



Contact: **Susie Ellison**
Communications
Coordinator
CLAS
P.O. Box 428
Montgomery, AL 36101
(800) 239-3616
susie@clasleaders.org

COUNCIL FOR LEADERS IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS IN EDUCATION

CLAS AND NEIGHBORHOOD BRIDGES ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP CREATING A GATEWAY TO ASSIST CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED

MONTGOMERY, ALA (August 26, 2019) – Furthering its focus on children and the needs of school administrators, the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS) is pleased to announce a new partnership with Neighborhood Bridges, which creates a Gateway to Kindness utilizing technology and social media to advocate for children and families in need, and then engages the community in filling those needs.

Neighborhood Bridges was founded and launched in January of 2017 to serve the children, residents and families of Westerville, Ohio. Throughout its first two years, Neighborhood Bridges has expanded to include nine communities in Ohio and now six communities in Alabama, including Hoover, Haleyville, Tuscaloosa, Helena, Pike Road, Trussville City Schools, and Alabaster City Schools.

In its first 2.5 years, Neighborhood Bridges has engaged residents and businesses to drive direct support and care to more than 15,500 children and families in Ohio and Alabama using the Gateway to Kindness program.

Items donated by community members through Neighborhood Bridges Gateway to Kindness program include food, clothing, shoes, coats, eye exams, school supplies, school fees, furniture, household and other items identified to help those in need.

"We are excited to partner with Neighborhood Bridges. Alabama school and school system administrators see opportunities to help students every day. This partnership will give our members a tool to invite their entire communities to assist families and students in need," said Dr. Vic Wilson, CLAS executive director.

"Neighborhood Bridges is excited to announce our statewide partnership with CLAS. Because we are both focused on school age children, and delivering a solution through school administrators, this allows Neighborhood Bridges to stitch into more school systems, helping more children, while reducing work for school counselors trying to help their underserved needs," said David Bannister with Neighborhood Bridges. "CLAS is always striving to give administrators the latest technology to help them improve their school districts, while impacting the community. It's a win/win.

About CLAS: CLAS, the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools was founded in 1969 by a small group of school leaders to provide targeted professional development and support for

CLAS AND NEIGHBORHOOD BRIDGES PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCED

Alabama's public-school administrators. CLAS now serves eleven affiliates representing each type of public school/school system leader. CLAS provides the framework to connect dedicated school administrators and other successful leaders with a network for professional growth and support. Headquartered in Montgomery, AL, CLAS is the foremost professional learning provider for administrators of public schools in the state of Alabama.

About Neighborhood Bridges: Neighborhood Bridges is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that was launched in January of 2017. The model for Neighborhood is to create a Gateway for Kindness utilizing technology and social media to advocate for children and families in need...and then engaging the community in filling those needs. Neighborhood Bridges is about kindness...speed...efficiency...and bridging all community resources to drive direct support in care to our neighbors.

#