National Speaker Reggie Dabbs Headlines Family Night in Willard

On Wednesday, March 22, nationally renowned motivational speaker, Reggie Dabbs, brought his message to Willard High School.

Dabbs, who is part of the Youth Alliance, spoke to three assemblies during the school day, and then completed the day by speaking to the public that night. The Hope Center held a special dinner, and then transported a couple of van loads to the event.

Dabbs began the event by playing several uplifting songs on his saxophone, in which he asked the kids to sing along. He then invited all the elementary students to the front to teach the parents a rap he called "I Can, You Can, We Can."

The former Tennessee football player then shared his life story. His mother, an unwed teenager, gave up Reggie at birth. Fortunately, a local teacher and her husband took Reggie into their family, eventually adopting him. The love of these people made all the difference in his life, and now Dabbs travels around the world telling over two million that they are loved.

He ended the night by sharing the story of a father who wouldn't give up on his son. On December 7, 1988, a level 8.2 earthquake devastated the small nation of Armenia, killing over 30,000 people. One father ran to his son's school to see that it had collapsed. The father walked to where his son's classroom was and began digging through the rubble. Remembering his promise that he will never give up on his son, the father dug through the night.

After 38 hours, the father finally heard his son's voice calling out for him. The son refused to leave the hole that was protecting him until the father pulled his friends out of the rubble first. After the father helped 14 other children out of the school, the father was finally reunited with his son.

The message of being loved will not soon be forgotten by the kids from the Hope Center, or anyone else at the event. Thanks to Reggie Dabbs, the Willard School System, and the Willard Police Department for making family night happen.