Technology Outreach Program (TOP)

The Technology Outreach Program has new iPads for the students to use. Having an iPad is one thing, but being able to use it effectively can be a challenge. This year students will learn all about how to use the iPads. We will be using iPads along with computers and old fashioned paper to teach all levels of technology. Students will learn about the horrors of spam, the thrill of making an unbeatable puzzle, and the satisfaction of a computer build. We are using the program Story Bird to change the way students tell a story. The program will start with pictures and grow from there. Students will learn technology skills without realizing they are learning. All this and more is jam-packed into one exciting week. This will all take place on the only sun powered classroom in San Joaquin County!

Jerry Schoesow
Technology Outreach Program Director

322 Sun West Place
Manteca, CA 95337

Save the Date
19th Annual Casino Night Fundraiser
September 28, 2013
Teen Summit
October 15, 2013
19th Annual Antone E. Raymond Bowl-A-Thon
February 22, 2014
3rd Annual Rodeo on the River Rodeo
EXTREME Bull & Bronc
June 7-8, 2014

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Achievements & Ed-ventures
News and Views from the Mentor-Tutor World
Fall 2013

Volunteering...Make It Your Passion!

If you are like most talented, busy people your schedule is hectic and unpredictable. You’d like to be able to help, but you can’t commit to being available at any particular time each week.

Now, you recognize everyone – no matter how busy – has at least 30-60 minutes per week of discretionary time; as long as the timing can be flexible. Maybe you’ve tried volunteering before, but the timing did not work for you. If volunteering at a specific time does not work for your schedule, here are some ideas you can do at your leisure:

- donate your old prescription eyeglasses and ask your friends and family to do the same
- send cards to those serving in the military
- donate a toy to a toy drive or canned food to a food drive
- send get well cards to hospitalized children
- donate your unused clothes to a clothes closet.

There are many ways to donate items, time, or talent to an agency. We have many deserving agencies here in our area, and all would love to have your support.

Give Every Child A Chance only asks for a minimum of two hours per week. You select the days, time, and one of our many program locations. We will match you with a struggling student by the grade and subject you selected to mentor/assist them in. It is that simple.

Think about how much you receive when you give and consider why you want to volunteer. You can share a skill, demonstrate a commitment to a cause, gain leadership skills, have an impact, and most importantly, enjoy your experience. The number one reason people do not volunteer is because they were not asked. We are asking. Join the movement. VOLUNTEER!!

Until next time, remember: “People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel”

– Maya Angelou.

Chuck Gutschfield
Director of Community Outreach

Great Valley Bookfest
Celebrating the Fun of Reading!
Saturday, October 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
ON FREE!
The Promenade at Bass Pro

www.greatvalleybookfest.org
Where Are Your Children After School?

Where are your children after school? Do they go home to an empty home? Do they go play with friends? Are they getting into trouble?

15.1 million children in the United States take care of themselves between the time they get home from school and the time their parents get home from work. Self care is associated with more accidents and injuries, behavior problems and lower academic achievement. In households where either parents work or the single parent works, 31 percent of children in grades K-12 are unsupervised after school. According to polling, 26 percent of these families would be likely to use after-school programs if they were available.

After-school programs are an important component in every community. They assure children are in a well supervised, structured, environment from the time school lets out until six or six-thirty, Monday through Friday. This environment assures students with idle time on their hands are stimulated with positive activities and remain in a safe location until their parents are able to pick them up and take them home. After school programs keep children safe, help working families, and inspire learning. They provide opportunities to help young people develop into successful adults.

The Give Every Child A Chance (GECAC) After School Advantage Programs (ASAP) provide a safe, structured, enjoyable place for children to go after-school. Currently at 13 schools in San Joaquin County (ten schools in Manteca Unified School District, one in Ripon and Escalon Unified School Districts, and one in Banta School District), we provide three hours of education daily, Monday through Friday, from the time school lets out till 6 or 6:30 p.m. During the three hour timeslot, we begin our program by providing the students with a nutritious snack and a drink. Food fuels the mind, and allows the students to continue to learn and perform. Then the students break into three clusters, offering homework assistance, physical education, and enrichment education.

