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## News from Connecting Generations

about Creative Mentoring, Seasons of Respect,  
and Creative Transitions

August 2009 Newsletter

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### In Their Own Words

*"I mentor because I love to first of all, and secondly I feel that I can help some young child develop to their fullest potential. I continue to mentor . . . for the good feelings that you derive from making a connection with a young person. . . . As a retired federal employee and retired Navy man, I could be doing a lot of things other than mentoring, but I choose to mentor for the personal satisfaction I get from doing it. Passing along a little love and learning to a child that can use it is the least that I can do at this stage of my life."*

-Clement B. Nettles, who has a total of 15 years mentoring experience, including the last 3 years at North Dover Elementary School



[Click here to read more Creative Mentoring stories](#)

If you'd like to share your story and photo, email it to [sferrell@connecting-generations.org](mailto:sferrell@connecting-generations.org)

#### Connecting Generations Partners with Bridge to Employment Program



#### Local Businesses Support Mentoring!

Businesses throughout Delaware can be great sources of mentors and other support for mentoring. We appreciate our active Creative Mentoring Business Partners and look forward to forming new partnerships this year.

This summer has been quite busy already, with returning partners **Aglient**, **BlackRock** and the **Kent County Levy Court** all working to prepare

Read more about this important program below.

### Seasons of Respect Program to Begin this Fall



If you're interested in getting your school's fifth graders involved in this free anti-bullying program, contact Joanna Carty at 302-656-2122 ext. 10 or [jcarty@connecting-generations.org](mailto:jcarty@connecting-generations.org).  
Read more about the program [here](#).

### The Results Are In!

Teachers, parents, mentors, and mentees told us: the Creative Mentoring program works!:

During School Year 2008/2009:

- **98%** of teachers and **96%** of parents recommend their child continue in the Creative Mentoring program next year
- **93%** of students enjoy school more because they are mentored
- **92%** of parents saw an improvement in their child's self-confidence because of mentoring
- **73%** of teachers saw an improvement in mentored students' grades
- **78%** of teachers saw an improvement in mentored students' attitude towards learning

[See more statistics here](#)

their current mentors and actively recruiting new mentors for this school year. Other partners can contact us to schedule new recruitment events and training sessions.

New business partner **ShopRite** supermarkets has recruited 37 employees from their 4 New Castle County stores to begin mentoring in our partner schools and other mentoring programs this fall. ShopRite's Human Resource Director and General Counsel Chris Kenny has led the charge to make mentoring a key initiative for the Kenny Family ShopRites of Delaware this year and worked closely with both **Lt. Governor Matt Denn** and Connecting Generations to get employees recruited, trained, and placed in time to mentor this fall.

Lt. Governor Denn also played a key role in recruitment efforts at **Bank of America**. President Ric Struthers, Market President Tim Huval, and VP Community Relations Manager April Birmingham held a very successful mentoring recruitment event on August 4th, where they recruited 74 employees in one day from their Deerfield and Wilmington offices! They are actively working on recruiting more employees to begin mentoring this fall. Connecting Generations is working with several partner mentoring programs to help Bank of America employees find the mentoring program that best fits their desired volunteer experience. Bank of America has also started a group mentoring initiative with Howard High School.

If you'd like to get your company involved in mentoring or if you think that there are others in your workplace who might like to mentor, contact Rachel Markowitz at [Rmarkowitz@connecting-generations.org](mailto:Rmarkowitz@connecting-generations.org) or 302-656-2122 ext. 15 to talk about opportunities to have your business support mentoring.

### City of Wilmington Mentor Recruitment Initiative

**Goal: 500 new mentors  
including 50 city employees**

The Wilmington Mentoring Commission and Mayor James Baker are trying to recruit 500 new mentors in Wilmington this fall. The Mayor's office held a press conference on July 27th to announce the initiative and will be hosting two

\*Statistics are based on End of Year Surveys submitted by students, teachers, mentors, and parents for grades 1-8.

