

## One of the Reasons I DO DI

by Vicky Kaseorg

When the year ended with our fantastic performance at NC State DI, one team mother approached me and said, "If you do this next year, we are in!"

I was exhausted, but elated from the year of hard work and how the team had coalesced into something brilliant. I told her I was certainly planning to do it all again.

"That's great," she told me,

"Because my son is so shy, and this really brought him out of his shell."



Shy? *Ben?*

I had not seen a shred of shyness. I had seen a young man excited and engaged, eager to throw out zany ideas and then shocked and delighted to find out that in the supportive group dynamics, those ideas were seriously considered. I had seen a young man plunge into creative technical solutions. I had been astounded when he showed up to our team meeting one day with a gas mask he had manufactured from a discarded lamp.

"I saw this broken lamp," he told me, "And right away, I saw the makings of a gas mask."

I laughed delightedly, thinking *I* saw the makings of a creative spirit learning to soar.