



New Hope Program

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2009

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

New Sites

This year the New Hope Program has added new sites to its list. While we are still in Pascagoula, Bay Waveland, Jackson County, Biloxi, Harrison County, and Stone County school districts, we have moved around to different schools in some of these districts. Biloxi Public Schools has moved their Self-contained Special Education classrooms into their High School and Junior High School. A facilitator from New Hope is currently working in these new classrooms helping to develop a plan of action and structure the environment. Entirely new positions were created in the Pascagoula School District where Behavior Consultants work in Pascagoula High School, Gautier High School, and Pascagoula Opportunity Center with the Principals and Teachers to develop strategies in lowering suspension rates among general education students.

New Programming

The Character Counts character edu-

cation program is now being used by New Hope employees in most school districts we serve. This program teaches the sixth pillars of character including Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Fairness, and Citizenship targeted at different age groups. In North Bay Elementary in the Bay-Waveland School District, Greg Necaise picks a lesson based on that group of students' particular needs. For instance, if a student is sent to him for lying, he will use the teachable moment to cover character education topics concerning trustworthiness. Victoria Williams at Lopez School in Biloxi holds a group weekly with each grade level and sticks with the same Pillar of Character for an entire month. The students are engaged by these lessons and hold meaningful conversations during these times.

New Faces

New Hope Program also welcomed eight new staff members to our team for the 2009-2010 school year, which

brings the total number of individuals in our program to twenty-five. Our new employees include a former Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence worker, the owner of the Semi-Professional Basketball team the Mississippi Blues from the American Basketball Association and a summer league in the Mississippi Basketball Exposure League, a former parole officer who is currently a student in the Counseling Psychology Master's Degree program at William Carey University- Gulf Coast, a former worker from Department of Human Services, a teacher from a day treatment center with eight year of experience, and a former counselor of juvenile delinquents. We are excited to add such diversified experience to what New Hope Program has to offer.



Esterhuizen and Necaise Win Employee Awards

Donevin Esterhuizen was awarded the New Hope Employee of the Year for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. He has worked with New Hope for four years in the Harrison County School District. He shows remarkable dedication and talent in all that he does for

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast. Greg Necaise was awarded the New Hope Most Improved Employee award. Greg has worked with New Hope for five years in the Bay-Waveland, Biloxi, and Harrison County School Districts. Greg

has taken knowledge learned from previous sites and applied those skills to his current location. He has shown incredible drive this year to better himself professionally.

We are proud of Greg and Donevin!