



## PRESS RELEASE

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# The Blueberry Man Named 2012 Texas Public Schools *Friend of the Year*

Friends of Texas Public Schools honors Jamie Vollmer  
at its 8<sup>th</sup> annual Friend of the Year fundraising dinner on December 5, 2012  
at the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas, 5:30pm to 8:00pm.



Perhaps best known as the blueberry ice cream guy who got schooled by a teacher during a routine speech he made some 20 years ago on the failures of public schools, Jamie Vollmer has since been on a crusade as one of public education's strongest and most vocal champions.

Jamie is president of Vollmer, Inc., a public education advocacy firm working to halt the erosion of public trust and build support for America's public schools. He is the author of *Schools Cannot Do It Alone: Building Public Support for America's Public Schools*, a wildly popular read among educators and a rally cry for communities to stand with their public schools. [www.jamievollmer.com](http://www.jamievollmer.com)

"Jamie represents everything we stand for as an organization," said Scott Milder, President and CEO of Friends of Texas Public Schools. "His awakening from harsh critic to award-winning advocate of America's public schools represents the transformation we believe any critic of reasonable mind would undergo if presented with the realities of public schooling."

"Public education is under attack as never before," Vollmer says. "Bashing public schools has become a blood sport—a dangerous game in which sensational headlines publicize half-truths, statistics are used out of context, and test results are reported in the worst possible light."

Jamie is not a professional educator. He entered the education arena after careers in manufacturing and law. He worked in the Washington D.C. law firm of United States Congressman William Cramer until 1985, when he left to join the management team of the Great Midwestern Ice Cream Company, in Fairfield Iowa. The company was proclaimed by People magazine to make the "Best Ice Cream in America!" He ultimately became the company's president.

Once a harsh critic, Jamie is now recognized across North America as a friend of public education. Over the last twenty years, he has worked with hundreds of school districts, chambers of commerce, education associations, and foundations to help foster student success.

For more details about attending this event, or if you would like to consider a table sponsorship, please contact Amber Fulton at [afulton@fotps.org](mailto:afulton@fotps.org).

*Friends of Texas Public Schools is a 501c(3) nonprofit, grassroots organization dedicated to restoring public confidence in our schools by promoting their many strengths and achievements. We believe the people of Texas have a right to know that, in spite of the many challenges they face, our public schools are achieving more today than ever in their history, and that the incessant, negative and oftentimes disrespectful conversation about public education is counterproductive to progress. To learn more visit [www.FOTPS.org](http://www.FOTPS.org).*