



Creative Mentoring News

Building a better future, one child at a time.

Creative Mentoring is a program of Connecting Generations



Refer-A-Friend Campaign was a Success!

Our first ever Refer-A-Friend Mentor Recruitment Campaign this fall was a success! We recruited nine new mentors in six schools. The premise was simple: current mentors would tell their friends about the positive impact mentoring had in their lives and invite them to apply to become Creative Mentors. After the new mentor completed the application, screening, and training process, the referring mentor's school would receive a \$25 gift certificate to buy supplies for its mentoring program.

The schools benefiting from their mentors' efforts are: Delaware School for the Deaf (\$50), Highlands Elementary (\$25), Lombardy Elementary (\$25), Lulu Ross Elementary (\$25), Providence Creek Academy (\$25), and Rehoboth Elementary (\$75). Thanks to those mentors who encouraged their friends to get involved and to those who have become mentors. And thanks to Valero we will reopen the Refer-A-Friend Campaign this summer (see article on page 3).

Mini-Grant Program to Begin this Spring

We are happy to announce that, thanks also to Valero, we are able to re-institute the Creative Mentoring Mini-Grant Program, which provides funds to school-based mentoring programs for materials, supplies, or events.

Requests for proposals for these competitive grants will be announced in late Spring, for payment of up to \$500 in September 2008.

Updated Creative Mentoring Website to Go Live in April

The Connecting Generations website has been redesigned and is already live. The CM sub-site, still at www.creativementoring.org, is also being revamped. The information and resources you rely on will still be there, but we're also adding, among other things, a Coordinator Corner and a Mentor Corner to provide additional support and resources. Check it out!

Self-Esteem Activities for Mentors and Mentees

These suggestions are taken from the Creative Mentoring training manual, *Elements of Effective Mentoring*. Refer to either CM manual or the new CM website for more activities.

My Name is a Poem (Appropriate for Grades 2-5)

Goal: To help the child focus on his own unique characteristics by using his name as the basis for a writing activity.

Materials: Paper, pencil, crayons, markers, etc.

What to do: Have your mentee write his first name across the top of the paper. Next, have him write the letters down the left-hand side and then end the column with his last name. Tell your mentee to think of a word that describes him for each of the vertical letters and read the poem! (For younger children, you can either write a poem for your mentee or work with your mentee to look up words in a dictionary.) When the poem is finished, let your mentee decorate his poem with crayons and other art tools.

Example:

T	A	M	E	K	A							
T	a	k	a	t	i	v	e					
A	a	c	t	i	v	e						
M	u	s	i	c	a	l						
E	n	e	r	g	e	t	i	c				
K	i	t	t	e	n	p	l	a	y	i	n	g
A	f	f	e	c	i	o	n	a	t	e		
J	o	n	e	s								

Sing A Song of Self-Esteem (Appropriate for Grades 4-8)

Goal: To help your mentee achieve a positive self-image through a medium popular with adolescents - music.

Materials: CD with one or more of the suggested songs; CD player; lyric sheet(s) of the song(s) you select.

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Tell Us Your Story!

Let us know how mentoring has affected your life. Or, brag to us about the great improvements you've seen in your mentee since you began meeting. *We'd love to hear and share your story!*

Email it to Stephanie Ferrell, Director of Development, at sferrell@connecting-generations.org.

Creative Mentoring Technology Corner

Great Websites to Visit with Your Mentee

www.kids.nationalgeographic.com—National Geographic's kids' site offers activities and information about the environment, animals, and different cultures in a very fun, kid-friendly way. There are some amazing videos (try the one about the zombie snails or the suspense video of the octopus and the egret) that are sure to instigate interesting conversation.

www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov—The U.S. government's bully prevention site for kids offers lots of advice, stories, and activities for kids who are bullies or who have been bullied, and advice for adults who are working with kids who are either bullies or victims.

Self-Esteem Activities *continued*

What to Do: Listen to one or more of the following songs with your mentee:

- "Greatest Love of All: - George Benson
- "Respect Yourself" - Staple Singers
- "I'm Special" - Pat Benatar
- "Reach Out and Touch" - Diana Ross

- Include titles and artists your mentee likes

Ask your mentee to read aloud the verses of the song(s) from the lyric sheet(s). Talk to him about what the lyrics of the song(s) mean to him.

Follow-up: Assist your mentee in writing a song or a rap about his own positive feelings.



Creative Mentoring Works!

Statewide Statistics from the 2006-2007 School Year*

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

Mentoring Increases Self-Confidence in Students

90% of parents saw an increase in their child because of mentoring

86% of mentors saw an increase in their mentee

Mentoring Helps Children Build Relationships

87% of mentors felt that their mentee trusted them more throughout the school year

68% of teachers felt that their mentored students were able to build better relationships with peers

71% of teachers felt that their mentored students showed more respect for adults

75% of parents felt that their mentored children had a better relationship with their family

Students Like Being Mentored

92% of mentees want to have a mentor again next year

81% of mentees enjoy school more because they are mentored

Teachers Like Creative Mentoring

A majority of teachers saw an improvement in mentored students':

- Ability to work well with others
- Attitude towards learning
- Classroom behavior

60% of teachers saw an improvement in mentored student's grades

90% of teachers recommend their student continue to be mentored by a Creative Mentor next year

Employees Like Being Creative Mentors

70% of mentors who were encouraged by their employer to mentor felt more productive when they returned after mentoring

Parents Like Creative Mentoring

90% of parents recommend their child continue in the Creative Mentoring program next year

Creative Mentoring Works. We Just Need More Mentors.

97% of in-school coordinators of mentoring programs say that their greatest need is **MORE MENTORS!**