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Tuesday, September 3, 1996

COMMENTARY

Give a kid the greatest gift: ability to read

In the speech accepting his renomination, President Clinton called for a nationwide program to mobilize reading tutors.

Chicago's Tutor/Mentor Connection already has mapped out a comprehensive plan to do just that, but it can't succeed without support. That's why it is soliciting volunteers for tutoring and mentoring programs through a campaign that will end with recruitment fairs Friday and Saturday.

The not-for-profit organization was started two years ago to bring together the many elements necessary for successful after-school programs: kids in need, volunteers, businesses and community leaders. It publishes a directory that divides the city into four regions and identifies on maps where there are needs and existing programs.

One of the programs listed in the directory is Working in the Schools, which provides 200 volunteer tutors for Cabrini-Green grade schools. Another participant, Everen Securities, allows employees to tutor kids on company time.

Volunteers and others involved in these programs deserve praise for trying to make a difference in children's lives. If you would like to see where you could fit in, call (312) 467-5184.

Chicago Sun-Times An Independent Newspaper

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