



MAKE A CONNECTION. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

MENTORING matters

LATE SUMMER 2012

TMP Announces Progress on the State of Mentoring in Pittsburgh

The Mentoring Partnership has had a busy 2012. After the biggest celebration of National Mentoring Month to date, TMP focused on finalizing and launching its new identity. You can see our new logo throughout this newsletter and on all of our communications moving forward. We're excited about our refreshed identity, which captures the support and uplifting nature inherent in mentoring. This project was made possible thanks to funding provided by a grant from The BNY Mellon Charitable Foundation.

While our look has changed, our focus has not. For the past 17 years, we've been working to advance mentoring in Southwestern Pennsylvania. We remain dedicated to our mission of maximizing the potential for mentoring to impact the lives of local youth. It is with this in mind that we are even more excited to announce new statistics that give an encouraging look at the state of mentoring in our community.

TMP is happy to share that the impact mentoring has on our region and its youth is growing. Through our partnerships with more than 140 mentoring agencies, we know that the state of mentoring in our region is stronger than ever. **In 2011, 26,349 youth were mentored in local programs – a 7 percent increase from 2010.**

"We are very excited to see growth in the number of youth being served through mentoring because it reaffirms mentoring's position as a valued community resource," said Colleen Fedor, TMP Executive Director. "The strength of mentoring is a true testament to the dedication and compassion of local programs and the volunteers who give their time to connect with others."

Pittsburghers are continuing to get involved. Last year alone, more than 7,300 people volunteered as mentors with local programs. Of these mentors, thousands have participated in training, by TMP or at their respective agencies, to maximize their impact within a mentoring relationship.

The strength and impact of mentoring continues to grow in the region and the City of Pittsburgh. With a number of community partnerships championing mentoring, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl developed the "Mayor's Mentoring Initiative" two years ago as part of

his servePGH platform. The initiative, which gives City employees leave time to mentor, partners with the Be a 6th Grade Mentor program and has recently expanded to include Everybody Wins!, a lunchtime literacy mentoring program serving elementary school students in Pittsburgh Public Schools.

The Be a 6th Grade Mentor Program, a partnership of The United Way of Allegheny County, YouthFutures Commission, Pittsburgh Public Schools and TMP, is now preparing for its fourth year. The program, which serves nearly 250 kids each year, has grown to include 7th and 8th grade students. Students are paired with caring adult mentors who help them develop career aspirations that propel them toward academic proficiency and, ultimately, success in careers and life.

While the strength of mentoring is apparent in these new statistics, so too is the constant need for mentors. There are currently 988 kids on mentor waiting lists at local programs. For information on TMP, or to find out more about getting involved with a mentoring organization in your community, please visit www.MentoringPittsburgh.org or contact us at 412-281-2535 or info@mentoringpittsburgh.org.



Mentoring continues to grow in Pittsburgh. In 2011, 26,349 youth were mentored in local programs – a 7 percent increase from 2010.



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MENTORING SPOTLIGHT

Goodwill Industries of Conemaugh Valley's Volunteer of the Year

Someone once said, "A lot of people have gone further than they thought they could because someone else thought they could." Steve Purich thinks a lot of people can and has lent his support and encouragement as a volunteer with Goodwill Industries of the Conemaugh Valley's (GICV's) GoodGuides Youth Mentoring Program. Through his involvement, he has logged more than 800 hours as a mentor and has personally recruited more than 40 additional mentors. Because of his efforts, Purich was recently named the Elsie Katz Volunteer Leader of the Year by Goodwill Industries International (GII).

"Mentoring and my involvement with GoodGuides has given me a platform to do what I can to help," Purich said. "It's important for the community to step up. You can take an hour a week and give back to someone who needs it...helping others is what this country was founded on."

Purich, a retired financial planner with a 42-year career, has served consistently as a mentor himself for six youth in the GoodGuides program. Additionally, he was instrumental in organizing "safe mentoring sites" throughout the Johnstown community. He coordinated with leaders and representatives of more than 20 organizations to ensure that these sites provide positive support for youth.



Steve Purich receives his award at the GII's annual Delegate Assembly meeting.

The Elsie Katz Volunteer Leader of the Year Award is given to a local GII volunteer in recognition of outstanding leadership and service to a member GII organization. Phyllis J. Bandstra, GICV President & CEO, nominated Purich, saying "Steve has been highly instrumental in supporting our mission...our agency recognized and honored Steve as one of our Collaborative Partners of the Year for his initiation, involvement and dedication to the GoodGuides Program."

Purich received his award at GII's annual Delegate Assembly meeting in Miami, Florida on June 24th. For more information on GICV's GoodGuides Youth Mentoring Program, visit www.gicv.org.



Students in the PA eMentoring program enjoy interacting with their mentees online.

