

Jan Reinerth

Though Jan Reinerth has not had children of her own, she has adopted the Western Youth Network, formerly known as the Watauga Youth Network as her own.

As a founding member of the organization, Jan intimately knows the roots of the organization and remembers very clearly its purpose in being created. It has been wonderful to have her voice to remind us of that if we ever veer off course.

Jan is the person you can count on to attend nearly every, single event that WYN is hosting. Over the years, she has attended car washes, mentoring brainstorming events, and has even tutored in our after school program.

An organizer of countless fundraisers, Jan is sometimes known as the “stalker” who can track down people who are instrumental in making the event a success. She has attended bike races, fall festivals, holiday dinners, shag dances, contra dances, and everything in between all in the name of support of the organization that she loves so much.

Over the course of WYN’s twenty-three year existence, countless youth and families in the High Country have received helpful services that make their lives better. Youth receive tutoring and enrichment activities as well as positive role models and skills for life. They have these things so that they can make good decisions and not end up in juvenile facilities. At the time of WYN’s creation, however, Jan and her peers realized that there were no such resources for local youth, and they were, therefore, being “shipped” off the mountain to facilities. They were separated from their families and communities, and all of this was very costly to the Watauga County tax payer.

Fortunately, Jan and others “gave birth to” an organization that can help local youth make positive choices and lead successful lives. Jan has raised WYN through its infancy, adolescence, and now into adulthood. We look to her as a matronly caretaker who loves us and reminds us who we are at our very core, just as any mother would do.