

CCT! needs adult mentors for Graduation Project

By Marjorie Hudson and Gwen Overturf

Do you have a skill you'd like to share with a kid? Be a mentor for the Graduation Project!

- 12 to 15 hours face time with rising high school seniors who have a passion for learning in your area of expertise!
- 5 student/mentor meetings take place during the next 18 months.

Five hundred rising seniors in Chatham County Schools are selecting topics, getting approvals, and planning their independent study projects for their senior year. Chatham County Together! is assisting the schools by recruiting and training mentors for students who need extra help.

You will be working with us through Chatham County Together!, a mentoring organization for at-risk

children. We will train you, advise you, check in with you all through the mentoring relationship.

We will be matching students who need extra help in completing their project with a caring mentor who can inspire and guide them to success.

If you've ever thought about mentoring a young person, but thought you might not have the time, this is an excellent opportunity for a short-term, focused mentoring project. All graduation projects must be complete by May 2010.

Look at www.chathamcountytogether.org for details about the project, or contact us for more information: Gwen@chathamcountytogether.org and marjorie@chathamcountytogether.org



Check out www.chathamcountytogether.org to get involved.

Marjorie Hudson and Gwen Overturf are Mentor Co-Coordinators for the Graduation Project at CCT!



Integrated Water Strategies

COHOUSING

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The vision includes a community center, centralized parking, a weekly potluck dinner and a dormitory to house farm interns.

Residents will arrive home to a tree-shaded community where they know their neighbors and know the farmers who grow food for their tables. Walking paths will outnumber driving roads. If they wish to cook a big dinner, they can use the community kitchen and invite their friends.

The Pittsboro project may well end up looking a lot like Troy Gardens of Madison, Wisconsin. [See www.troygardens.org] The Pittsboro planning group has chosen monthly meetings and Google Groups as its communication methods. Interested parties are invited to apply for membership and get involved. [Go to: groups.google.com/group/pbocohousing]

There are many good reasons why cohousing is catching on, not the least of which is that sense of community which has gotten lost in the suburban sprawl development model. Most people buy a home in a neighborhood without getting to know their neighbors first and often spend years living down the street from people they will never meet.

Not so with cohousing projects, which generally set up meet and greet opportunities such as weekly potlucks wherein interested homeowners or renters can get to know the other residents. When people move into a cohousing development, they are moving into a community of neighbors.

Most cohousing projects include a community building, much like a clubhouse, which residents can use to throw parties and in some cases, even put up visitors from out of town. The inclusion of a community building allows the individual homes to be much smaller because there is no need for a party-sized kitchen, dining room or guest bedroom in their individual home.

Another great reason why cohousing is catching on is that smaller homes are more affordable. More and more people are deciding to forgo the isolated single-family home in a neighborhood of strangers for the higher density community

living model cohousing offers, leaving acres left over for leisurely after-work strolls on their own undeveloped land.

For more information about cohousing, visit The Cohousing Association of the United States at www.cohousing.org/

Camille Armantrout has joined the "bubble" of Chatham County. She loves horses, works with The Abundance Foundation and is a leader in vegan cooking and co-housing in Pittsboro. Camille is also driving the effort to revitalize the Plenty. She currently lives in community at Oilseed in Moncure.



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