

Mr. Chase

I recently read the article on your program in The Columbian. I wanted to thank you for all you do for kids. I am a high school teacher at Hockinson High School and I have taught at numerous schools where I had students like you have in your program.

I understand how much these kids need someone like you who can come at them on their level, speak their language and be "real" with them. You are such a valuable resource for these students. Since I am a teacher I related to the article but I also related because I have a younger brother who had a similar path as you during his teenage years.

He was doing drugs, running drugs for gangs, lying and stealing. At 18 he joined the Army and is still in (it will be 14 years in August). He jokes now that if he hadn't have joined the Army he would have been dead or in jail by 21. The discipline of the Army and his ability to find something he loves to do has made him into a responsible and productive citizen.

His special forces training (he is in 7th group of the Green Berets at Ft. Bragg, NC) has made him mentally strong. He doesn't yet know what he will do when he gets out of the Army and I sent him the article about you and your program to show the awesome things someone can do with their life experiences.

So thank you for all you do for the kids in our community. You are giving kids hope in what I know some of them see as a hopeless situation.

Sincerely,

Julie Christian
English Teacher
Hockinson High School