



East Memorial teacher's day made better with donation of \$1,000 in OfficeMax supplies

October 13, 2009 – Thanks to OfficeMax's "A Day Made Better" program, several days – and months – will be a little better for Kim Foster's class at East Memorial Elementary School.

Foster received a surprise delivery of \$1,000 worth of classroom supplies on Oct. 6 when representatives from the local OfficeMax store, along with her principal, Dr. Mark Thompson, and assistant principal, Justin Ungeheuer, arrived with a giant orange box, a leather office chair, flowers and a congratulatory certificate.

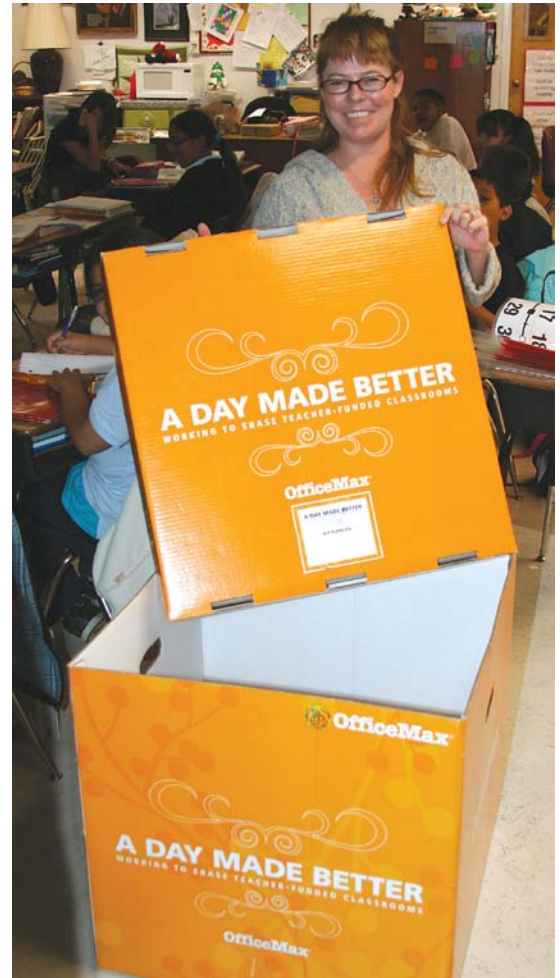
"I was in shock," Foster said later. "I don't really remember what Mr. Ungeheuer even said!" While she was still reeling in shock, Ungeheuer announced that Foster was one of 1,000 teachers being honored across the nation that day.

The staff at OfficeMax requested that all winners in "A Day Made Better" be surprised, and Thompson and Ungeheuer obliged: "I thought I was going to be observed, because they just said, 'Make sure you're here at this time,'" Foster said. "I thought maybe it was a walk-through and I needed to be nervous or something, but then they show up with all this stuff."

"A Day Made Better" is a part of the OfficeMax's partnership effort with the nonprofit Adopt-A-Classroom initiative. Nationwide on Oct. 6, 1,000 teachers received a combined \$1 million in supplies donated by OfficeMax. Principals were invited to nominate one teacher who exemplified passion, dedication, and innovation in the classroom.

Among the donated tools and supplies in the big box were a new printer/scanner, a digital camera, pens, pencils folders, note pads, glue sticks, staplers, and electric pencil sharpener, crayons, markers and more. Foster said she and her students already have begun working to split up the supplies and share them with the rest of fifth grade as much as possible. "It was like Christmas," she said. "They were digging in the box and just thrilled. But they also know we are a community at East Memorial, and they knew we would share."

Such a spirit of cooperation is one of the reasons Foster was recognized. She also works throughout the year to help students, parents and teachers find other ways to supply school needs in as frugal-but-effective a manner as possible.



East Memorial Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Kim Foster holds the lid to the box of new supplies donated to her by OfficeMax. She was one of 1,000 teachers nationwide to receive \$1,000 worth of classroom gear as part of the company's "A Day Made Better" program.



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In nominating Foster for the award, Ungeheuer said she goes above and beyond what is expected of a teacher.

“What she’s doing in class, looking at her data, her scores were going up tremendously no matter what group she had, plus all that she does for the community in our after-school program spoke volumes of her,” Ungeheuer said. “On the clock, off the clock, it doesn’t matter ... she does everything that’s possible.”

Instructional focus is at the core of Foster’s efforts. She took pride in her students for what Dr. Thompson noted about them: While she was still recovering from the surprise of receiving the gifts, they continued working – uninterrupted – on polygons in their math lesson.

Overcoming another kind of shock – sticker shock – is the aim of “A Day Made Better,” specifically, helping ease the burden of teachers who spend their own money on their classrooms.

A number of ways exist for community members to help with the “A Day Made Better” program:

- Host your own “A Day Made Better” surprise for a local teacher.
- Join the Facebook Cause page at <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/116541>
- Follow the cause on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/adaymadebetter>
- Learn more about the cause at www.ADayMadeBetter.com
- Adopt a local teacher through www.AdoptAClassroom.org
- Purchase an oversized paperclip magnet at OfficeMax stores, which benefits the OfficeMax Charitable Foundation’s program supporting K-12 public school teachers.