



Mountain Kids News

Happy Thanksgiving!

2007-2008 Board Members

Michael Bandy
Allen Gross
Glenn Harrison
Karen Hudson
Richard Hudson
Pat Neely
Brenda Thompson

Connie Elkins
Executive Director

Janet White
Volunteer Coordinator

Sara Sheets
*Director of Management
and Marketing*

Mountain Kids Receives Federal Grant! Beginning October 1, 2007 Mountain Kids was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools in amount of \$121,063. Dubbed *Mountain Mentors*, this program recruits and trains volunteer mentors for area middle schools in weekly after school programs. *Mountain Mentors* provides tutoring, mentoring, career exploration, academic enrichment, and social activities. Mountain Mentors employs several area teachers and counselors to provide structured activities and to oversee the program. Our goal is to match 50 mentors with 50 kids in a one-on-one mentoring relationship.

The following organizations have graciously and enthusiastically supported our efforts to bring more caring adults into the lives of our children:

The Elgin Foundation -provided monetary support and great encouragement for start-up programs in Pocahontas Combined School and Abbs Valley Elementary School

Community Foundation of The Virginias -donated funds for academic enrichment supplies

Retired Senior Volunteer Program –coordinated efforts to recruit senior volunteers as mentors

Tazewell County Public Schools- opens their school doors in support of our vision and mission

Virginia Mentoring Partnership- provided training and continued support for volunteer mentors

Clinch Valley Community Action- allows use of all conference facilities and support staff

Dental Screening Update – We finally completed all dental screenings in Tazewell County Schools. Due to a late start date for our schools and a “heat schedule” which shortened our school hours through much of September, dental screenings were completed on October 30. The kids enjoyed meeting Doctor Brandon and Jennifer and are beginning to understand that dentists are not all that bad. Statistics on our findings will be reported in our next newsletter

Program Changes- Beginning January 2008 MKI School Health Assistants will be placed in area Elementary Schools to assist with healthcare needs and dental screenings. This, along with a dental referral program, will replace our dental clinic.

Dr. Phil Comes to Tazewell County- Friday, November 2, 2007 was a day no one in North Tazewell will soon forget. Dr. Phil McGraw, his lovely wife Robin, and their dog, Maggie, met with local children for an early holiday party. The children received toys donated by Toys for Tots and beautiful coats from Dr. Phil and Burlington Coat Factories. The train and media frenzy added to the excitement.

Welcome Allen Gross - MKI has a new board member. As a kick off for our new fiscal year, Mr. Allen Gross joined the Mountain Kids family in September. Allen and his wife, Mary, have two children and live in Richlands. He is an insurance agent for Tazewell County Farm Bureau and also serves as a Mountain Mentor volunteer.

Welcome Sara Sheets- Sara is our Director of Marketing and Management. She graduated from Radford University this past May with an MBA. Sara is married to Brandon Sheets, and they currently live in Bluefield, VA.



