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December Mentor of the Month – Jeff Haight

December XX, 2010 – Calaveras County – Jeff Haight of West Point has been named December Mentor of the Month by the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program, which is administered by the Calaveras County Office of Education and funded by grants and individual donors. “Jeff was one of our earliest volunteers and is still going strong,” said Kathryn Eustis, director of Youth Development and Prevention Programs. “I remember the day he joined the program – I had attended a community event in West Point to recruit a man for a very eager waiting mentee, and by the time Jeff made it to my table, everyone else in the room had already pointed him out to me as the guy I was looking for. It was very funny.”

Haight has been active in the mentoring program for eight years and has mentored three different students during that time. “Kids are our most precious resource,” he explained. “They just need someone in their corner pulling for them – an adult friend.”

“One of my past mentees was raised by a single mom, so we really enjoyed doing guy things together like jeep rides and going to the batting cages,” said Haight. “My mentee and I now go to movies, have pizza, and just hang out. I give guitar lessons, so many times we play music together as well.”

“In West Point it’s pretty isolated and many of the children don’t get out very often, so I give him a view of the outside world and take him to the city, as well,” he added.

Haight is the pastor at the Covenant Church in West Point and has been involved in youth groups and summer camps for more than 20 years. He is also participates in community theater and is a member of the Lions Club.

“Right now we have more than a dozen boys across the county who are waiting for a mentor, as well as a nine-year-old girl in West Point,” said Eustis. “We encourage any and all community members to call us for an orientation and information about the program. Whether or not mentoring appeals to you personally, if you understand the program, you can help us find volunteers to match with these spectacular young people. There are so many different ways to help.”

For information about the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program and the youth waiting for a mentor, call 736-6078 and visit online at calaverasmentoring.org.

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