



# University of Michigan Circle K

# CANDY LAND

## Bulletin



Volume 1, Issue 5

## Mentorship in Molasses Swamp

By Kristen "Gloppy, the Mentorship  
Monster" Emanuele

January 29, 2004

Every Friday afternoon a group of Circle K-er's meet at the cube to drive to Holmes elementary school in Ypsilanti, MI for mentorship. Each one of us is paired with a third to fifth grade student at the elementary school to spend part of the school day with. The students that are selected all have special needs in life in which the mentors can help them through, or just be their friends. For instance, some students have undesirable family and home lives, and the security of always having the same college mentor is valuable for them.

One of the greatest aspects of mentorship for me is arriving at the school on Friday and seeing the students anxiously waiting in the front lobby. Each week, my student La-Tanya greets me with a big hug and smile followed by a dramatic story from the week. After all the mentors arrive and greet their students, we are free to talk and spend the time hanging out with our student. During the fall semester the students often wanted to play outside, shoot hoops in the gymnasium, read books or play board games in the hallways. We also

have planned activities at the end of each visit, such as group games or craft activities. These are a good bonding experience with our students as well as with all the kids in the program.

As the fall semester came to an end, some new Circle K-er's got involved in the program as well. Plus, many of the mentors from the fall semester stayed with the program to continue mentoring their students. The kids we mentor are greatly affected by our weekly visits, and become upset when we cannot make it for a week. This bond that develops is beneficial for the kids, but it is just as rewarding for the college students when a relationship is created in which you have such a great impact on the children, even more of an impact than some of the teachers. Leaving the students each week is hard for everyone in the program, but looking forward to the future weeks of mentorship make the program so great.



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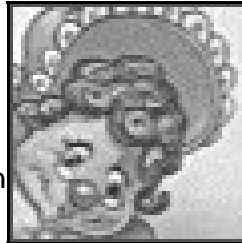
# Cooking Up A Storm In The Peanut Brittle House

By Jennifer "Gramma Nut" Parker

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, a group of Circle K'ers traveled to Ronald McDonald House to cook dinner for the guests who stay there. The Ronald McDonald House of Ann Arbor is located by Mary Markley Residence Hall and the University Hospital. The house provides rooms for families who currently have a child who is an inpatient receiving treatment at Mott Children's Hospital. Many of the families travel long distances to Ann Arbor so that their children can be treated at Mott. The house provides a place for the families to stay for an extended period of time while their children are in the hospital. The Ronald McDonald House of Ann Arbor hosts about 600 families each year, and can house up to 29 families at one time. The first Ronald McDonald House was founded in 1974, and since then, over 10 million families have stayed at a Ronald McDonald house.

With the help of volunteers from the Ann Arbor community, dinner is cooked and served for

the residents of the Ronald McDonald House of Ann Arbor almost every day of the week. After a long day at the hospital visiting their children, these families are very appreciative of the volunteers that come in to cook for them. They enjoy having a home-cooked meal for dinner instead of eating dinner at the hospital cafeteria or a restaurant.



When we went to Ronald McDonald House, we made tacos for the residents, because tacos are usually served every Friday evening. We prepared and served beef tacos, salad, fruit salad, refried beans, and rolls. We served almost 20 people during the evening, and they all must have been very hungry, because we had very few leftovers. Everyone was very appreciative and thanked us for the dinner. We were glad to be able to do something for these families who were going through very difficult times. I highly encourage everyone to sign up for this very rewarding project in the future.

## Mr. Mint's Mystery Member of the Month

Try and guess who this month's mystery member is! (Hint: This member is female and on a committee.)

1. Which Candy Land character would you be, and why?

I'd want to be Queen Frostine. Why...because she has the cutest outfit.

2. What is your favorite Circle K project?

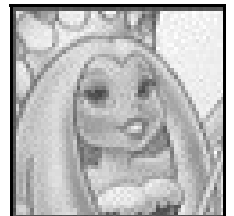
Ronald McDonald House was one of my favorite projects that I've done so far. It was not only a lot of fun cooking for the residents, but it was also a really good chance to be with a smaller group of Circle Kers and just sit and talk. I met and got to know some really great people during that project.

3. If you could live in a house built out of any substance at all, what would it be?

If I had a house built out of anything it would be cheese, every type of cheese, and everything in the house would be made of crackers.

4. What is your most memorable Circle K moment?

The Ski trip this year was a really good time and most memorable worthy. But really, everything I've done so far has been a lot of fun and memorable, so it's really hard to pick just one.



If you can't figure it out, try to find her name somewhere in this bulletin. This is more fun than a board game- I promise!

