

Today

IN DIXIE

Basketball tournament raises funds for charity



Photo by Jen Watkins

PINE VIEW High School basketball players cheer on their team in the final seconds of the game.

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On March 28 a basketball team made up of youngsters involved in the T.E.A.M. R.A.W. outreach program met the Washington County All-Stars at Pine View High School. The final score doesn't matter.

What does is that the two teams were involved in raising money for the Children's Justice Center and the Washington County School District Foundation. Admission to the game, and to one which pitted the high school coaches against Team Tragedy, was by donation.

"T.E.A.M.R.A.W., (which is an acronym for To Educate and Motivate the Ready and Willing),

was made up of guys who didn't get a chance in high school," noted Shawn Mitchell, who was publicist for the event. He's also the director of Team Tragedy's adult services.

He and Alii "Bear" Alo, who is director of T.E.A.M.R.A.W., work with many of the same young people at different stages in their lives.

"We try to spend more time with kids at risk through basketball, boxing, dance. We're trying to keep them away from gangs by giving them the family they don't have," Alo said. The program is designed to provide youngsters with good role models and good things to do.

"Hopefully we can touch one child that what's going on in your

life is not that difficult," Mitchell said.

"These are some people who want to help us out," Mitchell said, noting the sponsorship of the School of Life Foundation and the assistance of several other community members. "It's to show people we're all one."

Last year, Mitchell noted, the games raised \$500 for the Children's Justice Center and \$300 apiece for the other organizations involved.

And, Alo said, it raised awareness of the programs.

The School of Life Foundation is based in St. George but has been steadily growing. It provides a book of tips on ways to live. Information can be found at www.schooloflifefoundation.com.