



Well On Our Way

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April 19, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

Judge Tom Webb, Magistrate Judge for Haskell County, was the guest speaker at the Early Childhood Recognition Banquet given by Smart Start NW Kansas and Colby Community College Resource and Referral. Judge Webb spoke of the significant impact the touch of one life can have on another. Speaking out of his own experience as a street child from Korea in the 1950's, he shared about the memory of a young child touched by a stranger who reached past a natural repulsion to offer a piece of candy and a warm hug to a dirty, smelly orphaned boy. He shared with the listeners that seemingly small steps to reach out to the heart of a young child could make a lifelong change that may rescue a life otherwise lost.

A child's education begins at birth and early experience –whether good or bad- has a lasting impact on his ability to come to school eager and able to learn. Judge Webb was able to connect with the audience and show them how their work with children impact their lives.

One family childcare professional summed up Judge Webb's presentation with one word, WOW! Another one expressed her gratitude to Smart Start for having Judge Webb as the guest speaker. "Thank you so much for having Judge Webb speak at the banquet. Sometimes as a family childcare provider I feel isolated and wonder if what I do everyday makes any difference at all. After listening to Judge Webb I feel like I really do make a difference."

Please let me know if I can supply any further information about Judge Webb and his dynamic message.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maureen Ostmeyer".

Maureen Ostmeyer
Smart Start NW Kansas Project Director