# Move Forward Two Spaces At Washtenaw Literacy

By Lisa "King Kandy, Imperial Head BonBon and Grand Jujube of Candy Land" Slominski

It is easy to forget in our world of writing papers, reading articles, and talking to friends that there are many people in our own community who do not possess these basic skills. Some come from other countries and have not had the opportunities to master English proficiency. Others speak English as their primary language, but have reached adulthood without learning how to read or write. These people face enormous challenges every day in a society that places literacy at its very core. The Washtenaw Literacy Association recognizes this, and develops programs to increase the levels of literacy in our county. Our club helps out at one of these programs, a series of weekly English classes for speakers of English as a second language.

When I first walked into the Washtenaw Literacy language class, I was struck by how many people were there to learn English. These people were from countries all around the world, and were at varying skill levels. My first time attending the project I was



asked to assist an intermediate group who could read English quite well, but who needed practice speaking the language.

My favorite part of the project was just being able to talk to the people there, listen to their stories, and learn more about their lives and experiences. For example, one woman I talked to came from China and works here as an engineer. She told me that she didn't have



many friends at work because she got nervous when she had to speak English, and therefore did not talk very much. Another man was from South Korea, and told me that he needed to practice his English as much as possible before applying to an American veterinary school. Their stories and their persistence in learning

the language made me want to help them even more.

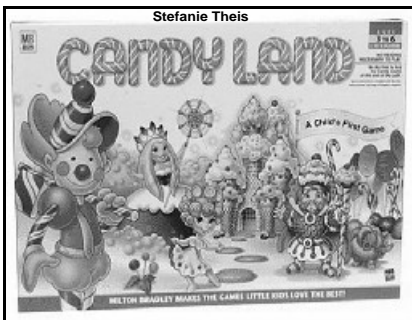
I have never seen people more motivated to learn something that I take for granted every day. This project allowed me to meet and talk with some amazing people, brush up on my own English skills, and see the issue of illiteracy in a whole new light.

"I have never seen people more motivated to learn something that I take for granted every day."

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Come Visit Us!  
M-Th 2-5pm



**The Mission of U of M Circle K is to:**  
"Inspire and empower college students to develop a lifetime commitment to serving the community through a variety of projects, a plethora of leadership opportunities, and a dynamic social atmosphere while allowing members to engage in what is important to them."

# Skiing Through Gumdrop Pass

On the cold, cold weekend of January 9<sup>th</sup>, a group of hearty Circle K'ers ventured up into the great beyond (otherwise known as Northern Michigan), to spend the night at a hotel and go skiing in Boyne. Here are what some of them had to say about it:

**Sugary Sweet Circle K'ers Interviewed:** Eric Machak, Nick Hoffman, Lynne Strickler, Evan Demko



**1. Describe the Circle K Ski Trip in one sentence.**

**Eric:** "Very cold and very fun."

**Evan:** "I'M A MICHAEL BOLTON FAN."

**2. Describe one interesting memory that you have of the trip.**

**Evan:** "I almost drove away from the gas station without paying for the gas that went into my truck's two solid gas tanks. That could have been devastating to my life."

**Eric:** "Eric Dueweke thought that you only rode the chairlift up once. i.e. that you got on and then went up to the skiing area for the rest of the day."

**Nick:** "Payel, Kabir, Amy, and I went to the video store to pick up a DVD to watch with everyone. An argument ensued over which movie was better, Gattica or Ocean's Eleven...I WIN KABIR, I WIN!!!"

**Lynne:** "To combat the cold Michigan weather, Eric Machak and I visited the hotel hot tub on Friday night. As we basked in the warm waters, our roommates, who had the room keys, decided to go to Blockbuster, so when the pool closed, Eric and I were left with only wet swimsuits, cold winds, and no extra clothing. After 30 minutes of attempting to warm up using other people's showers, finally our roommates came back, but wait...they had locked themselves out of the room too."

**3. If you could have gone skiing with any person, alive or dead, who would it be, and why?**

**Lynne:** "I would have gone skiing with Casey Ronk, because the vision of him snowballing down that black diamond hill on last year's ski trip still makes me smile."

**Nick:** "I would want to go skiing with Warren Miller because his movies are freaking awesome....and he's, like, 156 and still skiing."

**Eric:** "Elvis..."

**4. When you remember the ski trip, what are the first three words that pop into your head?**

**Evan:** "I, love, Suruchi."

**Eric:** "Cold, Expensive-food, Fun."

**Lynne:** "Pants, hot chocolate, Gollum (aka Nick)."

**Nick:** "Boyne, Cold, Or gasmic."

**END INTERVIEW**

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