



Hopkins Named First Congressional District Parent Of The Year

TUPELO, Miss. — She's known for her kindred spirit at the Wal-Mart pharmacy. She can bake a mean Macaroni & Cheese dish that has people constantly asking for more. Her smile is contagious. Her duties as a mom and grandmother are beyond fulfilling. And she won't turn down an ideal shopping spree with friends.

But when you ask Kim Hopkins about her passion, there's no hesitation. She's here to serve the Tupelo Public School District anyway she can, and her efforts haven't gone unnoticed.

This past spring, she was named Tupelo's Parent of the Year for the third time. The accolades, however, didn't stop with the local recognition.

Earlier this month, Hopkins was selected as Mississippi's Parent of the Year Representative from the First Congressional District. It's an honor, she said, that caught her off guard.

"I couldn't believe it," she admitted, shaking her head. "I had to ask them if they had the right person. I was shocked when they told me about this."

There was no mistaken identity as the Mississippi Department of

Education had the right person in Hopkins.

There's also no mistaking all she does during what little free time she has.

At the high school, she works with the student council for Teacher Appreciation events, and that's one of the places her Macaroni & Cheese is as big of a hit as the Elvis Birthplace is to his fans. She also chaperones field trips.

When she's not busy with those endeavors, she does her duties as a member of the principals' advisory committee.

Then there is PTO and the volunteer hours she puts in for school registration, along with tutoring sessions and the blocks of time she carves out to read to elementary students.

There's more to this impressive list, but with the other projects, she preferred not to disclose them because she didn't want to come off as being boastful.

"There's a need for volunteers, and I enjoy giving back," she said. "When I was in school, someone did it for my mom because she worked and couldn't do it. If we all took a little time to help one another, things would be so much better. If you have an extra 30 minutes and you take the time, those 30 minutes can help another child in ways you can't imagine. I just enjoy it. It's a passion that runs deep."

A passion, she notes, that will continue now that her grandchildren are of school age.

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