

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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North Augusta, SC - Fox Creek High School has wrapped up its highly successful mentor program for the 2008-09 school year. The FCHS Mentor Program helped empower youth in our community this year to make positive life choices with support, counsel and a constructive example from the mentors that will enable mentees to maximize their potential. All of the mentors are returning next year. By becoming part of the social network of adults and community members who care about FCHS youth, the mentors helped their mentees develop and reach positive academic, career and personal goals.

Mentees were so excited about the positive leadership of the mentors that they recruited friends to seek out mentors and take part in the program. FCHS mentors included Dianne Brady, Neil Fleeman, Barbara Hicks, Richard and Jessie Mishler, Victoria Mollo, Chuck Tatum, Stan Walker and Susie Stewart (who served a dual role as mentor and member of the Oversight Committee).

Ms. Stewart,(FCHS School Improvement Council Chair) was instrumental in organizing and launching the program this year with the assistance of an outstanding oversight committee, and has been asked to direct next year's mentor program. FCHS teachers Bill Warnken and Vickie Leonard also served on the oversight committee and as program coordinators this year; Health Professional, Al Jones, and Legal Professional, L.E. Maioriello comprised the balance of the oversight committee working in cooperation with Dr. John K. Hill, D.Min. L.M.F.T. of the Center for Care & Counseling for the CSRA, Inc., Elizabeth Estey of Life Management Group, and Ms. Myra Key, FCHS Guidance Counselor.

Evaluation of the program by mentors and mentees was extremely positive and all agreed that lives were changed for the better. FCHS youths and others participating in mentoring programs around the country are benefiting from the structure, direction, and consistency of these types of mentor programs. Although FCHS is completing only their pilot year, some encouraging statistics reported by Big Brothers Big Sisters, Stepping Stones Mentoring Program and Communities in Schools for their mentor program youth participants are: 38% less likely to engage in violence, 46% less likely than peers to engage in illegal drug use, 27% less likely to initiate alcohol use, 30% decrease in alcohol/substance use for those already engaged in this type

of abuse, 78% improved overall school attendance, 80% improved academic performance, and 65% improved relationship with families.

From left: Dianne Brady, Mentor and Susie Stewart, Mentor and SIC Chair

