

## Mentoring Highlights

Being a mentor has really opened my eyes to how just giving time to a child can be one of the best gifts they could receive. I was able to get insight into where my mentee needed help in her coursework, and we continually worked on her math skills through the financial literacy project. I look forward to meeting with my mentee every week!

-Jen Kunes,  
The Crane Group

## The Mentoring Center launches new web site



The home page of the new Mentoring Center web site

After much planning and preparations, the Mentoring Center has officially launched its new web site at [www.mentoringcenterco.org](http://www.mentoringcenterco.org). Some of the exciting aspects of the web site include:

- Apply online to become a mentor
- Learn about mentoring program opportunities
- Find helpful tips for mentoring
- Understand how to become a mentor or start a mentoring program
- View our training schedule
- Read about success stories from mentors and mentees

## 2009 Outstanding Mentors and Mentees



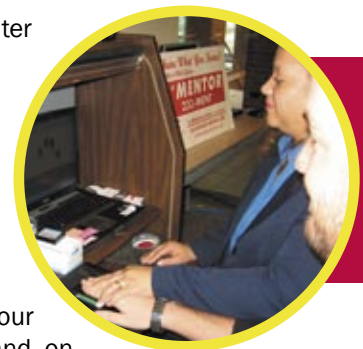
### John Doss Outstanding Mentee

As a young child, John was a victim of abuse and neglect, but today as a young man his mentor states, "he is on his way to successful adulthood." A mentor through Franklin County Children Services, Jack Woodard, supported his mentee through treatment sessions and saw the boy become a role model for others. John has continued to make tremendous strides. He has maintained a successful job and has made great improvements at school, now maintaining a B average. Despite all he's been through, John also recognizes the importance of giving back and has volunteered at Children's Hospital!

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## FBI Electronic Fingerprint Background Checks Now Available!

The Mentoring Center is committed to the safety of children in our community. We recently began offering FBI electronic fingerprint background checks—along with Ohio BCI checks—for our mentoring partners and, on a fee basis, for individuals and other organizations.



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### Jamil Hester, Outstanding Mentee

Jamil has had the opportunity to be mentored by two honored Outstanding Mentors—Clarence Lumpkin, informal “mayor” of Linden, and Mr. Lumpkin’s daughter, Carolyn Bethel. Despite obstacles growing up, Jamil blossomed in high school and developed a good work ethic.

In college and while training to prepare for the police academy, he sustained a significant knee injury, delaying his graduation. With Carolyn’s support, he took this setback calmly and began to research other areas related to law enforcement. Jamil even pressed forward in college after his birth mother died. He worked three jobs that summer and maintained Dean’s list grades. Today, with the help of his mentors, he is at Otterbein College, majoring in sociology with a focus in criminal justice and on the football team, graduating this spring with a job in Kentucky waiting!.

### Jack Woodard, Outstanding Mentor



Jack has made a compelling difference in the life of Outstanding Mentee John Doss. Jack consistently visited John while the boy was at a residential facility. By embracing the treatment and urging John to do the same, Jack helped John with his behavior and anger issues. Today, with

John now 18, Jack continues to support his excellent attendance at technical school, and his study of auto mechanics. Jack also helped John get a job at Kroger’s—and has provided him the stability his own family could not. With Jack’s help, John is learning to do laundry, figure out a budget and even get his driving learner’s permit! Because of Jack’s intervention, John has learned to trust others, greatly improving his outlook on life and his self-confidence. Says John’s grandmother, “There is no way I could have done this without Jack’s support and I’m so proud of how John has turned out.”

### FBI Electronic Fingerprint Background Checks Now Available! (cont'd)

**For more information or to request a background check, visit our website at [www.mentoringcenterco.org](http://www.mentoringcenterco.org)**

Applicants no longer need to worry about messy ink or long delays that were the norm with manual ink cards. Fingerprints are scanned electronically in less than three minutes and submitted to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal

Investigation (BCI). BCI then mails completed reports directly to the requesting agency with some reports mailed within a week (turn-around times may vary depending on each submission).

Thank you to our key supporters:



The Columbus Foundation

### Mark Knisely, Outstanding Mentor



A lot of mentoring magic has occurred in the six years Mark has mentored his mentee Christopher. Christopher experienced an unstable life and underwent chemotherapy for cancer for two years lasting until he was five years old. One huge mercy came into his life when he and his younger brother were placed in the foster care of Becky Watson, who went on to adopt them both in 2004. Mark and his partner Jerry have become a part of the entire family. “Mark is not only Chris’s best friend but mine too,” says adoptive mother Becky. The range of activities Mark has made possible is phenomenal—from kite flying and school supply shopping to street chalk festival and Franklin Park Conservatory. Just in the last year, they’ve had 108 visits when only 24 are required!

### John Lavkulich, Outstanding Mentor



As a Mentor through Northwest Counseling, John Lavkulich has helped his mentee Nathan (an Outstanding Mentee in 2007) develop skills in woodworking, cooking and writing—as well as patience, self-confidence and step-by-step planning. The pride and accomplishment Nathan felt when they completed their first woodworking project “hooked him,” and they have completed numerous other projects since. Nathan’s manners and social skills have improved as well and he has also shown marked improvement in his effort in his schoolwork. Growing green beans together also showed how mentors can “open minds.” After watering the beans and checking progress at each visit, they picked the beans, cooked them and ate them! Nathan said he didn’t usually eat green beans, but he LOVED these!

## THANK YOU BLUE JACKETS



As part of its support for partner agencies, the Mentoring Center requests tickets (provided in-kind) for sporting and other events, then makes those available free to mentors and mentees. Mentor Richardson Mason and mentee Jonathan Huey, who “loves the Blue Jackets,” but had never been to a game or the Arena District before, had a very special evening thanks to the kindness and generosity of the team. The pair are with Mentoring Northwest, a program of Northwest Counseling and have been matched for sixteen months. Richard has stuck by his mentee even though he moved further away. Both enjoyed attending our Mentoring Center Fun Day event at OSU and plan to go canoeing in the future.

With important help from: AEP, ODW Logistics, The Robert Weiler Company and Georgia-Pacific. Please see our website for a more complete list of those who help the Mentoring Center at

[www.mentoringcenterco.org](http://www.mentoringcenterco.org)