**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MEDIA CONTACT**

June 14, 2018 Jason Leahy, Executive Director

Phone: 217-525-1383

Fax: 217-525-7264

E-mail: jason@ilprincipals.org

**Illinois Principals Association Names Burr Ridge Principals Tracy Ritchey and Julie Bartell**

 **2018 Reaching Out & Building Bridges Award Recipients**

**Springfield, IL** – Burr Ridge CCSD 180 principals Tracy Ritchey (Anne M. Jeans Elementary School) and Julie Bartell (Burr Ridge Middle School), along with Stan Cook of HCS Family Services in Hinsdale have received the 2018 Reaching Out & Building Bridges Award from the Illinois Principals Association, sponsored by Horace Mann Companies.

The Reaching Out & Building Bridges Award was created to recognize an IPA principal or assistant principal, and an agency, association, or community member displaying an outstanding effort in creating partnerships between schools, principals, associations, and organizations for the betterment of all.

HCS Family Services has served residents of Southeast DuPage County since 1937 with the goal of preventing homelessness and food insecurity, and helping low-income individuals achieve their dreams of sustained economic self-sufficiency and create an improved quality of life for themselves and their families.

In November 2016, HCS Family Services opened a food pantry at Anne M. Jeans Elementary School in Willowbrook. The pantry offers fresh produce, meats, dairy, canned goods and household items to clients. “If a child is hungry, that student isn’t going to learn,” said Dr. Thomas Schneider, superintendent of Burr Ridge CCSD 180. The school district works closely with Stan Cook of HCS to ensure that the food pantry service is known to community members with children and within the school community.

Ritchey, Bartell and Cook will be recognized in October at a special ceremony during the IPA Education Leaders Fall Conference held in Springfield, IL.

The Illinois Principals Association serves over 5,300 educational leaders statewide and whose mission is to develop, support, and advocate for innovative educational leaders. The Reaching Out & Building Bridges Award is supported by Horace Mann Companies of Springfield, IL.

For more information about the IPA, please visit [www.ilprincipals.org](http://www.ilprincipals.org).

Additional Links: HCS Family Services – <http://www.hcsfamilyservices.org/what-we-do/food-pantry/>

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