

Ellen Baltus, LCSW is a school counselor at Lot Whitcomb Elementary in the North Clackamas School District. She is involved in a number of groups that help support vulnerable families in the North Clackamas area. In her early work with high-risk adolescents, she found that youth who had early positive school experiences with mentors and other adults they could trust were more likely to successfully reintegrate in to their community. After school programs not only extends a student's day, but gives community members a place to focus and organize their supportive efforts, and increases the likelihood that students and families can form successful relationships with mentors and community members. Ellen believes that through this mutual relationship, healthy, sustainable families and communities emerge.