

# MTCC Center Gram

1st Quarter

March 2007

## Middle Tyger Support Person of the Year

**Kim Ridgeway...**



Kim was recently chosen as the Middle Tyger Community Center Support Employee of the Year. Kim has been with MTCC since January 2006. Before joining the TIMC team, she worked in the Wellford Elementary

kindergarten program.

Kim works hard everyday to make sure all is well in the four childcare classrooms. She juggles schedules, substitutes, lunches, training and the many other emergencies that may happen during the day.

Kim and her husband Raymond have been married for 33 years. They are the parents of three children and the grandparents of three, soon to be four grandchildren.

She and her family are members of Wellford Baptist Church.

One thing that makes Kim really special is her gift of encouragement. She always possesses a great attitude and greets each new day with a smile and treats it as a special gift.

Congratulations Kim on being our Support Person of the Year!

### Dates to Remember

- **March 21**—8:30 panel visit for United Way Grant for D5FM  
1:00 United Way Vista Volunteer Program
- **March 22**—POE Lunch and tour of MTCC
- **March 27** — Collaborating Partners Meeting at MTCC 12:15-1:00
- **March 29** — SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Conference (Columbia)
- **April 17** — MTCC Volunteer Recognition Dinner
- **April 9 thru 12** — CARE Staff - San Diego
- **April 28** — March of Dimes Walk America



*Pictured to the left are Jackie Tindall, Dana Keener, Tina Gaudian, Wanda Fowler and Pam Imm. Dana and Pam are evaluators for the CARE Demonstration Project.*

*The group was recently in New Orleans for a regional CARE training.*

The Office of Population Affairs of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced awards totaling \$3,213,917. Nine Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Care Demonstration Grants were awarded to school districts, a faith-based organization and seven community-based organizations.

“These awards are critical to helping the nation’s young people become productive, independent contributors to family and community life,” said Evelyn Kappeler, acting director of the Office of Population Affairs. “They not only help families understand the seriousness of teen pregnancy, but they provide them with information and tools to help their children avoid the problems and negative consequences so often associated with teen parenting.”

MTCC was awarded \$268,637.00 a year for five years.

For more information visit [www.middletyger.org](http://www.middletyger.org).



## Board of Trustees Spot Light... Mary Mathes—Chair

Mary Mathes was born in Charlotte but has lived most of her adult life in Pennsylvania and Indiana. She moved to Spartanburg 9 years ago to accept a position at Spartanburg Regional. She is currently Executive Director of Women's and Children's Services at SRHS.

Mary has an undergraduate degree from Purdue University and a graduate degree in nursing from Valparaiso University (Go Valpo!). She has over 22

years of nursing experience all in women's health.

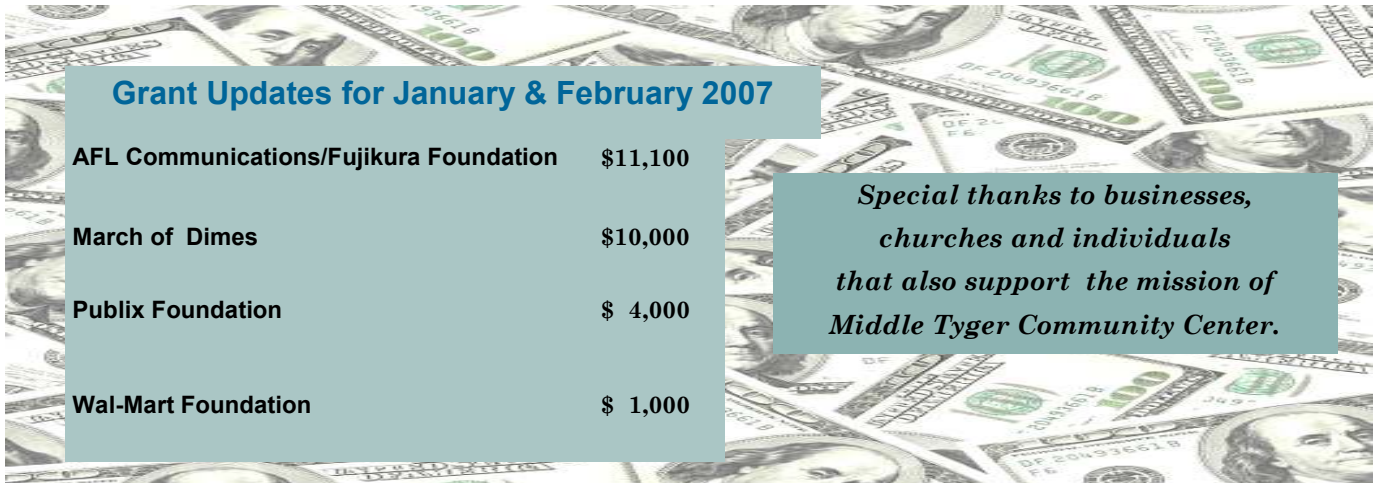
Mary is a strong supporter of the March of Dimes and is currently Vice-Chair of Spartanburg Walk America and an active member of the March of Dimes Board. She is also a member of the South Carolina Perinatal Association Board and is president elect of that organization.

Mary became involved with MTCC after we were awarded a March of Dimes

grant. Not only did we get the grant, we also received one of the best advocates we have ever had in Mary!

Mary lives on a golf course and enjoys playing golf each Saturday in Ladies League Events. She has 4 grandchildren all under the age of 3 and another one due in April. Vacations are spent visiting her grandchildren and helping her children take care of all of those babies!

