



Here's Your "Tip" of the Month

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International~ For Key Women Educators May 2009



Mentoring Can Help

ΔΚΓ is an organization of key women educators. What better way to "Create a Buzz" than to mentor and support new and veteran teachers! Look on the International website for many resources and ideas to accomplish this.

On the International Professional Affairs Committee page there is a helpful article entitled "Mentoring and Supporting New and Veteran Teachers." It is presented in a Q and A format. There are also many other resources on the committee website page that will help chapters in developing their mentoring programs.

Research shows about 30% of new teachers leave the profession after the first year. Chapters can work with school districts to mentor, guide, coach and support classroom teachers in many ways. "Creating a Buzz" through helping fellow educators can assist in lessening the numbers leaving education.

Community Projects Can "Create a Buzz"

It is easy to "Create a Buzz" when the chapter is doing positive activities in the community. Remember to take pictures of *live* project or service activities. Showing a group wrapping supplies to send to schools or boxing books to be given to children makes a good media release for the local paper.

Assign one or two people in the chapter to take pictures at each meeting. Plan to take pictures of activities that are benefiting children or education and submit press releases to the local paper.

Sometimes financial resources are limited so look for opportunities to collaborate with another civic group. Working together might help both groups accomplish greater results. Examples of such projects might be cooperating with a local civic group to provide children in a foreign country with books and supplies.

Another source for funding might be applying for a grant from the International Educational Foundation to fund a project that aids education of children. Check the International website for ideas for projects that could be funded.

Some chapters have joined with other neighboring chapters to enlarge projects. One chapter

started a project by obtaining a grant from the International Educational Foundation that funded a week-long trip for fifth grade students from a remote village in Guatemala to Quetzaltenango, the second largest city in Guatemala. The project has grown. Bags of school supplies have been sent to the village each year when members have returned as volunteers to the country. This past year the five chapters in Collin County, Texas, joined hands to raise money to cover two years of an annual \$1500 higher education grant for the indigenous people of the remote highlands area of Guatemala. The grant will cover tuition, books, supplies, and some living expenses for the grant recipient to study to be a pre-school teacher in an area where illiteracy is such a problem. This is really spreading "the buzz."

As the chapter executive committees meet and plan for the coming year, consider how your chapter can "create a buzz" with a service project.

