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News from Connecting Generations

about Creative Mentoring, Seasons of Respect,
Creative Transitions, Bridges to Employment, and More!

April 2010 Newsletter

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Save the Date!

Connecting Generations Celebration Breakfast 2010

to Celebrate our 20th Anniversary
Featuring First Lady Carla Markell

What:

Free Celebration and Fundraising event

Where:

Christiana Hilton
100 Continental Dr. Newark, DE

When:

Tuesday, May 18th
8:30am-9:30am
(Registration begins at 8:00am)

[Click here](#) to register

"Swing into Spring" was a Success!

On Saturday, March 13th, 150 guests withstood the wind and rain to "Swing into Spring" with us at our cocktail party fundraiser at the Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts near the Wilmington Riverfront. Congressman and Mrs. Mike Castle, Senator Tom Carper, and County Executive Chris Coons joined us along with mentors, business leaders, and supporters to celebrate mentoring and honor mission champions from throughout Delaware.



Mr. Coons presented the Robert A. Kasey Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award to Retired Educator Maurice Pritchett for his outstanding work with children and support of mentoring.



Senator Carper presented awards to 9 other outstanding individuals, including: Exemplary Mentors Dolores Sebastian (from Townsend Elementary School), Marc Ward (from Shue-Medill Middle School), and Amanda Kimball (from Lancashire Elementary School); Exemplary School District Mentoring Program Coordinator Ivan Neal (from the Indian River School District); Exemplary School Mentoring Program Coordinator Nathan Palkovitz (from Linden Hill Elementary School); Exemplary Business Coordinator Allan Coletta (from Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics); Seasons of Respect Champions Jennifer Wissman (from W.B. Simpson Elementary School) and Teryl Price (from Maple Lane Elementary School); and Bridges to Employment Champion Vincent Kranz (from Noramco).

Sean "Sinatra" Reilly entertained the crowd (and inspired a few guests to come up and croon with him), while Sugarfoot provided sumptuous food and drinks. Guests also enjoyed the DCCA galleries, which featured contemporary art from local and international artists.

The Big Prize Raffle raised more than \$5000 for Connecting Generations programs! Read about the prizes and lucky winners below.



Thank you to sponsors DuPont, Bank of America, BCD Direct Mail Services, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware, Chesapeake Utilities, Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP, and our many donors for making the night possible.

[Click here](#) to read more and see photos from the event.

The Staff and Board of Directors of Connecting Generations Congratulate the Following Individuals for their Dedicated and Exemplary Service to Support Children in Delaware:



(Pictured left to right: Amanda Kimball, Dolores Sebastian, Ivan Neal, Nathan Palkovitz, Allan Coletta, Jennifer Wissman, and Stacey Altemus Connecting Generations Board Chair)

Exemplary Mentors:

Dolores Sebastian, a native Delawarean and DuPont retiree, has been mentoring at Townsend Elementary School in Middletown for 9 years. She has mentored 10 students one-on-one, and spends additional time once a week in a classroom helping many of the students who need a little extra friendship and caring. Dolores also helps the School Coordinator recruit and coordinate the mentoring program at Townsend Elementary. School Coordinator Ann Lehman says Dolores' dedication has been a blessing to the school and the children alike. In her spare time, Dolores and her husband, and best friend of 31 years, Bob enjoy the freedom and new opportunities of retirement.

Marc Ward has been a mentor for 5 years, and is currently mentoring 3 students at Shue-Medill Middle School during his lunch break from Creative Mentoring Business Partner Bank of America. Marc says he feels truly blessed and feels it is imperative to give back through mentoring. He believes he gains more from his mentees than he gives to them. School Coordinator Shawn McCarren says Marc is an unbelievable combination of unconditional love with a bit of "tough love" throw in for good measure. Marc has coached various sports for 18 years, and enjoys the outdoors with family and friends.

Amanda Kimball has been mentoring for 10 years and has been volunteering as the School Mentoring Program Coordinator at Lancashire Elementary School for the past 2 years. She has been a passionate and dedicated mentor to 8 children. Since beginning as the Volunteer Coordinator, she has built the program from just 1 mentor (herself) to 8 active mentors. Her enthusiasm and dedication to growing and supporting this program are greatly appreciated by the school and the Creative Mentoring program staff.

Exemplary School District Mentoring Program Coordinators:

Ivan Neal is the district-wide Mentoring Program Coordinator for the Indian River School District and is a model for what a district coordinator should be. His school district has a record 450 mentors! Ivan is also a mentor himself in schools throughout the district. He currently mentors 5 students in grades 1 - 9. Ivan has been a wonderful mentor for many years and has utilized his passion to strengthen the district wide program.

Exemplary School Mentoring Program Coordinator:

Nathan Palkovitz is the Guidance Counselor and Mentoring Coordinator at Linden Hill Elementary School in the Red Clay School District. He loves this job because it gives him daily opportunities to play a positive role in the lives of young people. Creative Mentoring staff have seen him consistently demonstrate his commitment to the mentoring program. He is always willing to give whatever is needed to ensure a successful mentor/mentee relationship from start to finish. Nathan says he considers it a privilege to place great mentors with great students. Outside of school, Nathan has enjoyed mentoring in Wilmington with organizations like Freedom Outreach. Nathan lives with his wife Shannon and their daughters in Landenberg, PA.

