

RE-ELECT SEN. BILL DWYER

Fighting for
jobs.

Author and paid for by Committee to Re-Elect
Senator Bill Dwyer, 5558 Thurston Rd., Astoria, OR 97103.
Janel Dwyer, Treasurer, 503-746-0187

*Please
Recycle!*

■ CORRECTION

In an article published in *Emerald* of Oct. 17, it was reported that Ed Hickam favored a 20 percent increase in tuition at the gubernatorial debate. He actually proposed a 20 percent decrease in tuition.

Also, ASUO Vice President Mark Rhinard was identified as the president of the Student Senate. Rhinard is the chairman of the Student Senate. Senator Martin Fisher is the president pro tem of the Senate.

CHILDREN

Continued from Page 1

Since then, its mission has been to connect adult volunteers with children from low-income, single-parent families who are deemed at risk. Many of these children have been referred by school counselors, family therapists or other agencies.

The organization's goal is to foster self-esteem and a sense of belonging that positively affects the child on a long-term basis. Through supportive, non-judgmental, one-to-one relationships, children can receive unconditional love, Garoute said.

One of the most important qualifications for becoming a volunteer is simply caring about children and wanting to spend time together on a regular basis, she said.

A year and half ago, Marie Messmer realized that she "really missed hanging out with kids and doing things with kids." So, after a six-month evaluation period, she was matched with a little sister.

A post-doctorate chemistry student at the University, Messmer doesn't have a lot of extra time, but she makes time to spend with someone who needs a mentor.

All volunteers are required to spend at least three to five hours a week for at least a year with their little brother or sister. But many matches last much longer. Student volunteers also are eligible to earn credits through the ESCAPE program.

A busy college student's daily tasks, such as cooking dinner, going to the library or repairing a bicycle, are exciting and special for a child who has not been able to do these things.

Children from homes where arguing occurs regularly can benefit by spending time in a house with people who effectively communicate with one another, Garoute said. "These kids learn more by example than anything else," she said. "It's important that they have another kind of behavior to choose from."

There also are group activities once a month that encourage idea-sharing and interaction between volunteers. Although many group activities have centered on a holiday, other activities include steelhead fishing trips, pizza parties or opportunities to attend an opera or a ballet. The organization maintains a scholarship fund for special outings and for purchasing reduced-price tickets from the Hult Center.

Through the monthly group activities, a community is formed with all the volunteers, Garoute said. They get an opportunity to share ideas for individual activities, to talk about frustrations and to make friends. Although the goal of the organization is to support kids, student volunteers gain support from one another through group activities, she said.

Another purpose of the organization is to help kids set goals for themselves and to find direction in their lives.

Recently, Messmer and her little sister saw the latest Karate Kid movie and discovered a female in the lead role. The little sister was so inspired by the movie that the pair began taking karate lessons.

This type of activity provides stability in the child's life, Garoute said. Every week a date is set to spend time together, thus helping the child build trust and confidence, she said.

Many of the kids who get in trouble are simply immature and looking for attention, Garoute said. By giving them someone who will consistently listen to them without passing judgment and who will do special things together with them, trouble-

making usually stops. The program's goal is to "bring the walls down — once the walls come down, miracles happen," Garoute said.

Messmer said she also thinks it is important to realize that the volunteer is not the parent. "I'm not there to judge. I'm there to be an example, to be somebody to listen to her," she said.

When a match is made, the parent(s), volunteer and the case manager sign a formal contract agreeing on specific aspects of the relationship so that most difficulties can be avoided.

For example, the parent agrees not to restrict the child from seeing a big brother or big sister because the child misbehaved. And the volunteer agrees not to act as a parent substitute.

During the first six weeks, the match is under close supervision in case problems arise. All parties call the case manager weekly to report problems or praises. Garoute thinks this is the best way to ensure that small problems do not get out of control later.

Ideally, the organization exists to prevent problems, but Garoute said that about 15 percent of the children are matched on a needs-priority basis. These children are not necessarily at risk; they are simply lonely and need companionship.

Volunteers can get involved in two programs. The core program involves kids who have been referred by teachers and counselors.

The First Offenders program matches children who require more intensive mentoring. The goal of a new program is to pair African-American adults with children of the same racial background. Currently, three African-American adults are matched with Caucasian children. The organization stresses the need for Native American, Hispanic and mixed-race volunteers.

Although there is a case load of 80 matches, with 24 from the University, more than 100 children are on the waiting list.

Big Brother-Big Sister has an extensive screening program for all volunteers. The evaluation process takes about four to six weeks and involves everything from several personal interviews to a criminal history check.

Garoute said that sometimes the best volunteer is one who knows firsthand how the child is feeling. Children paired with an adult mentor who has experienced similar problems or frustrations learn that there is hope for the future and begin to see life in a positive way.

Sometimes, one of the pair will be forced to end the match because he or she moves away. There is a closure meeting to talk about how each person feels about the break-up and what they can do to ensure future contact.

As Messmer and her little sister approach their one-year anniversary, Messmer believes that although it was at times more frustrating than she expected, they are making progress in their relationship.

Throughout the year, Messmer has learned that there are certain things that cannot be changed. School, for instance, has never been one of her little sister's favorite activities. So instead of encouraging her to change her attitude about school, Messmer only helps with her schoolwork when asked.

Because the relationship is reciprocal, Messmer is learning from her little sister.

For more information on becoming a big brother or big sister, call 747-6632.

TURN YOUR SPARE TIME *into* CASH

Between studying and your social life, there isn't much time to make a dollar. But at U.S. Bank, it doesn't take much time to be a Part-Time Teller. Just a few hours a day. So you'll have the cash you need. And the time to enjoy it. You'll also get flexible hours, competitive wages, mass transit subsidy, free checking and on-the-job training.

**STOP BY OUR BOOTH
DURING UOFO JOB FAIR
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19**

Talk with our representative and find out more about how you can earn the cash you need. If Job Fair date not convenient, you may call

503-275-6769 or mail your resume to: U.S. Bank,

555 SW Oak Street, Portland, OR 97204. Drug screen required.

We are an equal opportunity employer.



Can't Get A Date? Parents and Friends Nagging You?

Break the Habit with a
**Smoking Cessation Workshop
& Support Group**

Tuesdays, Oct. 18 - Nov. 8, 3:30-4:30pm
(downstairs in the Student Health Group Room of the Student Health Center)

LAST DAY TO REGISTER

Limited Space Registration
Call 346-4456 to preregister



UO Student Health Center
Health Education Program



Back to School Special

\$54.00

300 Free Miles

End of Monday (1/2 hours)

Some restrictions • No extra charge if 21 or over

A-WAY 683-0874
RENT A CAR 110 W. 6th
(by the Hult Center)