

Mentoring Works



Training Mentors...Transforming Lives

Summer 2010

Mentoring Highlights

How does a mentoring hub improve the world for kids?

- It increases the readiness of new mentors (8.96 on a 10-point scale)
- Mentors score 92% on post-tests following training of mentoring concepts
- Mentoring programs are coached in key practices that help them support and retain mentors—producing better outcomes for kids
- It screens potential mentors to keep our kids safe
- Partner agencies receive \$200,000 of free services annually as they serve over 7,000 of central Ohio's most vulnerable children

Moment of Truth

"I hadn't thought much about the need to train mentors. I just talk to them for half an hour about our program. Today's training makes me see the importance of actually preparing mentors to help kids!"

—Attendee at a "Design & Build" training in Cleveland, OH

Mentoring Center expands outreach to northern Ohio



Leading the Mentoring Center's northern Ohio expansion are Coordinator Timothy Johnson and Program Manager Kimeta Dover. To date, free program design, coaching & mentor training has been provided via the Mentoring Center's Stimulus grant to over 45 programs/100 people.

The Mentoring Center of Central Ohio is expanding its reach and extending its services to northern Ohio. The Center is a recipient of a Stimulus grant for 2010 which allows it to provide groups and organizations in northern Ohio with FREE program guidance and mentor and staff training through December 2010.

To achieve that end, Timothy Johnson has been hired as the Northern Ohio Outreach Coordinator. Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Tim works from Mansfield. Kimeta Dover, Program Manager for The Mentoring Center, devotes 60% of her time to Northern Ohio outreach also. Since the beginning of the grant and in the few months since Timothy's start, both staff members have been connecting with interested youth-serving organizations (i.e. churches, schools, non-profit agencies, etc.) seeking to begin or expand a mentoring program. They conduct best practice coaching sessions for new or evolving mentoring organizations including evaluation guidance and return to train mentors at centralized locations.

Kimeta and Timothy have met with over 100 people representing over 45 youth-serving agencies from Toledo, Fostoria, Fremont, Tiffin, Sandusky, Cuyahoga Valley, Ashland, Akron, Cleveland, Mansfield and Wooster. The goal is to increase the quantity and quality of mentoring so more children can be served.

To refer: Contact Kimeta Dover at (614) 839-2447 X103

The Mentoring Center turns 10!



Eleven years ago, 100 social service professionals named a "mentoring center" as the community resource most needed to improve the lives of children in Central Ohio. They were convened by Columbus Promise for Youth (part of Colin Powell's America's Promise movement). Now, 10 years and 18,000 trained mentors later, the Mentoring Center IS that hub, helping increase the number of children matched with mentors by helping build the skills and outreach of over 40 local mentoring organizations.

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Job, or career? Work, or community service?

The Mentoring Center is developing an exciting new curriculum of courses for young professionals focused on connecting personal career goals and developing leadership skills.

Central Ohio professionals in their 20s & 30s are helping design this package of information to guide toward:

- Professional mentors in the office and community
- Leadership qualities and skills to help young professionals shine
- Community service opportunities



Attendees mingling at the Beyond the BlackBerry event

To find out about upcoming events contact:

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What's UP in Mentoring?

Encouraging Healthy Eating

With a grant from United Healthcare and Youth Service America, Believers for Life empowered youth to do community service projects starting with "Health In Their Own Hands." Youth leaders inspired and educated children who are often home alone after school to prepare healthy snacks. The group also created a recipe book to reinforce healthy eating.



City Year's 35 corps members serve as role models as they run City Year's signature Starfish Corps in three Columbus elementary schools: Windsor and Linden STEM Academies and Weinland Park where corps members work with over 1000 students four days a week. Other programs include mentoring and whole class academic support at Linden McKinley STEM Academy—and Young and City Heroes' Saturday service-learning program for 150 middle and high-school students. (www.cityyear.org/columbus)

City Year Corps Members Bond with Children

City Year corps member Alen Amini with two children in the Starfish Corps after school program.

YouthBuild: Focusing on New Skills and Diplomas!

YouthBuild Columbus Community School is a vocational high school for students ages 17 to 21 working towards a high school diploma and learning residential construction, nursing and technical skills. Their national organization has over 225 U.S. affiliates.

WOSU's Radio Show, All Sides with Ann Fisher



Ann Fisher Show highlights impact of mentoring on poverty

With 5/6 of all children in Columbus living in poverty, it's significant that mentoring provides its greatest impact to kids with few resources. Discussing the issue with WOSU's Anne Fisher (left) were Marilyn Pritchett, Director, Mentoring Center, Ann Bischoff, Public Policy Director, KidsOhio.org, & Cornell Lewis, Executive Director, Expanding Visions Foundation.

Thank you to our key supporters:



With important help from:

The Robert Weiler Company
ODW Logistics
Women's Fund of Central Ohio
Siemer Family Foundation

Help us increase mentoring impact!
Visit us online to donate:

www.mentoringcenterco.org

Web Sites of Interest

"Teaching Tech Savvy Students," June 10, 2010:

www.newcourses@ace-ncc.org—The American Center for Educators Online, part of the National Constitution Center, established by Congress to inspire educators and students. It is independent and non-partisan.

Preparing for College: www.knowhow2go.com

Youth-level Q & A that address real issues, course choices, motivation and finances.

America's Promise Alliance: apbeditor@americaspromise.org

Colin Powell's movement focused on five key resources for children.

Teaching Tolerance: www.tolerance.org

Classroom-based and other ideas for promoting justice and multicultural understanding.

Mentoring Center turns 10! (cont'd)

Currently, the Mentoring Center continues to provide leadership, training and coaching in quality practices with these projects:

- **Girls projects** in Whitehall and two Columbus high schools—plus a multi-county One Girl initiative with the Women's Fund
- **College-based programs** involving mentors from Ohio State, Ohio Dominican & Capital Universities working with children in many low-resourced communities
- **Training over 2000 mentors for Project Mentor** (Big Brothers Big Sisters' major initiative in nearly all Columbus middle and high schools).
- **Ongoing centralized training** for mentors and staff of over 40 partners
- **Northern Ohio expansion** bringing training and guidance to multiple programs
- **Free life prep training** through a Siemer Family Foundation grant
- **And soon, further coaching on research-based quality standards**—part of a national campaign (from MENTOR/ National Mentoring Partnership, the Mentoring Center's national organization).

The Mentoring Center's lead operating partners are Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio and Hands On Central Ohio (formerly Firstlink), which provide in-kind support. The Mentoring Center is, however, independently funded and independently operated, with grants from businesses, individuals and grantors including FCCS, OCJS, Siemer and the Women's Fund.