### "Imagine a World" With Us!

Join us for one of our next free one-hour "Imagine a World" open houses to learn more about what's coming up at Connecting Generations.

**August 31st 7:00pm-8:00pm**  
**Jester's Crossing, Bear**  
-hosted by Benita Allen-

or

**September 3rd 5:30pm-6:30pm**  
**Community Services Building,**  
**Wilmington**  
-hosted by Darryl Simms-

Register today by clicking [here](#)

### Register for a Creative Mentoring Training Session

If you're interested in becoming a mentor this fall, whether in a Creative Mentoring school mentoring program, after school mentoring program, or other site-based mentoring program, apply now and register for an upcoming training session near you.

### Support Connecting Generations

*Have some time to volunteer during the week in a local school or our office?*

*Want to help cover the costs of our free mentor training? (every little bit helps)*

recruitment breakfasts next week to get businesses and religious institutions in Wilmington involved in mentoring. Business representatives are invited on August 18th and faith representatives are invited on August 19th. [Click here for details and to register.](#)

## Bridge to Employment Program Joins Connecting Generations

Statistics indicate that less than 10% of eighth-graders residing in the Southbridge and Eastside areas of Wilmington graduate from high school. However, a successful community partnership between the Christina School District and Noramco, Inc. called the Bridge-to-Employment program (BTE) has resulted in a significant turnaround for students from these neighborhoods. Seventy percent of the BTE students, who began as eighth-graders, graduated this year (2009). Some have already been accepted into post-secondary training programs or college. Several of the students graduated with honors, received college scholarships, and were recognized for their school accomplishments and community service. Participating students achieved marked improvements in grades, attendance, test scores, grade point averages, and dropout rates compared to students who were not in the Bridge-To-Employment program.

For the past 5 years, 20 students who reside in these neighborhoods have participated in Wilmington's BTE program. BTE is an innovative achievement program that has helped young people build solid futures through school-to-career development, workplace learning opportunities, mentoring, family involvement and career exploration in healthcare.

The Bridge-To-Employment program has become part of Connecting Generations' programs. The BTE program has shown enough promise that a new group of students is starting in the program this fall at Bayard Middle School. For more information, contact Joanne Parker-Henry at [servnt@earthlink.net](mailto:servnt@earthlink.net) or at 302-378-7251.

**Share Your Stories and Advice**

Want to get involved in a committee or Board?

Click here to find out how you can help us continue to make a difference in children's lives in Delaware!

The Connecting Generations Facebook page is a resource for mentors and coordinators to ask questions and share experience and advice. Become a Fan today and participate on the Discussion Board.

## Book Recommendation

We hope you'll enjoy this new feature, where mentors and coordinators review and recommend resources. Below is our first Book Recommendation, provided by Jen DeHoff, Mt. Pleasant Elementary School's Mentoring Program Coordinator.

*"The Women Who Raised Me" by Victoria Rowell was suggested to me by a co-worker who saw her speak in Wilmington. Many people recognize her from The Cosby Show or a long time role she played on The Young and the Restless. This book is a memoir of Ms. Rowell's life as a foster child. It takes place in the northeast - mostly Maine, Massachusetts and New York. Ms. Rowell was blessed because the homes in which she was placed were loving and supportive. She was not mentored in the sense that some of us are familiar, like when a mentor goes to a school once a week for an hour, but her book is a tribute to the women with whom she came to know throughout her life who helped encourage and guide her during childhood and young adulthood. Her second foster mother discovered her talent of dancing at a young age and oversaw her placement in a ballet school, which in order to attend she received a scholarship and had to leave home at a young age with the support of her social worker and the state. This book was an inspirational read because of the many people she introduces during her story who serve as role models and figures of influence during her life story. I recommend this book not only because of how well it's written but also because of how it relates to the fundamentals of mentoring and to this meaningful organization of which we are all a part.*

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