

Volusia Schools supporters collect more than 100,000 pennies



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Every cent — Volusia school supporters collected more than 100,000 pennies to show that students are worth every cent.

By Volusia Teachers Organization

SPECIAL TO *THE BEACON*

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Over the past month, students, teachers, support staff, administrators, parents and others have collected pennies as part of a statewide effort to show the Legislature that our students are worth every penny.

The Florida Education Association organized the statewide penny drive to push for a temporary 1-cent increase in the sales tax to fund our public schools.

The penny collection will culminate in Tallahassee on Wednesday, March 18, when more than 2.6 million pennies (one penny for each of our state's public-school students) will be collected in the capital in conjunction with the "Rally in Tally" being organized by the Florida Parent Teacher Association.

Locally, the Volusia Teachers Organization and the Volusia Educational Support Association organized the penny drive called "Your Penny Makes Cents" with the goal of collecting one penny for each of the 63,000 students in Volusia County.

Both organizations recently announced that they had exceeded that goal and will be taking more than 100,000 pennies to Tallahassee for Wednesday's event.

"The commitment to ensure adequate funding for our schools is strong in Volusia County," said Andrew Spar, president of the Volusia Teachers Organization. "We need our elected leaders in Tallahassee to know that the cuts must stop and they must look for alternative revenue sources."



"It is great to see our community engage to ensure our students' future is protected," said Bobbie Reedy, president of the Volusia Educational Support Association.

Spar took the pennies, weighing more than 530 pounds, to Tallahassee the weekend of March 13-15. The money collected from this activity will be contributed to Florida's Children's Home Society.