Technology Supports Mentoring for Local Programs

Technology has evolved rapidly over the years and has become absolutely vital to the success of many organizations. Local mentoring programs are no exception! In fact, several programs in our community rely on the Internet to facilitate mentoring relationships between mentors and mentees who "meet" virtually via the World Wide Web.

Smart Futures' PA eMentoring program allows high schools to provide their students with an online career mentor within the classroom. eMentors communicate with students through emails and an online curriculum that leads to a college and career plan for each mentee. The program is currently offered in various area high schools and is working to expand by partnering with STREAM Academy, the first regional online charter school to connect Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.

"PA eMentoring is convenient and easy to participate in because I can access it from anywhere I can connect to the Internet," said one of the program's mentors. "The flexibility is great and I think students really enjoy communicating via the eMentoring message boards."

Infinite Family is an international non-profit that facilitates distance mentoring of African students. The organization believes that mentoring will help African students build better lives and stronger societies. Their mission is to promote self-reliance - to augment what is taught in the classroom and the home by addressing areas that prepare students for their lives as young adults: Career Preparation, Technology,

Communication and Life Skills. In their model, adults mentor African teens individually and face-to-face via the Internet. Infinite Family mentors are role models who teach, discuss, challenge, encourage, befriend and love. They are agents of self-reliance.

"International mentoring is a perfect use of video communications technology," said Amy Stokes, Founder and Executive Director. "Being able to see each other face-to-face and work directly together, through Infinite Family's Internet platform, allows our mentors and mentees to build strong and enduring relationships that are a powerful influence on each other's lives."

To learn more about these programs, visit www.SmartFutures.org or www.InfiniteFamily.org

Meet **Dana Gold**, TMP's New Director of Programs



TMP is excited to introduce its newest team member, Dana Gold! Dana joined the organization in June 2012 as Director of Programs. Here, she oversees work with mentoring programs, community leaders and volunteers to ensure that high-quality mentoring is available and provided to youth in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

"We are very excited to have Dana join our team and look forward to the positive impact she'll have on our work as we guide and support mentoring programs throughout the community, said Colleen Fedor, TMP Executive Director."

Prior to joining TMP, Dana served as Founding Director of Infinite Family, an innovative, international not-for-profit that connects American mentors with orphaned African children using an Internet platform. During her seven year tenure, she designed and implemented an online mentoring program that resulted in more than 500 mentors impacting the lives of South African Children challenged by HIV/AIDS and poverty. Additionally, she led the research, management and coordination of all new site developments in Bolivia and The Philippines. Prior to founding Infinite Family, Gold worked with The Love of Christ Ministries and founded Sojourner House.

Gold earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pennsylvania State University, a Masters' degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, a Certificate in Non-Profit Management from Carnegie Mellon University and a Certificate in African Studies from the University of Nairobi.

"The Mentoring Partnership has always been an organization I've admired," Dana shared. "I look forward to working with the strong network of mentoring organizations in the region as well as the talented board and staff at TMP."

Please feel free to reach Dana at dgold@mentoringpittsburgh.org or 412-281-2535.



5 Questions with Dana

1. If you could have dinner with anyone in the world (past or present), who would it be?

I would absolutely love to have my Grandma, who passed away 15 years ago, sit down for dinner in my tiny, urban garden with my two growing kids. I know she would love the laughter and the silliness as well as relish the chance to know my little family for all the sweetness it is.

2. What is the last book you read?

I just finished Ann Patchett's State of Wonder. I am currently reading Barbara Kingsolver's The Lacuna. I love books set in other countries as I learn so much about other cultures.

3. What is one of your favorite things about your job?

Getting to work with a great staff and meeting all the incredible people doing inspiring work in our communities.

4. What is one thing people would be surprised to know about you?

I enjoy turbulence when flying. It reminds me that we're moving through forces bigger than ourselves...and it kind of acts like a mini massage!

5. Who is one of your mentors?

Judy Marker, who passed away about 16 years ago, was one of my early mentors. She was the Executive Director for East End Cooperative Ministry and a fierce advocate for the dis-empowered in the East End. She would be doing little dances down the streets of East Liberty seeing all the changes she helped spin into being! I still miss her!



Earlier this month, TMP Director of Marketing and Communications, Kristan Allen had a baby girl, Olivia. Congratulations to the proud parents, Kristan and Andrew, and Big Brother Drew as they welcome Livie home!



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The Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern PA

What We Do

- Help start mentoring programs
- Provide technical assistance to ongoing programs
- Assist in recruiting mentoring volunteers
- Train mentoring volunteers
- Bring together mentoring staff and volunteers

What You Can Do

- Be a mentor
- Host a mentor recruitment presentation
- Offer financial support

Get involved today by contacting us at:

The Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania

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