff Lindskoog** and **Sgt. Matthew Lavigna** who volunteered their personal time over and above their professional duties. We also thank our typesetter, Louise Hildestad, as well as **Bill and Patti Vitale** and the staff at **Vital Printing Corp.** for their contributions to this publication.

The law firm of **Larmoyeux & Bone** underwrites all the administrative costs of organizing “Do the Write Thing Challenge” in Palm Beach County. Volunteers include: **Bill Bone Esq.**, the firm’s founder and **Brian LaBadie**, a paralegal and Investigator who served as the 2015 Program Coordinator. Additional support was provided by Aimee Kelley, Elsa Martinez, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Lizzett Martinez, Aaron Sambeli, Hailey Cruz, Connor Pelan, Addie Mindez, Matthew Alvarez, Michael Ellis, Sean Albers, Miriam LaBadie, Brandon LaBadie and Brandi LaBadie.

We also thank these organizations and volunteers: **The School District of Palm Beach County** for putting this program into the middle schools and especially **E. Wayne Gent**, Superintendent, **Karen Whetsell**, Assistant Superintendent, **Diana Fedderman**, Director of Secondary Education; **Department of Secondary Curriculum**, especially **Kim Williams**, Assistant Director and **Kim Mazauskas**, **Bullying Prevention/ Intervention Coordinator**; **The Criminal Justice Commission** and its Executive Director, **Michael Rodriguez** for their experience working with the issues of youth violence; **The Education Network (T.E.N)**, especially **Dave McKinley**, Station Manager, for filming and broadcasting the recognition ceremony; **The Palm Beach Film Institute** and its Chairman **J. William Metzger** and **Youth Empowerment Center** especially **Dwayne Taylor** and his team of students; Floriza Desrosiers, Chavion Freeman, Teddybear Jenkins, Herman Hester, Ricardo Coleman, Destiny Washington, Josephane Milfort, Marcel Chambers, Walter Alexander, Christopher Moulton, Tautiyauna Pannell, Patrick Blanc, Khemani Clarke, Chase McKinnis, Leroy Godson, Felicia Antoine, Kjari Sa-Ra, and Nigel Howard for filming and editing our special video about the 2015 program; **Special Impressions** at the **Kravis Center**, especially **Rocco Battaglia, Jr.** and **Kathleen Hanson** for helping to make our recognition ceremony an unforgettable event; **Elaine Weber** and Elaine Weber Designs, Inc. for creating the original cover and design of this book; and most importantly **Margaret Yansura** and **Sarah Yansura-Cooke** for their brilliant ideas and all inclusive help in promoting and organizing this year’s “Do the Write Thing” Challenge.

## JUDGING PROCESS

Reading, ranking and judging all the writings submitted by the 27,097 Palm Beach County students who participated in the 2015 Challenge was an enormous undertaking that would not be possible without the assistance of the teachers, administrators and staff of the participating middle schools together with the members of the Local Steering Committee who made certain that every student who submitted a writing was considered.

We are grateful to **Attorney Ronald Alvarez**, retired Circuit Court Judge, for serving as Chairman of the Boy's Judging Committee and to **Lourdes Fanjul** and **Mary Simses**, for serving as Co-Chairs for the Girl's Judging Committee. The advice and wisdom of these people is reflected in every aspect of selecting the finalists and the Palm Beach County Ambassadors.

### **Additional organizations and individuals involved in reading, ranking and judging**

**Palm Beach County Office of the State Attorney:** especially Honorable Dave Aronberg, Chief of the Juvenile Division Lynn Powell, Esq. and their team of volunteers: Elizabeth Neto, Melody Booth, Laura Kenney, Ross Wilde, Blake Longhofer, Lee Brewer, Jennifer Van der Burgh, Stephanie Dutko, Ellen Mark, Carrie Donohue, Mark Seaton, Marlene Rivera, Heather Simmons, Lorene Taylor, Raymond Dudek, Cathy Fulton, Debra Coltun, Sherri Collins, Erminia Cain, Bobbie Payne, Rosemary Deckert, Annette Andre, Linda Moberg, Lindsay Brown, Takisha Richardson, Laura Laurie, Linda Sabol, Safiah Afify, Christine Vaughn, Mika Weirasinghe, and Jomel Aird.

