

Volunteers Needed - Pompano Elementary Schools

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN!

The **Mental Health Association of Broward County** offers programs that help children. **Call Helen at (954) 746-2055** OR e-mail helen@mhabroward.org for further information about the programs below that interest you. **Please do not call the City of Pompano.**

LISTEN TO CHILDREN pairs caring adults one-on-one with elementary school students. Listener volunteers meet with each child once/week at the same time for 30 minutes (usually 3-4 kids). They become non-judgmental friends who develop unique relationships with the children so that their self-esteem and communication skills improve. The children's problem-solving skills and decision-making skills improve too. Due to the confidentiality of the relationship, parents and grandparents cannot volunteer at the school where their relatives attend.

THUMBODY, TOO is a self-esteem program for young children. It is presented primarily in kindergarten classes. Volunteers use a puppet that resembles a thumb to teach children that they are unique -- so special, in fact, that their thumbprints are different from everyone else's. The children participate in discussion about feelings, the importance of liking themselves, valuing their individual differences, and respecting differences in others. A craft activity follows.

I'M THUMBODY teaches second grade students to respect themselves, respect others, and be responsible for their attitudes and behavior. Presenters use a short video to help show the positive value of differences. Children participate in an activity called the 'clothes game' in which negative thoughts expressed on "dirty" laundry are washed and replaced with "clean" laundry having positive thoughts. A teacher remains in the classroom with the volunteer at all times.

****Programs require training and background clearance through the School Board.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED in Pompano Elementary Schools ***Wouldn't it be rewarding to help children feel special?***

The **Mental Health Association** needs caring adults for its children's programs. Call Helen Leitch at 954 746-2055 or e-mail helen@mhabroward.org for information. Please do NOT call the city.

- **Listen to Children** is a mentoring program where Listeners meet with individual children once a week for 30 minutes and become *non-judgmental* adult friends.
- **I'm Thumbody and Thumbody, Too** are self-esteem programs presented to children in second grade and kindergarten.