



August 2, 2021

Thank you for completing your 2021 Community Star Individual Nominee Questionnaire!

Overview

Here is a copy of your answers for your records. All nominations will be reviewed and evaluated by members of NOSORH's Community Star Selection Committee. One Community Star will be selected per state. If you are selected as your state's Community Star, I will work with you to schedule an interview so that we can develop your outstanding story to share in our annual book of Community Stars released on Thursday, November 18, 2021.

If you have any questions, please reach out to NRHD Community Star Project Coordinator, Brea Corsaro at bcorsaro@powerofrural.org.

Your Information

Robert Palazzo

Elementary School Principal

Panther Valley School District

Lansford, Pennsylvania

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570-669-9411

Have Questions? Contact:

powerofrural.org | nosorh.org | bcorsaro@powerofrural.org



Organization or Project Website

Please describe in as much detail as possible, your role within your organization and the nature of your work in rural health?

As the elementary school principal for Panther Valley School District I make sure that everything we do focuses on the whole child. This includes a focus on the health and well being of the students, the mental health of our students, and their scholastic achievements. By partnering with St. Luke's Health Systems we are able to provide comprehensive services that provide our students with much needed resources in the area of health and well being. We use data to measure the impact we are having on our families and look for new ways to provide families with the resources they need.

What inspired you to choose your career?

I was inspired to pursue a career as a principal because I became interested in systems level change. There is so much that can be done to support communities, such as those within the Panther Valley School District, through our work as educators. By empowering my teachers and staff we are able to serve the community beyond the traditional capacity of a school district.

What is the impact of your work in your community or the rural populations you serve?

The greatest impact of my work on the community that I serve is ensuring that students have a safe, healthy, and enjoyable place to come to school. Additionally, ensuring that families in the community feel they can access supports and resources they need to have a healthy family system. In

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particular, two projects I am most proud of are creating a brand new playground at the elementary school and creating a mobile book van to bring books into our communities.

Have you accessed, benefited from, or worked directly with your State Office of Rural Health? If yes, please describe.

No

Are you or your organization a HRSA, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Grantee? If yes, which grant program? If yes, which one?

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