In the homework assistance component, the students have a dedicated hour to work on their homework, and when needed, seek assistance from one of the instructors. This is not a tutoring program, but rather affords the students one hour of dedicated time to work on their homework. If the students do not have homework, worksheets are provided.

During the physical education component, the students begin with stretching, and then enter into a game where everyone gets to play. This could be a basketball game, baseball, hip hop dancing, or numerous other activities. GECAC encourages teamwork and team building.

The third component, the enrichment component, can offer many different activities. At the middle schools we have clubs the students belong to, such as a photography club, cooking club, journalism club, art club, and more. In the elementary schools the students do group activities, such as dance, tumbling, Art Start, karate, writing letters to the President of the United States, Congressmen and Senators, as well as to the men and women in the armed services. This is the time we try to enrich the children’s lives with some exciting activities that will stimulate their minds while encouraging them to expand their knowledge. It is important to inspire the student’s imaginations.

The ASAP offered by GECAC, provides parents piece of mind while at work; reduce juvenile crime during that critical period of time after school; increase student grades and test scores, all while encouraging the students to become more productive in society while decreasing unemployment levels in the community.

Carol Davis
President/CEO

Through the Eyes of A Volunteer

It was nearly 6:30 p.m. on a brisk Wednesday evening. Although it had been a long, rough, and hectic day, the moment she turned the corner and peeked her head into my office I immediately felt a sense of excitement. I had the pleasure of sitting down with our former volunteer-turned-Site Coordinator, Mariam Ali, to ask about her experience with Give Every Child A Chance’s (GECAC) One-on-One Mentor-Tutor Program.

Mariam walked into my office with enough confidence and exuberance to fill the entire room. She came straight from her tutoring session wearing her GECAC name badge with pride. On her lanyard, there was a breast cancer awareness pin, a Twilight pin, and three GECAC volunteer recognition pins; one for each year of service she provided to the program. She flashed me her ever-present smile and asked, “Are you ready to get started?”

Q: How did you first get involved with GECAC?
A: I was 13 years old and an eighth grader at Golden West Elementary School. A representative from GECAC came and told our class all about the benefits of volunteering for the program. I was hooked!

Q: Why should somebody volunteer for GECAC’s One-on-One Mentor/Tutor Program?
A: Why wouldn’t somebody want to volunteer for this program? You can grow so much and the opportunities here are endless. For example, I started out as a volunteer, participated in the Employment Mentoring Program with the Manteca Unified School District, and lead my own tutoring site at Lathrop Elementary School. The communication and professional skills I have gained from this program is something I will proudly carry with me for the rest of my life. Every day I work with my students, I learn more than I teach.

Q: What has been the most rewarding part of working for GECAC?
A: The relationships I have developed with the students, teachers, parents, and office staff is the most rewarding part of my job.

Q: On the flip side, what has been the most frustrating part?
A: That’s a tough one. I think the toughest part is probably adjusting to different personalities. Some students are very outgoing and open, but some are completely shy and reserved. Learning how to approach and work with all personality types is a big challenge.

Q: What do you wish other people knew about GECAC?
A: I wish everybody could see the amount of help we actually provide in just one hour! We make a positive impact in the educational and personal lives of so many students. We are not just a tutoring program; we are a mentor program as well. The lasting relationships we build with our students are the building blocks of our program.

Q: The interest in working with the youth of the community seems to be growing rapidly. What do you think might be driving that change?
A: I think students today are starting to lose their motivation. They have multiple social media outlets literally at their fingertips. The truly ironic part is social media fails to provide our students with social skills. I think students need caring and connected adults in their lives and I think that adults understand the importance.

Q: Alright Ms. Mariam, last but not least, do you see GECAC five years from now?
A: This is going to sound completely cliché but I see this program quickly spreading throughout the valley and then throughout the state of California. People are going to quickly see the amount of good we do in the community. Pretty soon the support from the community will be endless.

She answered the last question with such poise and confidence. As she continued to fiddle around with the “3 years of service” volunteer pin on her name badge, I could not help but to think optimistically about the next generation of leaders in the educational system and the bright future ahead for both Mariam and Give Every Child A Chance.

We would like to thank this time to our major sponsor: