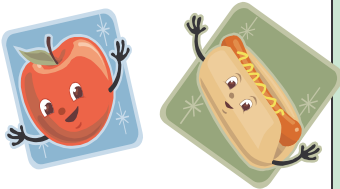


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## Photo Album



### *Lunch Buddies*



## *Lunch Buddies*

The Caring Communities Lunch Buddy Program provides students with a responsible, consistent, one-on-one adult mentor, who acts as a positive role model. Each mentor meets weekly or bi-weekly with their student during lunch time, serving as a cheerleader, encourager, and supportive listener.

The Lunch Buddy Program has been in effect for many years in the United States and is spreading to many schools across the nation. In Springfield, the program was officially established during the 2007-2008 school year. Businesses, churches and organizations currently participating in the Lunch Buddy Program include Chase, Great Southern Bank, City Utilities, First Church of God, AG Financial, Springfield News-Leader, Victory Trade School, and Wesley United Methodist Church.

Families today are faced with many struggles, and as a result, children bring these struggles with them to school. Lunch Buddies encourages volunteer involvement as it can serve as a catalyst to potentially change a child's outlook on his or her future. Volunteers can serve as that one person who inspires them to do great things!

During the 2008-2009 school year, program assessments were carried out to measure the outcomes of the Lunch Buddy Program. Results illustrated an increase in academic achievement, a decrease in undesired behaviors, and increased attendance in children that participated in the Lunch Buddy Program! These results prove how effective this program is and how much it is needed in our schools.

Want to be a Lunch Buddy but don't know what to do? Take a look at the criteria needed to get you started:

1. You will have to pass a background check provided by Springfield Public Schools.
2. For privacy reasons, we ask all of our volunteers to fill out a Confidentiality Form.
3. Our volunteers must have a heart for kids and show consistency and commitment with every visit.

**These kids are looking for people like you--maybe you're funny, wise beyond your years, super cool or just have time to give and share with someone else. If that sounds like you, then give us a call because our next Lunch Buddy could be you!**

For more information about the program or to sign-up as a Lunch Buddy, please contact Lisa Taylor at 523-5785 or via email at [ltaylor@spsmail.org](mailto:ltaylor@spsmail.org).

## Caring Communities Staff Contact List

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If you are new to Caring Communities  
check us out at:  
[www.commpartnership.org](http://www.commpartnership.org)

To register for classes or events:  
[www.commpartnership.org/cc\\_registration.php](http://www.commpartnership.org/cc_registration.php)

If you do not wish to receive any further  
newsletters, you may contact  
[jcross@spsmail.org](mailto:jcross@spsmail.org) to have your name  
removed from our distribution list.



### 18th Annual Midtown Victorian Christmas Homes Tour

Friday, December 4th, 5 – 9 p.m.  
Saturday, December 5th, 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.

The Midtown Neighborhood Association's annual fundraiser offers the opportunity for visitors to take a guided tour of five historic homes and one or more institution in the neighborhood. Hosts explain the history of each structure and relate information about the home.

Admission is \$10 for advance tickets and \$12 for tickets day of the event.  
For more information call 417-873-7149.



This year our Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC) is one of the institutions included on the tour. Located at 1471 N. Benton, this 2-story Cape Cod Revival house was built in 1941 by Dr. Emerson Simpson who was a physician on Commercial Street. He remained in the home until 1947 when Cox Hospital purchased the property to use for physician/student housing. Cox Health Systems continued to rent the house out until 2008 when it graciously donated the use of the house to Community Partnership's Caring Communities Initiative.

In August 2008 the house was established as the Caring Communities NRC, which provides Springfield neighborhood associations with access to meeting space, copiers, computers, internet service, and a lending library of resources. The NRC also offers a volunteer center and a Bed, Bath and Beyond Restore, which provides free household essentials for families served by Community Partnership programs.



*Parenting with Love and Logic*

Free Love and Logic classes will be available in the spring of 2010. We anticipate having a series in February/March and another in April/May 2010. Dates will be listed in the January E-news.