**Palm Beach County Office of the Public Defender:** especially the Honorable Carey Haughwout and her Program Coordinator Jennifer Loyless and their team of volunteers: Virginia Murphy, Samantha Silverstein, Stephanie Gagerie, Denita Jones, Zachary Feinberg, Tyler Obenauf, Meghan Ginzer, Jessica Ziehler, Allie Menegakis, and Jessica De Vera.

**Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office:** especially Sheriff Ric Bradshaw and Captain Jeff Lindscoog and their support team: Sgt Matthew Lavigna, Unit Manager Dr. Selena LaMotte, Lakeisha Green, Donna Horgan, Nancy Wooley, Monica McCoy, Xiomara Lopez-Diaz, Gina Iozzio, Ashley Poer, Brandi Tenlen, Chad Upson, Catherine Engel and Volunteer Kathy Hilton-Lizza.

**Florida Crystals Corporation:** especially Executive Vice President J. Pepe Fanjul Jr., and his support team at the Palm Beach County headquarters: Carmen Gibby, Narumi Vargas, Steve Carr, Laura Bernal, Roe Vieira, Constance Myles-Mathews, Caroline Villanueva, Nicole Mesquita, Gracie Briceno, and Michael Gibby.

**The Office of Congressman Ted Deutch:** 21<sup>st</sup> Congressional District and especially Representative Darcy Farnan, District Representative and their support team: Jayne Chapman, Sharon Pilgrim, Davis Metelluis, Ryan Lichtenfels, David Gellman and Jason Atterman.

**The Office of Congresswoman Lois Frankel,** 22nd Congressional District and especially Felicia Goldstein and their support team: Stephanie Zachary, Nancy Gemansky, Charity Lewis, Jenny Ceaser, and Tina Mariano.

**Palm Beach County School District Administration:** especially Superintendent E. Wayne Gent, and their support team: Diana Fedderman, Director of Secondary Education, Joe Holcombe, Rick Lewis, Dr. Barbara Gerlock, Paula Triana and Eunice Greenfield.

**Department of Secondary Curriculum:** especially Assistant Director Kim C. Williams and her support team: Kim Mazauskas, Bulling Prevention and Intervention Coordinator, Rick Lewis, Margaret Kallman, Gail Verrigni, Eunice Greenfield, Amy Mazzoco, Fran Basich, Ann Guarino, Kelly Mullen, Cathy Burns, Beth Lefler, Carrie Rullo, Shaun Schwartztrauber, and Jerri Burns.

**Criminal Justice Commission:** especially Executive Director Mike Rodriguez and his team of volunteers: Craig Spatara, Arlene Griffiths, Brenda Oakes, Rosalyn Murray, Shahzia Jackson, Pamela Williams, Brian Vann, Allison Orr, Tammy Fields, Katherine Hatos, Jackie Esposito, Candee Villapando, and Elizabeth Williams.



## DO THE WRITE THING HIGHLIGHTS



Program Chairman Bill Bone, Special Guests at 2014 DTWT Program Buckets Blakes, Anquan Boldin and Ant Atkinson



Dwayne Taylor, Pepe Fanjul, Jr. and J. William Metzger



Sheriff Ric Bradshaw and Lynn Powell



Congresswoman Lois Frankel and Kim Williams



West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio with 2014 Finalists Keimoni Hunter and Dakota Downs



Captain Jeffrey Lindscoog and Sandra Jinks



Karen Whetsell and Brian LaBadie



Chief Deputy Michael Gauger and Tammy Fields



All ten 2014 DTWT finalists with Pepe Fanjul, Jr. and Sheriff Ric Bradshaw



Mike Rodriguez, Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Commission and Carmen Gibby, Executive Assistant to Pepe Fanjul, Jr.



## DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE SUPPORTERS



Organizers and Principal Sponsors  
Lourdes & Pepe Fanjul, Jr.



Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw



Mary and Robert Simses, Esq.

## SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank Michael Kirschner and the Harlem Globetrotters for their support of Do the Write Thing Challenge.

