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PRESS RELEASE

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Houston County School Nutrition Employee From Matt Arthur Elementary Wins National Recognition



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The national, non-profit School Nutrition Association (SNA) has named Pamela Heesh, Food Assistant at Matt Arthur Elementary School, as the Southeast region *Employee of the Year*. The award recognizes the valuable contribution of school nutrition employees who exhibit a remarkable commitment to both their school meal program and the students they serve.

Students seek out Pamela Heesh for hugs or smiles in the cafeteria daily. She is their friend, confidant, supporter, and the students trust her, which speaks volumes to her efforts beyond the excellent food she cooks. Heesh excels in customer service, and her enthusiasm spills over into serving lines decorated for holidays, colorful presentations of foods, and fun outfits like Mrs. Claus, a crayon or other school-themed character costumes. The students look forward to

seeing what is new in the cafeteria, and Heesh regularly posts on Facebook to help market the creative meal program and showcase the amazing food.

Heesh demonstrates a genuine interest in her coworkers' lives; she is a team leader that encourages them, assists with tasks and even bakes for them. She has endeared herself to the school team, preparing special staff breakfasts, and she is always available to address questions or concerns from parents, teachers and administrators.

"Pamela Heesh is making a positive impact both in her school and in the community. Her dedication to her co-workers is evident but the care and compassion she shows her students truly makes her an inspiration worthy of recognition," said SNA President Lori Adkins, MS, SNS, CHE.

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Heesh is active in her local School Nutrition Association chapter, serving as the secretary and formerly on the Ways and Means committee. She attends all local training sessions and is always looking for ways to grow professionally.

The *Employee of the Year Award* was created to recognize outstanding school nutrition employees who influence the quality of school meals through customer service, an interest in young people, cooperation, work attendance, creativity, participation in professional development, and their willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty.

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About School Nutrition Association:

The School Nutrition Association (SNA) is a national, non-profit professional organization representing 50,000 school nutrition professionals across the country. Founded in 1946, SNA and its members are dedicated to making healthy school meals and nutrition education available to all students. For more information on school meals, visit www.SchoolNutrition.org/SchoolMeals.

