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### **Greg Jacobus Named August 2011 Mentor of the Month**



Calaveras County – July 29, 2011 – Murphys resident Greg Jacobus has been named August Mentor of the Month by the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program. “One of the qualities I admire most in Greg is his authentic, unconditional regard for his mentees, and for people in general,” said Kathryn Eustis, Director of Youth Development and Prevention Programs with the Calaveras County Office of Education. “You can’t help but feel good about yourself when you are with him. He also has a keen sense of comic timing and a buoyant disposition – he is just a really fun guy!”

Jacobus has been with the program for six years and has enjoyed mentoring two young men. “Logan wanted to learn how to climb, so we joined the Yosemite Climbing Team at the climbing wall in Sonora,” he shared. “We went to competitions all over the Bay Area and Sacramento, and he was exposed to kids that were very motivated and focused. The support he received and the experience in the sport really helped him to become more grounded. His teammates awarded him ‘most valuable team member’ his first year.”

“My current mentee, Austin, loves the great outdoors,” he added. “We’ve floated through Natural Bridges, climbed Table Mountain, and anything we do turns into a real adventure.”

When asked how his mentees have changed over the years, Jacobus said, “Like many 15 year-olds, Logan hadn’t found his groove yet, but now he is a natural leader and an excellent ambassador for the mentoring program. Austin is more confident now and more relaxed. And I’ve changed, too. Mentoring is an important part of my life.”

“What I enjoy is the openness of the relationship. My mentees look to me for advice and life lessons, but I don’t have to be the disciplinarian. Both of them have become a part of my own family,” he said. “These kids listen, and that’s been rewarding to me. I joke that the mentoring program is actually for adults, us aging adults who need to be kids again. To the kids, it’s like having an adult friend in their lives.”

Jacobus took an early retirement at age 50 after a 23-year tenure at Hewlett Packard. He is actively involved in Calaveras County Search and Rescue.

“The mentoring program builds strong communities in the truest sense of the word,” he said. “Kathryn is a master of matching children with adults.”

The mentoring program is always seeking volunteers, and particularly needs mentors for boys in Valley Springs, San Andreas, and Mokelumne Hill. “There are a number of ways to support the program,” said Eustis, “such as suggesting a possible mentor, helping with fundraising, and getting the word out to the community.”

For more information about the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program, call 736-6078 or visit online at [calaverasmentoring.org](http://calaverasmentoring.org).