



Mountain Kids News

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2007-2008

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Sue Harman

Mentoring Coordinator

Healthy Kids Initiative

In December 2007, we placed four nurses in elementary schools throughout the county. These part-time nurses were shared by schools to fill the gaps where nursing services were in short supply. We quickly discovered just how much this was needed. Most schools have students with severe, chronic conditions and no one to cover if the regular school nurse needed time off. These nurses are also trained to perform dental screenings and to conduct follow-ups, encouraging parents to take their children to a dentist when problems arise, and they provide dental education classes to each elementary classroom.



Dental Referrals

MKI provided dental screenings to three new schools this past academic year: Cedar Bluff Elementary, Dudley Primary, and Graham Intermediate. With the addition of these schools we were able to screen 2,350 students. This is 62% of the total elementary school population in the county. Out of those screened, 24% of kids were in need of immediate dental care. The Mountain Kids Dental Referral Program provides incentives for low income children to get to the dentist by giving those on Medicaid a \$20 Wal Mart gift card, and by providing assistance to low income children who are not yet on Medicaid.

Mountain Mentors

Mountain Kids received a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools to begin a one-on-one mentoring program in area middle schools. We have 50 participants and a whole lot of fun! As with any mentoring program, we are only as good as the quality of our mentors, so we are always on the look-out for caring adults who are willing to commit one hour a week to a middle school student in need of more adult support. Students and their mentors participated in arts and crafts projects, team building activities, academic enrichment, and cultural trips that included the Barter Theater, Fun Expeditions, bowling, and to the movies.



Welcome Sue Harman! Sue joined the Mountain Mentors program as our Mentoring Coordinator. She is a retired P.E. teacher from Tazewell County Public Schools, and her goal is to get our kids up and moving. She plans to emphasize healthy choices this year, encouraging our mentees and mentors to eat right and exercise. Sue lives in Tazewell with husband Jerry and beloved dogs Arthur and (wild) Jessie.

