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Virginia PTA Announces Volunteers of the Year

August 23, 2021 (Richmond, VA) – Virginia PTA is proud to announce awards for Volunteer of the Year for the 2020-21 school year. One award was earned by a student, a rare feat. Annually, Virginia PTA selects two Local Unit PTA members who have made a significant and positive impact on the school and its children.

Secondary School – Tarun Ravikumar of Academies of Loudoun, Class of 2021. As Vice President of Events on the PTSA, Tarun organized two major school events – Student Challenge and Pi Day. He also recruited and managed a team of student volunteers. Using his extensive information technology skills, Tarun created websites for the events, including a virtual scavenger hunt to keep students engaged during a year of virtual learning during the pandemic. Despite a full senior year schedule, Tarun attended every PTA meeting and served as a voice for students. In the fall, he will attend Georgia Institute of Technology and major in Computer Science.

Elementary School- Whitney Rosario, president of the Barron Elementary School PTA. Whitney promotes inclusive family and community engagement through a number of events – from a community-wide scavenger hunt to a community bookfair entitled PAWS to READ in partnership with the local SPCA. During the pandemic, Whitney increased her volunteer time to ensure continuity and served as an information source for families navigating pandemic schooling. She also applied for a won a \$6,000 cultural diversity grant for the PTA to ensure its events are inclusive and accessible to families of all backgrounds.

“Volunteers are vital part of PTA, and they graciously donate their time, efforts, and resources in support of programs for schools and families,” said Virginia PTA President Pamela Croom. “With generous acts of service, these PTA members show how an innovative approach to volunteerism helps every child and school reach their fullest potential.”

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About Virginia PTA

Virginia PTA is comprised of families, students, teachers, administrators as well as business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of family engagement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health and welfare of children and youth. For more information, visit www.vapta.org.