

## ***Mentoring: Regency Volunteers Shape the Next Generation***

One of Regency's core beliefs is contributing to the betterment of our communities. Regency employees do this by not only giving their money, but something more precious - their time.

Regency encourages everyone to spend time as a volunteer mentor or tutor. In Jacksonville, through a partnership with the YMCA and an inner-city elementary school, 24 mentors and 15 tutors spend at least one hour a week with students at John E. Ford Elementary school. The efforts of these individuals celebrate the true spirit of mentoring: giving their time, talent and heart to make a meaningful impression in the lives of youth and adults.

Bettie Lodge, manager, accounting administration in Jacksonville is one of those 24 mentors. She was recently honored by Kessler Mentoring Connection with a TELEMachus Award for Exemplary Volunteer Mentor. The Exemplary Volunteer Mentor category recognizes a mentor that goes above and beyond and is more than just a friend to their protégé. Bettie was one of only three mentors to win the award. For the second year running, Regency won a TELEMachus Award for Outstanding Corporate Support, a category which recognizes corporations that support mentoring by allowing their employees time to mentor during business hours.

Bettie, who has been a mentor for three years, said of the experience, "Most of the time, we see improvement in the child's communications skills, as well as their personal development. We are trained to relate to individuals who are culturally different than ourselves and learn the sensitivities we may face and how to work with many different cultures. Often, we work with students, and their immediate and extended families."

In Los Angeles, Caryl Bauwens, marketing assistant, has served as a mentor with MOSTE (Motivating Our Students Through Experience). Bauwens will work with her mentee through high school. "I mentor a student who recently moved to the U.S. with her family from Ghana. The young girl would like to become a professional businessperson, so I work with her on college preparation, day-to-day finances, and basic life skills," said Bauwens. "I also take my mentee to the theater, opera and other cultural events to help her learn about culture in our country," she said.

Angela Patton, fixed asset specialist in Jacksonville, has headed up the Company's mentor program in northeast Florida for six years and also serves as a mentor at John E. Ford Elementary School. "I am proud to participate in Regency's mentoring program and encourage all employees to participate in their communities as mentors. There are so many at-risk youth in this country that need volunteers to help them develop as successful young people. Many mentors get their inspiration from lessons learned through relationships with mentees and their families. It's a very rewarding relationship."