



New Hope Program

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Recycling to Rebuild: New Hope Awarded Disney Friends for Change Grant

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At the beginning of March, New Hope received notification that they were awarded one of the 150 grants distributed by Disney for environmental change. This grant, called Disney Friends for Change, is "open to schools, organizations and individuals planning service projects and will focus on projects implemented by children and youth ages 5-18. The goal of each grant is to inspire children to work with their families, friends, schools and communities to address critical needs in their local, national and global communities." Additionally, the majority of the activities must take place on Global Youth Service Day on April 23rd-25th.

In collaboration with Adneather Law and Principal Leake, New Hope developed a grant entitled Recycling to Rebuild for the Pascagoula Opportunity Center to begin a recycling program/ser-

vice learning project. On April 23rd, which is Global Youth Service Day, twenty-two student volunteers will eat pizza, wear shirts printed especially for the day, and paint trash cans with messages and images about saving the planet. The trash cans will be placed around the school campus and at local businesses. Along with the trash cans, flyers with facts about recycling and information about the program will be hung at the school and at businesses to spread the word about the project. From April 23rd until May 13th, aluminum cans will be collected in the trash cans around campus and at the local businesses. On May 13th, the cans will be turned in to the local recycling center and redeemed for cash. The money received from this project will be sent to the American Red Cross for use in the Haiti Relief Effort.

In order for the student volunteers to participate in this fun project, they must demonstrate positive behavior during the weeks leading up to Global Youth Service Day. The volunteers will be announced on April 23rd, as well as a student leader. The student leader will

organize the painting activity and help choose designs for the trash cans. Along with the excitement of being part of this day, the students will walk away with a sense of accomplishment and altruism. We hope that the students get satisfaction from giving back to victims of a natural disaster like volunteers gave to the Mississippi Gulf Coast after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

If you want to contribute your recyclable aluminum cans to this service project, please contact Jparker@bgcgulfcoast.org to arrange a pick-up. Also, you can get more information about the Recycling to Rebuild Project by going to www.gysd.org and typing in the name of our project.

For more information about this project and other projects New Hope Program employees are involved in, please contact Tom Moore, Director of New Hope Program, at tmoore@bgcgulfcoast.org.



Upcoming Meetings and Holidays

April 2nd

Good Friday:
Schools Closed



April 22nd

Staff meeting
3:30 at the BGCGC admin office



Providing direction, solutions and HOPE for children with emotional, behavioral and physical disabilities in South Mississippi.

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To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

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10 Questions with Ms. Wendy Rogers Special Education Director of Stone County School District

1. Where did you begin your career on the MS Gulf Coast and what were you doing?

I began my career in education as a special education teacher in the Petal School District. I taught self-contained classes for students with learning disabilities and language disorders as well as a therapeutic class for students with behavioral disorders. I also taught as an inclusion teacher before receiving a second Master's degree in Educational Leadership. I then moved to the Stone County School District where I served as Assistant Principal for Perkinson Elementary school for one year. After that, I became the Principal for Stone High School for 4 years.

2. When did you begin working as Special Education Director for Stone County School District?

After serving as Stone High School Principal, I moved to the Superintendent's Office as Director of Special Services in August, 2005.

3. What has been most rewarding about your role in the school district?

My most rewarding role in the school district was being a part of Stone High School attaining at that time a Level 5 Accreditation Rating. Now, knowing that I can assist teachers through support and resources meet the unique needs of students with disabilities on a daily basis is most rewarding in my current role in our district.

4. What has been the biggest challenge in your current role in the school district?

The biggest challenge in my current role in the school district is keeping up with all the various deadlines to be met.

5. What is a day in the life of a Special Education Director like?

A day in the life of a Special Education Director includes too many things to list, from having two phone calls going on simultaneously while having two or more people waiting in person to

discuss issues, ask questions, submit requested information, etc. to reviewing mounds of documentation related to student assessment, IEP development, re-evaluation packets, etc., etc., etc.....

6. How has New Hope helped you accomplish goals for the Special Education Department?

New Hope has helped the Stone County Special Education Department accomplish goals of providing additional behavioral services in the local setting to decrease the number of out of school day treatment and residential placements.

7. Where is your favorite place to get lunch during a day at work?

Serendipity is a great local favorite for salads and deli sandwiches while Perico's is right up there at the top when ready for Mexican.

8. Where will you take your next big vacation?

My next big vacation is to St. George, Utah to watch my brother compete in the Ironman Triathlon.

9. What do you do for stress relief?

For stress relief I go home and look at my wonderful little girl, Andee....just one look at her reminds me what is really important in life! Then we play! Spending time with family and friends is a great stress relief for me. I also enjoy playing handbells, singing in the choir, and leading children's choir at our church.

10. What is your favorite show on tv right now?

Dancing with the Stars is my favorite show on TV right now. I also enjoy watching sports events of all kinds. Castle has been a new favorite of mine too!

BE GREAT
