

T. G. Smith Elementary

3600 Falcon Road
Springdale, Arkansas 72762
(479) 750-8846

January 19, 2003

Re: Mr. Scott Huse

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a fourth grade teacher at Smith Elementary and have taught in this position for 16 years. I have taught a total of 35 years with 32 of those years being in the Springdale School System. I earned a Bachelors of Science in Education and a Masters in Education from the University of Arkansas.

I first began to observe Scott in his role as a volunteer dad in the Watchdog Dad Program at our school. I didn't know him other than that and as an active, frequent helper in the many functions our PTA (Parent Teacher Association) performs every year. He was always energetic and worked hard at developing good relationships with the students at Smith. I concluded from this that Scott, along with his wife Claudia, also a valued volunteer, were parents devoted to their children and who were assuming an active role in their lives.

As we were finishing our school year in the spring of 2002, we were summoned by our principal to the cafeteria to hear a guest speaker. At the time, I had no idea who it was, and as I made my way, I heard the obligatory grounings from tired teachers with too much left to do to finish out the year. That resentment was short-lived, however, as we discovered who our speaker was, and as he began what was a well-prepared and absorbing presentation. He captured our attention with his style and with the wonderful message he was conveying to us. Teachers, especially those of us who have been in the profession for many years, know that during our careers and when we leave it, it is not and will not be with monetary rewards. Obviously, there are other values that keep us performing our jobs year after year. To be reminded of our worth, in our roles as teachers, was indeed something that we needed and especially at that time of year. I was honored, grateful, and felt such overwhelming pride when Scott recognized me personally on that day. He had taken the time and effort to interview some of my former students and told me of the positive influences I had had on them. As a part of our society, every person needs to hear that s/he is contributing or is capable of contributing to the community in which s/he lives. What a wonderful goal as a speaker - that of enabling people to see their worth and to feel their role in life as a positive thing. Scott certainly showed the ability to do just that on that day and continued to follow up afterwards giving me thoughtful mememtos that pertained to that day. I am so impressed with his abilities in relating in such positive ways to those around him. He has so much to offer in his quest to make viable differences in the lives of those around him.

Sincerely,



Brenda D. Clark