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Photo attached – Tim Johnson

Photo credit: Kate Gonzales

Mentor of the Month – Tim Johnson

August X, 2010 – Calaveras County – Tim Johnson has been named August 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. “Tim Johnson is a very special person and a great mentor,” said Kathryn Eustis, director of Youth Development and Prevention Programs. “He is a talented listener, is able to be fully present with his mentees, and truly enjoys the time he dedicates to mentoring.”

“I heard about the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program the first year it began,” Johnson said. “To be honest, I didn’t think it would last because of the number of volunteers needed.”

But the program is flourishing, with 77 mentor matches made since its inception. “We work constantly to match young people with mentors, and especially need male mentors in the San Andreas and Valley Springs areas, where some of our boys have been waiting for a mentor for a very long time,” added Eustis.

“Often adults are uncomfortable around kids, but a one-on-one friendship can’t get much better. Being a mentor is very rewarding,” Johnson commented. “Jordan is my second mentee, and we meet weekly for an hour and a half after school. One of our goals is to try every milkshake flavor at the Patio in San Andreas. We look for ways to help others, and once we organized a basketball tournament. We cruise around, and we talk about school and life in general.”

“If I could grant a wish, it would be that each young person in our county would have a ‘safe adult’ they could talk to,” Johnson said. “Our world does not need more superstars. We need everyday adults who are not afraid to model things like honesty, personal integrity, and the freedom to be themselves -- adults who are willing to spend time, listen, and care about what’s going on in a young person’s world. The Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program provides great training, screening, and an opportunity to make such a difference.”

Johnson has been a Vocational Youth and Family Pastor for 26 years, 21 of which have been in Calaveras County. Besides being a devoted mentor, he is involved with the Calaveras County Sheriff Chaplain Unit, Pacific Crest Trail Association, and the San Andreas Community Covenant Church.

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

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