



Mountain Kids News

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2007-2008

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Mentoring Coordinator

October!

October seems to be one of our busiest months, and this year proved to be no exception. Between dental screenings, mentoring activities, teacher workshops, and auditors Mountain Kids is ready for a deep breath. I take this time to commend our staff, who remained faithful to our cause through family emergencies, aching backs, and hectic schedules. Janet, Sara, Sue, and I are definitely looking forward to the upcoming holiday season.

“If you want to be successful, surround yourself with people who are better than you...” Amy Grant

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 2,640 students. This is 82% of the total elementary school population in the county. Out of those screened, 16% 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

Up and running in all Tazewell County middle schools, Mountain Mentors currently serves 56 students. Our goals this year are to improve school attendance, encourage good study habits in order to improve grades, and to increase healthy lifestyle choices. Thanks to PE Teacher Sue, we have the kids up and moving and eating healthy snacks (They even seem to like it!). **We are always in need of more mentor volunteers** who are willing to devote one hour per week to a kid who really wants another caring adult to be part of their lives.

Kids Clubs!

Abbs Valley Elementary School has begun their after-school academic enrichment clubs to include Geography, Drama, Computer, Science, Physical/Mental Fitness, and the Homework and Study Buddy Clubs. Lasts year's clubs were a hit, and we look forward to seeing what the kids accomplish in the new year.

Healthy Kids Initiative



We now have six nurses traveling to all nine elementary schools. These nurses have proven invaluable to both the children in our elementary schools and to Mountain Kids during our dental screenings. Besides providing screenings and treatment, they also serve as a resource for families.

Mountain Kids is teaming up with elementary PE teachers to promote “Healthy Choices.” By providing classroom resources and community support programs we hope to increase healthy lifestyle choices through prevention-oriented educational programs throughout the county.

