

# Children at hoop shoot enjoyed time with parents

The Goodland Kiwanis Club held its Turkey Hoop Shoot Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Goodland Activities Center. A child and his parent or guardian took turns shooting five free throws for a total of 25.

The team making the most free throws received a free turkey from Wal-Mart. From what I could tell, most everyone was having a good time and enjoying the format.

Those teams that did not win were disappointed they didn't shoot better, but regardless enjoyed the experience of trying with their moms, dads or friends who were helping them for the evening.

There were smiles and laughs and even a few air balls. You could tell the son or daughter appreciated the



**dennis daise**

• big brothers big sisters

time his teammate was giving him.

With Big Brothers Big Sisters, we try to capture a little of that magic through the respective matches. It is an intangible that you cannot put a price tag on.

Giving of your time toward a child in a positive manner, for instance the turkey shoot, can be something they will remember for a long time. Not whether they won

a turkey or not, but just the time spent working toward a goal. An incredible goal that the organization is working toward is included in an article by Becky Beane in "Jubilee." Beane shares that it will be the 100th birthday of Big Brothers Big Sisters in 2004 and that by 2010 the mentoring organization hopes one million matches will be realized.

The same article said that President Bush said in his inaugural address, "Government has great responsibilities for public safety and

public health, for civil rights and common schools. Yet compassion is the work of a nation, not just a government. And some needs and hurts are so deep they will only respond to a mentor's touch or a pastor's prayer."

In the same article, a study by a psychology professor, Jean Rhodes of Boston College, stated three positives of mentoring:

- Enhancing emotional well-being and social skills.
- Improving cognitive skills through dialogue and listening.
- Serving as a role model and an advocate.

In an example of what a single parent family might encounter, a single mother was quoted as saying:

"I don't want them in that kind of environment because one day they might get weak and start following somebody and doing the negative things those other people are doing."

Those "other people" are the influences a child will encounter in everyday life. The mother almost sounds selfish, but her statement shows that a single parent may need some help in raising the children. It can be a struggle to admit that a positive mentoring influence could not hurt the situation.

The mom finishes her story with a statement concerning her children: "I talk to them about things . . . but for certain things they need a man to talk to them."

Her son had been matched with a former attorney general of Virginia. In this particular instance, once her son had spent some time with his mentor's family, he made an incredible statement of how he enjoyed the experience: "I dream all the time about coming back."

While many children might dream about shooting and making baskets, a child without a dad or mom has other things to worry about. As with the Turkey Hoop Shoot, the special moment of shooting baskets with your son or daughter is a neat experience, but for a child without a friend to share that kind of experience, it can be a nightmare.

## Young and old interact at Good Samaritan Center



### West Elementary students read to seniors

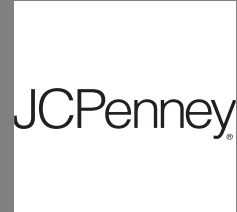
Students from Kara Smith's second grade class at West Elementary School read poetry to residents at the Good Samaritan Center, and students from Janet Davis and Lynette McLean's first grade classes, also from West, performed for the residents last Thursday. A second grader read to a resident (above), and a first grader visited with another (right).

Photos by Sherry Helton

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