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National Mentoring Month

(Angels Camp) – January 2011 marks the 10th annual National Mentoring Month (NMM) campaign to recruit volunteer mentors for youth mentoring programs across the country, and the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program is reaching out to Calaveras citizens for help.

Many children in the county are on the waiting list for a mentor, and there are a variety of ways to keep this vital program going for our community's children. "Mentoring makes such a difference in a child's life," said Kathryn Eustis, Director of Youth and Prevention Programs at the Calaveras County Office of Education.

"We need volunteer mentors as well as assistance with fundraising and outreach to the community. We also invite people to support the Calaveras Mentoring Foundation, which recently received 501(c)3 non-profit status."

The mission of the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program is to connect Calaveras County young people in first through twelfth grades with safe, positive adult role models who will offer support, guidance, friendship, and help the youth make healthy life decisions.

Potential mentors are thoroughly screened to ensure the safety of the youth in the program. Once matched, mentors and mentees spend a couple of hours a week together for at least a year doing things they both enjoy—sports, going out to supper, seeing a movie, or working on a project.

Mentors receive extensive pre-match training and then additional education throughout the year, plus regular monitoring of the friendship, as-needed support, and invitations to group field trips and events.

This year's National Mentoring Month theme "Help them



Calaveras mentors met recently to celebrate the holidays and posed for a group photo. Photo credit: Jan Hovey

get there; be a mentor" symbolizes the positive effects of mentoring. The national program mobilizes community volunteers to help young people achieve their potential. The Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program will focus its National Mentoring Month efforts on a public awareness campaign to recruit mentors for local young people that include banners, posters, and brochures.

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California Musical Theatre

Executive Producer Richard Lewis has announced the line-up of shows for the 2011 summer season of Sacramento Music Circus, America's Theatre-in-the-Round. The seven-show season will include the Music Circus premieres of Broadway blockbusters "The Producers" and "Miss Saigon" and the return of five musical theatre classics yet to be produced in the nine-year-old

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The First annual Coat-ed with Love coat drive

was a huge success with over 800 jackets collected. Dan Steele, owner of SERVPRO of Amador/Calaveras Counties & Sonora, has been doing business in Amador County for over 25 years. "We wanted to show our appreciation to the community for their support in helping us become the largest water and fire restoration and mold mitigation company in these counties," Steele said.

Coordinated by their Marketing Manager, Wilma S. Fortich, collection boxes were placed at over 50 local businesses and schools throughout Amador County. "The premise of our Coat-ed with Love coat drive was to involve the local businesses and the community in helping one another without costing anyone any money.

We did this by encouraging people to recycle what they already had. We also involved school children by setting a good precedence that their contri-



SERVPRO collected coats for their first annual coat drive.

bution does make a difference," Fortich said. "We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the businesses and donors," Fortich added. "I can't believe the overwhelming response and support shown by the community.

Some of the businesses gave generous incentives for each jacket donated. Jamba Juice gave coupons for a free hot beverage; Thomi's gave \$5 gift

cards; and New York Fitness offered \$10 day passes. The coats were delivered to Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ATCAA). "We are overwhelmed at the generosity of SERVPRO and the community. These 800+ jackets will be a huge benefit to people in need in Amador County," Halverson said. SERVPRO plans to make this an annual event. 304-4908, or visit www.servpro9484.com

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