

# Did you know....

**that Bloomingdale School District 13 actually brought CHARACTER COUNTS! into the Village to be adopted by a coalition of the local governmental agencies that serve Bloomingdale residents? It's true!**

**In 1998, Superintendent Jerome Gordon felt that students in the community should be raised in an environment that not only promoted high academic standards, but also high standards of character. At the time, CHARACTER COUNTS! was identified as a program that could accomplish this purpose through teaching, modeling, and reinforcing the six pillars of character with students. The six pillars of character include:**

- **Caring**
- **Citizenship**
- **Fairness**
- **Respect**
- **Responsibility**
- **Trustworthiness**

**Dr. Gordon did not stop by implementing the program in the school district. In May of 1998, the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition in Bloomingdale was created to reinforce the six pillars within all local governing agencies and organizations in Bloomingdale. Members of the coalition include: The Bloomingdale Public Library, the Bloomingdale Park District, the Village of Bloomingdale, the Bloomingdale Chamber of Commerce, the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District #1, the Bloomingdale Police Department, the Bloomingdale Lions Club, the Bloomingdale Roselle Rotary Club, Bloomingdale Township, the Bloomingdale Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), St. Isadore Catholic Church, and Winnebago Elementary School.**

**Bloomingdale School District 13, it's schools, staff, and Board of Education all strongly support the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition and their efforts to reinforce and recognize examples of high character in the community. Each year in May, the Coalition sponsors the Pillar Awards which recognize specific members of the Bloomingdale Community who demonstrate one or more of the six pillars of character in their lives that positively impact others. The District's own Mark Dwyer, Principal of DuJardin Elementary School, has been the Master of Ceremonies at the Pillar Awards for the last several years. Board members and staff have also regularly served in positions of leadership within the Coalition.**

**As an additional measure of support, the Board of Education adopts a resolution in support of CHARACTER COUNTS! that is part of a community-wide celebration of the program in October each year. District 13 is a proud member of the Coalition and looks forward to continually supporting this program for many years to come.**

**For more information on the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition in Bloomingdale, please visit their website, <http://www.character60108.org/>**