



For Immediate Release
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Mrs. Jody Harkins Asks Residents To Make A Difference By Mentoring A Child

Seeks Volunteers For Stratford Public Schools' Mentoring Program

STRATFORD— Mrs. Jody Harkins today encouraged residents to volunteer as a mentor with Stratford Public Schools' Mentoring Program. The Program is currently accepting applications from adults who are able to commit one hour per week to making a difference in the life of a young person.

"As a public school teacher, I am acutely aware of how important it is for at risk students to have a role model that cares enough to listen during confusing or difficult times," said Mrs. Harkins. "I have volunteered to help Superintendent Irene Cornish raise awareness and encourage participation in Stratford Public Schools' Mentoring Program because I know it makes a difference for the student mentees. I can think of few better ways to invest one's time than helping a child overcome adversity."

Those interested in serving as a mentor must complete a brief application and attend an information and training session on September 23, 2010 from 2:15PM – 4:15PM. Applications and information may be obtained through Diane Christiano at 203.385.4281 or christianod@stratfordk12.org. The application is also available online at www.townofstratford.com.

As part of her campaign to increase participation in the program, Mrs. Harkins is pleased to announce that Mayor Harkins has volunteered to be a mentor for the 2010-2011 school year. "My husband knows that restoring the pride in our community requires all of us to get involved. I hope that his involvement will convince others that it is possible to find just an hour each week to be a mentor."

Superintendent Cornish said, "The greatest gift we can give each other is the gift of our time. When we give the gift of time to our students, it conveys the message of how much they truly mean to us and that they are valued. We thank Mayor Harkins and his wife, Jody Harkins, for the investment they are making in our students and in our school system. We are extremely grateful for their support, advice and their gift of time."

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