

• **Announcements** •

Community Hospice of Northeast Florida

Grief counseling services are available through Community Hospice of Northeast Florida for those who have experienced the death of a loved one. We offer eight-week long support groups to help you identify ways to cope with your loss. Sessions will cover common grief reactions, coping strategies and staying connected to your loved one.

The following fall 2008 therapeutic support groups are available:

Southside and Beaches

Anne and Donald McGraw Center for Caring
4715 Worrall Way (on the Mayo Clinic campus)

General Group
September 29 – November 17
Mondays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Westside

Dr. Gaston J. Acosta-Rua Center for Caring
5450 Ramona Boulevard

Spouse/Partner Loss
October 1 – November 19
Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Volunteer Training

(3-day Session – Register by Sept. 19)
Tues. 9/23, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wed. 9/24, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Thurs. 9/25, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Call 904/407-7064 for information/registration

Mandarin

Charles M. Neviasser Educational Institute
4266 Sunbeam Road

General Group
October 12 – November 20
Thursdays, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Community Hospice bereavement support group participants must meet with a bereavement counselor before joining a group. Space is limited so please call Roxanne Clemens, LCSW, Manager of Bereavement and Community Grief, at 904.407.6330 to schedule an appointment and reserve your place.

Professional bereavement services are available to all members of the community. Services are available at no charge to Community Hospice families. Cost to community participants is \$100 but may be adjusted based on ability to pay.

Mentoring Toward a Better Future



Ask the Mayor

by Mayor John Peyton

After spending many months learning about the causes of crime in our city, I am more convinced than ever that the long-term answer to Jacksonville's crime problems lies with our children. Children who experience family, economic and educational challenges are much more likely to get into trouble as juveniles, and once they start down the wrong path, it can be hard to recover. In addition, children who are inadequately supervised and supported in their after-school hours are much more likely to get into trouble themselves or to become victims of crime.

The good news is that there are time-tested remedies that improve the odds. Positive, character-building after-school and summer activities can keep kids out of trouble and

improve their educational outcomes and chances for success. Another ingredient in a child's recipe for success is the presence of caring adults to provide support and encouragement. That's why *The Jacksonville Journey* recommendations included a significant mentoring component, and it's why mentors are so vital to the success of our crime-fighting efforts.

You may be aware that my recent budget proposal to City Council included \$30 million in new public safety investments. A number of these proposals were shaped by *Journey* recommendations designed to meet the needs of our young people through after-school and summer programs. But the only solution to our community's mentoring needs is individual involvement. In Jacksonville today, there are around 45,000 young people in need of a mentor, but only about 3,500 adult volunteers actually participate in organized mentoring programs.

To help fill that gap, I have pledged 300 mentors from within the ranks of City government. Obviously, thousands more are needed. That's why I am asking everyone in Jacksonville to seriously consider becoming a mentor. Together, I believe we can make a difference and help thousands of children become successful, productive members of our community. Take Stock in Children, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Children's Home Society and Daniel Memorial are just a few of the organizations eager for mentor volunteers.

Mentoring only takes an hour or so a week, and it requires no special skills. Opportunities are readily available, and I can tell you from my experience as a mentor with Take Stock in Children that the experience is rewarding for the mentor, as well as the mentee! With fall on the horizon and school getting ready to start, now is the perfect time to sign up. For more information on becoming a mentor, call 630-CITY.

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