

Indialantic Dads Give Back, Add Value to Community

A core group of about 15 dads use their time, talent and resources as a way to be more involved with their children and help fill the funding gaps at Indialantic Elementary. The Indialantic Dads Club began about five years ago when recessionary budget cuts at the school presented opportunities for fundraising. About 100 dads are on the role books of the club with a few active participants including Les Hatter, Casey Chizek, Gary Stern, Al Hagopain, Roger Ogburn, Todd Snowden, Tim Miller, and Josh Gunnell.

The dads have addressed all sorts of projects at the school including help with computers and audio visual equipment, landscaping and security. "We try to take on the big ticket items," Hatter said. "We raised \$25,000 to get a security fence installed at Indialantic." The dads club fundraised recently for a school family who lost their house in a fire. When landscaping funds were cut at the school, the dads pulled weeds and put down mulch. Last year the climbing wall at Indialantic became unsafe. The bolts keeping the wall together were rusted and the students were no longer allowed to climb on it. The dads club found a repair kit online, bought it, repaired the wall on a Saturday, and reopened the climbing equipment for the students.

To raise money for the school, the club sells t-shirts for the school's annual faculty basketball game against nearby Gemini Elementary. The profits fund the club and allow them to keep the lunch accounts paid for students who are chronically without lunch money and fund projects the school requests. The club also puts on a school year kick off beach bash.

"We would love to have more dads involved," Hatter said. "We add a lot of value to Indialantic Elementary."

