



Barnwell School District 45

Innovation – Integrity – Investment – Community

CONTACT:

Crissie Stapleton
Superintendent, BSD45
803-541-1300
Warhorses@bsd45.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Warhorse Alumni Support Students Across the District

Barnwell, S.C. October 15, 2021 – Each year, Barnwell School District 45 (BSD45) is fortunate to have alumni reach out to provide support and resources for the district's students and families.

Recently, a Barnwell High School alumnus of the Class of 1987 donated 300 bookbags and cases of notebook paper to Barnwell Primary School (BPS). Maurice Austin, the founder of Maurice's Treasure Box, reached out to BPS and asked what he could do to help give back, something Austin does often. When people ask why he devotes his life to helping others, he shares the unexplainable joy he feels by showing love for people and how he is rewarded by helping them believe in themselves. "Growing up with a single mother, I watched her constantly search for ways to love and help those around her. It helped me understand others and what it means to give a helping hand," Austin shared.

He says his passion comes from his belief that God has placed upon him a mission to do whatever he can to help others along the way. Austin lives out this mission by helping the homeless and organizing local drives for food, coats, blankets, toys, and shoes. "When I look around this world, there's so much need," shares Austin. This is not the only way Austin uses Maurice's Treasure Box to make a difference. Since COVID-19, Austin expanded his non-profit organization to help as many groups and organizations as possible. Living by his motto that "the impossible is definitely possible" and with this in mind, he is determined to bless others and never give up on his dream to help those in need.

Austin shared gratitude for his supporters by saying, "There are so many people to thank that have helped and continue to make Maurice's Treasure Box possible, and I am forever grateful to each one of them for their donations, hard work, volunteered time, and never-ending dedication." BSD45 is grateful to Austin for his commitment to the families in Barnwell.

Another Barnwell School District 45 alum, Mr. Tracy Hallingquest from the Class of 1989, recently donated a Warhorse volleyball jersey, visor, and mask to each member of the Junior Varsity volleyball team. His motto is, "If we don't take care of our children, who will?" Hallingquest does not leave this question unanswered. In addition to this generous donation, he also hosted a meal for the Junior Varsity and Varsity volleyball teams. "Barnwell Volleyball would like to thank Mr. Hallingquest for his donations

of gear and food to the players this season. We really appreciate his support of the volleyball programs,” said Coach Ashleigh Anderson.

“It is because of amazing people like Mr. Austin and Mr. Hallingquest that our students across the district can see true generosity and a kind spirit in action,” said Superintendent Stapleton. “The district sincerely thanks all of our alumni who so kindly give back to the district and help us support our students. These are wonderful examples of how the Warhorse Family cares so much for one another.”