

JAYCEE BUDDY PROGRAM

Submitted by Everitt Binns

The Jaycee Buddy Program is based primarily on the concept that young people need the stabilizing and helpful influence of a mature and responsible adult. They need the guidance as well as the friendship of an interested and mature person who can set a good example by which the child can follow. The value of the Jaycee Buddy Program lies in the personal relationship between the adult and the child with the understanding on the part of the child that someone is interested in him as an individual, hence the One-Man/One-Boy formula.

The primary purpose of the Jaycee Buddy is to provide a One-Man/One-Boy, One-Woman/One-Girl relationship under the direction of a professional staff, consisting of the Catholic Social Services and representatives of the Highacres Campus of The Pennsylvania State University. Personal guidance for those

boys and girls in need can be provided by this Buddy Program.

One major goal of the Jaycee Buddy Program is to help reduce juvenile delinquency by providing individual guidance in sound character development for boys and girls who lack the wholesome adult companionship, and who reflect such deprivation in behavior pointing towards delinquency.

Another important goal is to help boys and girls with problems, who lack the influence of a mature and responsible adult, to reach their highest physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual development.

The "heart" of the Jaycee Buddy Program lies in the effective relationships of the big buddy to his little buddy.

In understanding who a Jaycee buddy is, it is helpful to understand first who he is not. He is not a substitute probation officer, a sub-

stitute pastor, physician, psychiatrist, or social worker. A Jaycee buddy doesn't come into a child's life to moralize or lecture. He comes to fill a void in the boy's life, an emotional vacuum which needs filling.

In affirmative terms, the Jaycee buddy is a mature, stable, personable adult of good character who is willing to take time to help unfortunate youngsters along the road to good citizenship without any legal or financial responsibilities. Big Buddies provide the affection, security, sympathy, understanding, and guidance so necessary and important to a young child. By offering a troubled youngster the assurance that someone cares, that the future is not necessarily dark or hopeless, a Jaycee buddy becomes the fundamental source for new hope and faith in a young man or woman.

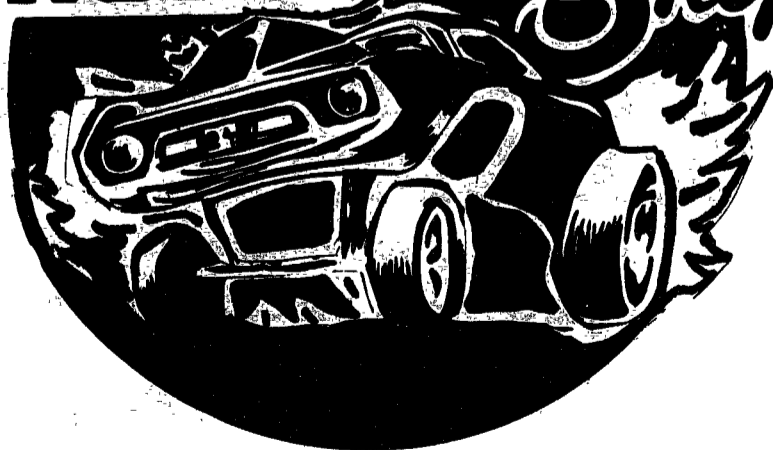
A Jaycee buddy is in-
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