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Madeira Schools Recognize One Who Makes a Difference

Part of what makes Madeira City Schools one of the top districts in the country is the ongoing group of parents and community members who go out of their way to donate their time and talents. Once a year, the Madeira Board of Education recognizes some of those people with its highest honor.

The 'I Make a Difference Award' was created for the Madeira City School Board to recognize the extraordinary contribution of the dedicated and involved individuals who regularly go beyond the expected to 'make a difference' in our schools. They have the attitude of not being satisfied with the status quo, but of going the extra mile.

One of those people is Lou Flores. Lou far exceeds any volunteer expectations through his work with Madeira High School's marching band, color guard and winter guard. He arrives at home games hours in advance to get the instruments moved to the field, and is one of the last to leave after putting everything away - all with a smile. Before competitions, Lou loads equipment, drives the band trailer and unloads the equipment – then after cheering on the Marching Mustangs does it all again to bring everything back. He is always willing to step up and help, or coordinate a group of band parents to help. His ability to lead and make everyone feel welcome has helped to create a very inclusive and fun marching band parent group.

Lou spends countless hours working on props, sends out weekly emails to "pit volunteers," and is a stalwart of the marching band's 'Pit Crew.' He has been a part of the music boosters for at least 15 years. Lou has also recently begun helping with Madeira's theatre arts program and his volunteerism is on par with how he's helped the Marching Mustangs.



One of the nominations for Lou to receive this award stated, "He is easy to work with, kind, compassionate and very giving of his time. Having a dedicated person like Lou to provide support makes a tremendous difference to the music and theatre arts programs, and allows the directors to focus on the students."

Lou Flores truly does make a difference for the students and staff members in Madeira City Schools. Nominations are accepted any time throughout the year – more information can be found at madeiracityschools.org.

Pictured left: Lou Flores