*"I love this place!"*  
 Is our favorite quote from Mary about Middle Tyger Community Center.



### Grant Updates for January & February 2007

<b>AFL Communications/Fujikura Foundation</b>	<b>\$11,100</b>
<b>March of Dimes</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Publix Foundation</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>
<b>Wal-Mart Foundation</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>

*Special thanks to businesses, churches and individuals that also support the mission of Middle Tyger Community Center.*

## Feinstein Challenge

It is once again time for the Feinstein Foundation's Annual Challenge to communities across the nation. By joining efforts with MTCC, citizens in the area can help in two ways.

First, your donation of canned food will help resi-

dents by adding to our food pantry.

Second, the donations submitted between March 1 thru April 30th will be counted and we will receive a monetary donation from the Feinstein Foundation.

Last year MTCC received

\$523 from the Feinstein Foundation to fight hunger.

Middle Tyger Times featured an article on this campaign for public awareness.

We have already received many items toward the Challenge.

Food items and monetary donations are requested.



## Mission Moment—By Cindy Sanders—Case Manager

This school year I have served 23 families. All the families I work with are part of our Family Literacy Program and one or both parents are in school working on educational goals. The parents I serve range from the age of 14 to 34, and they are at very different places in their lives.

One of my favorite parts of my job is the opportunity to help students “navigate” the next phase of their educational/career journey. Taking them on field trips to tour area colleges and meet with degree program directors or assisting with financial aid or helping them connect to professionals in their chosen field of study.

During this school year, I have visited colleges with six students; arranged meetings for four students with professionals to discuss employment in their fields; and arranged a shadowing opportunity for one student at a veterinary clinic. I have also assisted two students who decided to change their declared majors when, through self-exploration, they realized they are better suited for other careers.

On a recent field trip to Greenville Technical College, a BHS student senior and I spent several hours with the Culinary Arts, Hospitality Education Department Head, Alan J. Scheidehauer, CEC. “Chef Alan” talked extensively

about the Food Service Management degree program. He also took us on a tour of their current classrooms and kitchen facilities and introduced us to a cooking instructor and current student who has started her own wedding cake business (our student is interested in specializing in Baking and Pastry Arts).

At the end of our meeting, I asked “Chef Alan” if our student would be assigned to a faculty advisor to help her navigate the program requirements. “Chef Alan” said that because of instruction loads, faculty does not have the time to advise students, this is usually done by the student advising center.

However, he offered to personally advise our student and instructed her to note on her admission paperwork that he had approved this request.

Every college visit I have made with students has been a positive experience. We have been treated with great respect and kindness. I suspect that for many of our students, this has been their first interaction with college staff and the openness with which we have been received has broken down barriers of fear. I count it a privilege to be a part of this process.

## Board News

Another reason for celebrating in February was the changing of the guard. MTCC has always been blessed with a caring and concerned Board of Trustees. Outgoing members: David Hayes, Michael Thompson, Susan Clary and Kenneth Huckaby were honored for their many years of service to the staff and community.

### We also welcomed our New Board Members:

Dale Culbreth,  
Todd Hardy,  
Carl Hinze,  
Lamar McAbee,  
Shealia Miller,  
Ray Trail  
Lloyd Vail

*“Never doubt  
that a small  
group of thoughtful  
committed citizens  
can change the world;  
indeed, it is the  
only thing  
that ever has.”  
-Margaret Mead*

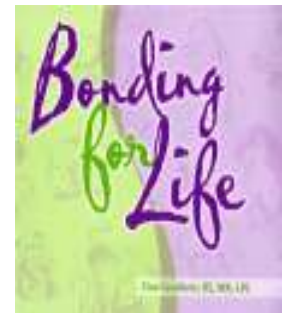
### Returning Board Members:

Carolyn Brooks  
Holly Foster  
Susan Keith  
Joe Mahaffey  
Mary Mathes  
Dick Smith  
Scott Turner

## Staff Happenings...

The highlight of our February Celebration was having our very own Tina Gaudiano sign copies of the book she authored through our collaboration with the South Carolina Teen Pregnancy Prevention Council. Copies of this book will be made available to our parenting teens. Copies can also be purchased by visiting the SCTPPC at [www.teenpregnancysc.org](http://www.teenpregnancysc.org).

Tina is mom to two extraordinary young ladies that keep her busy as a mom. They are very involved in soccer, volleyball and band.



Look for Tina's book online at the SC Teen Pregnancy Prevention Campaign's website.





## Adult Education

### ***Have you set your educational GOAL for 2007 ?***

Currently from August 2006 until February 2007, the following information reflects enrollment and student progress for adult education at MTCC :

- 17 are ready to take the GED exam or are waiting results;
- 207 are enrolled in GED classes;
- 36 are enrolled in day ESOL classes;

Last school year, August 2005-June 2006, **44** individuals received their GEDs.

**It is not too late to enroll.**

Classes are offered on the following schedule:

**Morning classes—Monday—Thursday 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.**

**Afternoon classes - Wednesday—Thursday 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.**

**Evening classes—Monday & Thursday 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.**

**Contact:**  
**Jackie Tindall**  
**Adult Ed Coordinator**  
**439-7760**

**For more information about MTCC or to request a tour,  
call Wanda Fowler at 846.439.7760 or [wfowler@spart5.k12.sc.us](mailto:wfowler@spart5.k12.sc.us)**



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*Where the people  
of the  
Middle Tyger Area  
have come together  
to serve our  
community with  
one mission...*

*... to create  
healthy families.*

**We're on the web**  
**[www.middletyger.org](http://www.middletyger.org)**