

## **AMY LABOSCO HALL, PhD**

### **\*\*Citizen of the Year\*\***

Dr. Amy Labosco Hall was born and raised in Volusia County. A graduate of Spruce Creek High School, she has worked for Volusia County Schools for 20 years. As the Coordinator for Student and Government Relations, Amy oversees all school counselors and, in that capacity, understands first-hand, the plight of needy students.

After many counselors told her that their students couldn't afford essentials like school supplies, backpacks, toiletries and haircuts, Amy formed the Backpack Brigade. This organization has been soliciting donations for the last 10 years and currently donates 200 backpacks filled with essentials for needy students annually throughout Volusia County.

Many people don't volunteer their time to charitable organizations, let alone create one. However, the Backpack Brigade was not Amy's first "Brigade". About 15 years ago, Amy saw a different need in the community and created the Volusia Thanksgiving Basket Brigade. Basket Brigades are encouraged by the Tony Robbins Foundation and are found all over the world with a similar goal of feeding needy families.

Amy's Brigade uses volunteers who provide laundry baskets filled with items for thanksgiving meals that feed anywhere from 5 – 10 people. Last year the organization delivered over 2,800 baskets.

Not yet satisfied with her involvement in the community, Amy joined the Port Orange Community Trust (POCT) board 8 years ago and for the last three years she has served as its secretary. POCT organizes major events such as Port Orange Family Days, Movies Under the Stars and the Spring Fair. Proceeds from these events benefit the community through special projects, grants, donations and scholarships. To date, the POCT has contributed almost \$1 million back to the community.

During Amy's involvement in POCT, the Volusia County Miracle League (VCML) requested a grant from the POCT. Amy was so impressed with their mission she joined their board as well and has been involved with them for the last four years. The VCML's mission was to build and run a baseball field and league for children with disabilities. With Amy's help, this dream became a reality and the field in New Smyrna Beach now accommodates about 40 players from across Volusia County in its second season. VCML is now working on building a playground for children with disabilities. Phase 1 is complete, and they are working on funding for phase 2.

Amy is also on the board of Simon's Angles (SA). This organization raises money for families struggling with the costs associated with their children's medical conditions. SA helps families pay for travel, medications, and other bills that they can't afford while they are struggling to help their child heal.

Amy is married and has 2 children. She says it's easy to see the direct affect her efforts have on others, but sometimes, "you don't see the positive ripple effects for years." An example in her

own life is that her daughter recently called her from college in Tallahassee and asked Amy how she could get a Thanksgiving Basket Brigade started there as well.

Amy Labosco Hall's dedication to improving quality of life across Volusia County, makes her most worthy of the Citizen of the Year award.