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Selbyville man is a friend and mentor

Victor Murray will be honored as an Exemplary Mentor

BY ALEX RUOFF • STAFF WRITER • DECEMBER 31, 2008

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SELBYVILLE -- Student mentor and Selbyville resident Victor Murray will be honored as an Exemplary Mentor at this year's Jazz in January celebration for his work tutoring at-risk youth at Phillip C. Showell Elementary School.

ADVERTISEMENT "He was our first mentor and still works with the first child he mentored when he started," guidance counselor and mentoring coordinator Cheryl Carey said. "He's just great with them. He's there consistently each week; he's an amazing guy who does great things for these children."

Murray has been mentoring youth through the Helping Hands Mentoring program for more than eight years, using only a box of dominos and a kind disposition. He isn't a psychologist or a teacher, but a good listener.

"A lot of surveys say that many kids get less than 30 minutes of time with a parent or guardian a week," Murray said. "They just need a constant adult presence in their lives, everyone does."

Murray moved to the Selbyville area after retiring about 10 years ago and decided it was time to give something back to the community. Murray also volunteers with his wife, Donna, at the local Blood Blank and the Selbyville Food Bank and Selbyville Public Library when he has free time.

"My wife and I have been very fortunate and we just want to help those who need a little," he said.

Jazz in January is a fundraising event to support Connecting Generation's non-profit community support programs such as Creative Mentoring, Seasons of Respect, and Creative Transitions. Creative Mentoring works in partnerships with the Helping Hands program to train and monitor the school's mentors.

According to the non-profit organization's Web site, the agency's mission is to provide programs and services to ensure Delaware's children lead purposeful, fulfilling, self-directed lives.

"If I could have only one thing to come from this award it's that more people come forward and become mentors," Murray said.

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Victor Murray, of Selbyville, recently won a statewide award for his mentoring work (John King photo)

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WHAT. Jazz in January celebration
WHERE. DuPont Country Club, Wilmington
WHEN. Friday, Jan. 30
COST. \$75, which includes a silent auction and music by the Tim Laushey Jazz and Swing Band
CALL. www.jazzinjanuary.org

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