

# TEAM DECC 2011

Each week the DECC will feature a different DECC team member and participating nonprofit organization to highlight the wide variety of charities participating in your campaign. This Week's Featured Member and Charity:



**Regina Huerter of the Department of Safety**

## Metro Denver Partners

DECC # 4106

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[www.metrodenverpartners.org](http://www.metrodenverpartners.org)

### Regina's Story

Ever wonder if what you do really matters? I know that, at least in one area of my life, what I have done and who I did it with matters. I am a volunteer for Metro Denver Partners, a mentoring agency that matches adult volunteers (Senior Partners) with at-risk youth (Junior Partners). Over the past 33 years I have benefited from the experience of being part of shaping a life and watching young people grow up into productive adults, and now I am helping mentor my junior partner's kids! As a mentor you learn to conscientiously look at how you are shaping the life of a young person. What you say, how you say it, what you do and teach, and how you reinforce words and behaviors matters! Mentoring has made me cognizant of the impact people have in our lives. While my partners would tell you that I have made difference in their life, the truth is they have given me more than I could ever hope to have brought them. I love when my now grown partners say, "I was in this situation, and I thought 'what would Regi say or do?'" They make me proud. Your donation - money and/or time - matters. Three hours a week, that's all Partners asks. But be prepared to invest more because they will get to your heart. The outcome, impacting a life: priceless.

The mission of **METRO DENVER PARTNERS** is to promote a safe and growth-oriented environment in which at-risk youth can develop and flourish through: friendship and commitment, mentoring and role modeling, education and guidance, and family support.



### Making a Difference in Colorado:

"My goal has been to model what life can be; not focus on what it is," explains Gwen, a mentor. "You really do not have a lot of control over this young person's environment so you strive to share a different lifestyle that makes them think about where life can take them. We talk about the importance of making good decisions and choices. And, I've been honest with her that life is not all fun, but that good choices will give her options. Being a mentor improves your life, too. You commit to a child to be a good role model. You learn it's not always just about 'me' as you discover the many situations kids are facing in their lives today. I've gotten a lot of joy out of mentoring and made a new young friend."

Lynney says Gwen has taught her how to walk away from confrontational situations, and given her so many new experiences in life. "With a mentor you learn new things and how to act better. She taught me that life isn't easy, but it's not too hard either. She's my friend and she's changed my outlook on so many things. Thank you, Gwen!"

### What your donation can do:

**93 cents of every dollar** you donate goes directly into our programs.

**\$50-\$500** will support educational and recreational activities for our youth waiting for a mentor and our Partnerships (mentor and youth) such as museum visits, camping, bowling, ice skating, hiking, arts and crafts, and sporting events.

### Get involved:

Sharing your life with a child makes a world of difference for the child, but you may be surprised to see the impact it has on you! Mentors provide support that lasts a life time. Mentors listen, share experiences, and become friends, while enjoying weekly activities together like hiking, fishing, listening to music, reading, cooking, homework, and community events. Learn more about this volunteer opportunity at [MetroDenverPartners.org](http://MetroDenverPartners.org), 303.777.7000, or Facebook and Twitter.