



Mountain Kids News

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January 2009

Celebrating support from 97 volunteers and donors and 6 organizations!

Board Members

2007-2008

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Glenn Harrison

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Janet White

Volunteer Coordinator

Sara Sheets

Manager of Marketing and Dental Programs

Sue Harman

Mentoring Coordinator

Ashley Graham

Office Assistant

Aaron Robinson

Office Assistant

Happy New Year!

In with the new... most everyone has been impacted by the challenges we face as a nation, and Mountain Kids is responding to these challenges by refining our response to the needs of children in our community. As an organization we daily count our blessings, appreciate our competent and dedicated staff, and remember our purpose. ***Mountain Kids envisions a community in which all children are healthy, safe, and educated, providing opportunities to produce future citizens who are healthy, responsible, and productive.*** Each year, more and more citizens enlist with us to achieve this vision through volunteering, financial support, referrals, and encouragement. Our board, staff, and community understands the daunting tasks before us, but we commit ourselves to roll up our sleeves and get to work, never forgetting the potential impact of our efforts.

For the children of our county, particularly the underprivileged, Mountain Kids is determined to see an increase in:

Awareness of dental and healthcare needs

- Access to dental and healthcare services
- Educational engagement
- Access to community, cultural, and career opportunities
- Healthy lifestyle choices



Mentoring By Leaps and Bounds

January 2009 is National Mentoring Month, as proclaimed by President George W. Bush. Research has shown that mentoring can play a powerful role in reducing drug abuse and youth violence, while greatly improving the chances of a young person's prospects for leading a healthy and productive life. Thousands of individuals across the country are rising to the challenge of volunteering to be "that one extra person" in a child's life. Mountain Kids, Inc.'s Mountain Mentors program is blessed to have faithful volunteers working in Tazewell County Middle Schools, and wish to take the time to say, "Thanks for caring."



Abbs Valley Kids Clubs, after school enrichment programs sponsored by Mountain Kids began in December. Activities include Science Club, Drama Club, Technology Club, Fitness Club, and Homework Club. Academic enrichment activities are essential to providing fun and relevance to learning. Everyone learns more by doing, and these activities provide opportunities for hands-on application. Due to the success of the Abbs Valley program, other programs are beginning in North Tazewell Elementary and Raven Elementary to include art, science, and applied math.