Exemplary Business Coordinator:

Allan Coletta is Senior Director of Engineering and Facilities for Creative Mentoring Business Partner Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Consumables Operations in DE, and is a mentor at Brader Elementary School in Newark. He serves as the Business Mentoring Coordinator for Siemens and spear-headed the recruitment of 12 wonderful and diverse mentors. He facilitated a partnership between Brader Elementary and Siemens, as well as on-site mentor training at Siemens. Additionally, Allan worked diligently to secure a grant from Siemens for the school's mentoring program, enabling the position of Mentoring Coordinator to be maintained for the 2009-2010 school year. Allan has served on the DE Business Mentoring Alliance since it's inception in 2004.

Seasons of Respect Champions:

Jennifer Wissman has been a school counselor for 7 years, with the last 4 at W.B Simpson Elementary School in Camden. She is actively involved in teaching classroom guidance lessons. Since the fall of 2006 she has been working with Connecting Generations' staff to promote the Seasons of Respect program and share her belief about what an asset it is for the classroom guidance curriculum being presented to the 5th grade population. During the pilot year of the Seasons of Respect program, she also helped to ensure that the lessons in the program were connected to the American School Counselor Association's National Standards. Her desire and interest in the Seasons of Respect has helped make this program a success in its implementation by school counselors and teachers within the state of Delaware.

Teryl Price introduced Seasons of Respect to Maple Lane Elementary School in Wilmington in the 2008 - 2009 school year. Both the teachers and the students responded enthusiastically. With the Brandywine School District reconfiguring their elementary schools from K-3 to K-5, in 2009-2010, Teryl shared the program's success with other elementary school counselors in the district urging them to take advantage of this effective resource in creating a positive school climate and addressing common 5th grade issues such as bullying and labeling. Eight schools now have adopted the program in the Brandywine School District. Teryl looks forward to piloting a fourth grade version of Seasons of Respect in the near future.

Bridges to Employment Champion:

Vincent Kranz has been instrumental in establishing the Bridges to Employment Program while employed at Noramco, one of the key sponsors of the program. Vince was instrumental on the planning committee that wrote and received a \$100,000 grant from Johnson and Johnson to support low income students in the Southbridge section of Wilmington. In addition, Vince mentors students himself and has gotten fellow colleagues involved in mentoring. Vince also wrote a web based program that helps students keep track of their grades and incentives they have earned through program participation.

We are happy to announce our Big Prize Raffle winners:

\$1000 Cash Prize:
Donna Luff

A Weekend Stay at An Inn By the Bay:
Rodney Brittingham

A Weekend Stay in Cape May:
Cynthia Osborne

\$250 ShopRite Shopping Spree:
Chas Riegal

Dinner Bundle:
Lewis Carty

Spa Bundle:
Lydia Anderson

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who sold and bought tickets this year to help support

Creative Mentoring Corner

**You scream, I scream, we all
scream "Thank you!"**



The end of the school year is quickly approaching and we at Creative Mentoring wanted take the opportunity to thank all of our mentors for their willingness to

continue to serve the children of Delaware. We invite all Creative Mentors to join us for one of our mentor appreciation ice cream socials being held throughout the state. Following a short recognition ceremony, attending mentors will receive a gift, be eligible to

our programs.

Upcoming Creative Mentoring Training Sessions

New Castle County
 April 15th 1:00pm- 4:00pm
 Bear Public Library
 or
 April 24th 10:30am-1:30pm
 Brandywine Hundred Public Library

Kent County
 April 20th 2:30pm-5:30pm
 Smyrna Public Library

Sussex County
 April 23th 10:00am-1:00pm
 Georgetown Public Library

Click here to register for any of these or other sessions to begin mentoring this spring.

win door prizes and have the opportunity to enjoy ice cream with other Creative Mentors and mentor supporters.

Please join us at one of the upcoming mentor appreciation events:

Northern NCC:
Lombardy Elementary School
May 12th from 5-6

Southern NCC:
Brick Mill Elementary School
May 13th from 5-7

Kent:
North Dover Elementary
May 26th from 5-6

Sussex:
Georgetown Middle School
June 3rd from 4-5

To RSVP for this event please go to: www.creativementoring.org or call Jen at 302.656.2122 ext.18.

Imagine a World With Us



Join us to learn more about Connecting Generations at a free, one-hour "Imagine a World" open house event in 2010:

April 9th 9:30am-10:30am
Community Service Building, Wilmington

April 15th 3:30pm-4:30pm
Millsboro Library

Register today by clicking [here](#) or calling 302.656.2122 ext. 12.

Attention School Counselors!

Representatives from Seasons of Respect and the Creative Mentoring program will be at the Delaware School Counselor Association Conference on April 20th. Stop by our table for information about getting your school involved in our programs, or just to say hi.

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