*"We appreciate their words, actions and inspiration to all our young people."*

### MICHAEL KIRSCHNER



Michael Kirschner performed his first magic show at 10 years-old. With years of practice and dedication he has kept himself at the forefront of the industry. Being bullied as a kid, this program really hits home. He is honored to be a part of this year's event.

### CRAIG AMES

*Special thanks to Craig Ames for leading the DTWT ensemble in this year's program.*

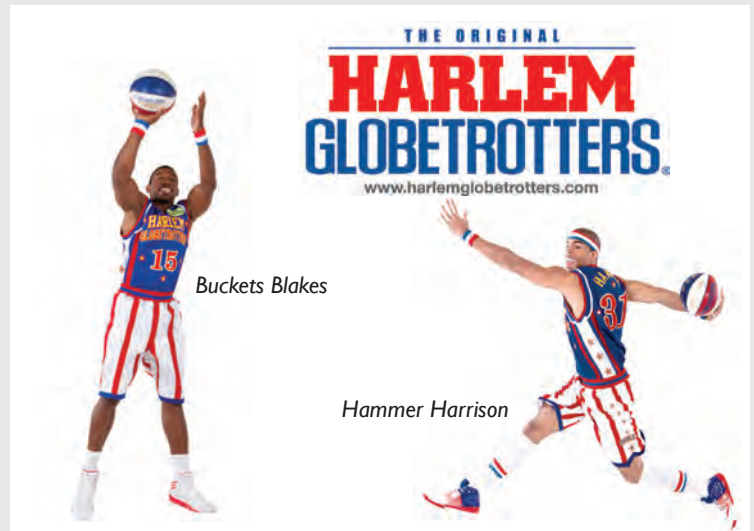


Craig Ames is a composer, pianist, and musical director and has won four Carbonell Awards for his work as a musical director. Craig is also the recipient of the Palm Beach Cultural Council's Clyde Fyfe Award for his work in bringing the arts to the community in Palm Beach County. Craig is the pianist

for the First United Methodist Church of Boca Raton, and has been a music director at Palm Beach Dramaworks since 2004.

*Special Thanks to*  
**The Palm Beach Post**  
**REAL NEWS STARTS HERE**

*for their support of this year's DTWT.*



Known worldwide as the "Ambassadors of Goodwill"™, the iconic Harlem Globetrotters are synonymous with family entertainment, great basketball skills, breaking down barriers, acts of kindness and a commitment to fans that goes beyond the game.

The Globetrotters recently designed a new community outreach program in coordination with the National Campaign to Stop Violence (NCSV) called "The ABCs of Bullying Prevention." This impactful program was developed to discourage bullying, increase empathy among our youth and give kids, teachers and youth administrators the means to tackle this growing issue in our society.

"The ABCs of Bullying Prevention" targets kids ages 6-12 and involves Globetrotter players discussing the three key words in the ABCs – Action, Bravery, and Compassion – and tools that kids can use on a daily basis to reduce bullying. The Globetrotters equate what it means to be part of a team to how kids can offer support to one another to help stop bullying.

The Globetrotters brought "The ABCs of Bullying Prevention" to over 300 schools and youth centers in 2013.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Florida Crystals, which is headquartered in Palm Beach County, is the world's largest producer of refined sugar. The company and the Fanjul Family have underwritten all the costs of the Recognition Luncheon and the costs to send the delegation of student Ambassadors and parents and teachers to Washington, D.C. this summer.  
[www.floridacrystals.com](http://www.floridacrystals.com)



The William H. Pitt Foundation was established in 1986 to benefit deserving youth primarily through education. The Foundation rewards middle schools that participate in this program by giving a "no strings attached" grant to every principal who voluntarily convinces at least 50% of the students in his or her school to participate in "Do the Write Thing" Challenge.



The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to safeguarding the lives of all people in our communities by helping reduce crime and enhance public safety. The Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Trust Fund donated substantially all of the cost to publish this book.  
[www.pbso.org](http://www.pbso.org)



The law firm of Larmoyeux & Bone helps injured people get their lives back together in legal cases throughout the State of Florida. Bill Bone and Chris Larmoyeux, with over 50 years of combined experience, have donated the administrative costs of "Do the Write Thing" Challenge in Palm Beach County.  
[www.lb-law.com](http://www.lb-law.com)