



# Creative Mentoring® News

**Building a better future, one child at a time.**

Creative Mentoring is a program of Connecting Generations

Fall 2007

Volume 14 Issue 1

www.creativementoring.org \* 302-656-2122 \* Toll Free: 1-877-202-9050

## Getting to Know You...!

*Here it is, that very first day with my assigned student. What will I do? What will I say? What if he/she doesn't like me? How do I even start developing a relationship with this child?*

Oh, that dreaded first day. Any experienced mentor will tell you they had thoughts just like these when they first began mentoring. They will also tell you, it becomes easier as you get to know each other. But how do you get through those awkward initial meetings?

Start off on the right foot by letting the child know that you are a little uncomfortable too. Tell them (even if it's not exactly true) that you don't know much about the school and ask them to give you a tour of the building. Let them point out their classroom(s), the cafeteria, the gym, and have them introduce you to the librarian or the nurse. This activity immediately establishes the child as "the expert" on their school and helps them feel more sure of themselves with you.

Find out a little bit about them. What grade are they in? What's their teacher's name? Do they have a nickname? Here are some other questions from "My Mentor and Me" by Dr. Susan G. Weinberger (the Governor's Prevention Partnership for Connecticut Mentoring Partnership, 2001):

- ◆ How many brothers and sisters do you have? What kinds of activities do you do with them? A young student may enjoy drawing a picture of their family for you.
- ◆ How long have you lived in this town/home?
- ◆ What do you like to do in your free time? Sports? Games?
- ◆ Who are your friends? What do you do together?
- ◆ What are your favorite TV shows? Favorite movies?

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## Spread Your Enthusiasm!

### Refer-A-Friend!

Connecting Generations, home of Creative Mentoring, is sponsoring a Mentor Referral Incentive Program throughout Fall and Winter 2007. We know that you, our mentors, are our best form of promotion and recruitment because you've seen the great impact mentoring has on the lives of adults and children.

Take the time to tell your friends and colleagues about your experience as a mentor. There are children waiting for their own mentor in every school throughout Delaware.

For every newly-referred mentor who completes the application, background check, and training and then is placed with a child and begins mentoring, your school's mentor program will receive a \$25 gift card to buy supplies and games for its mentor meeting room.

To qualify for this program, advise your friend or colleague to list you as a reference on the online application at [www.creativementoring.org](http://www.creativementoring.org) and choose the Referral Source: Refer-A-Friend. We'll take care of the rest!

### 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 [stephanie@connecting-generations.org](mailto:stephanie@connecting-generations.org).

# Activities

## Getting to Know You *continued*

- ◆ How would you describe yourself? (Messy, neat, funny, wild, quiet, etc.)
- ◆ What are your favorite foods?
- ◆ What are your favorite colors?
- ◆ Do you like to read? What is your favorite book?
- ◆ Do you have any pets? What kind, and what is its name?
- ◆ What is your favorite school activity?
- ◆ What is your favorite school subject?
- ◆ What do you want to be when you grow up?
- ◆ When is your birthday?

When you've finished these questions, let your mentee ask you the same questions. Include where you work and what your job is (or was). All of these topics can lead to wonderful future conversations with your mentee and suggest future activities for you to share.

Before you leave, make sure to tell your mentee why you are there and why you decided to become a mentor. Tell them when you will be meeting with them again. Explain what the process is when you come to the school (you sign in and then the office calls them up to meet you, for example. Your school's procedure may be different.) Tell them how they will know when you are unable to come (the teacher may tell them, or the guidance counselor). Finally, plan at least one thing you will do together the next time you meet.

Remember: as you get to know each other, each meeting will become easier and feel more comfortable. Soon you will be the experienced mentor, encouraging others as they start mentoring for the first time! Note – if you have any problems with your mentee, remember that the school coordinator is your resource for any questions or concerns that you have. And Creative Mentoring is always available to support you, just give us a call!

## Modeling Respect in your Mentor Relationship

Make no mistake about it, first impressions count. This is a new idea for many children who are often completely unaware of how quickly others form impressions of them from the way they dress and behave. It is appropriate at any age to introduce them to – or reinforce – good manners that can serve them well for the rest of their lives. Besides showing respect for the people around them, good manners will help them make and retain friends and succeed at their jobs. (from *My Mentor and Me* by Dr. Susan G. Weinberger, *The Governor's Prevention Partnership*, 2003.)

As a mentor, you have the opportunity to model good behavior when you speak to each other and when you speak to others in front of your mentee. As author of *Lady of Lupin's Book of Etiquette* (Peachtree) Babette Cole notes, once children see that using good manners and being charming makes them appealing to others -- which leads them to getting what they want -- kids catch on quickly. Before you meet with your mentee, refresh your communication skills by referring to your Mentoring Manuals (Middle, chapter 6, page 7 and Elementary, section 3).

The Amy Vanderbilt Complete Book of Etiquette (Doubleday) lists the following as the basics that should be taught to all:

- ◆ To say "hello," "please," "thank you," "excuse me" and "I'm sorry."
- ◆ To show respect for other people.
- ◆ To not interrupt conversations of others.
- ◆ To be quiet in public places.
- ◆ To not touch or play with other people's possessions unless invited to.

### TECHNOLOGY CORNER

#### Great Websites to Visit with Your Mentee

**www.exploratorium.org**—Exploratorium, the Museum of Science, Art, and Human Perception, offers a great range of web activities focused on the science of everything from cooking to skateboarding to yo-yoing. Search your student's favorite sport or pastime and have fun learning together!

**www.philamuseum.org**—Philadelphia Museum of Art offers the opportunity to view a variety of works of art from around the world online, while listening to audio files describing their history and meaning. Enjoy!



## Support Creative Mentoring through United Way

*Did you know that you can now help us spread mentoring to more Delaware children by designating all or part of your United Way contribution to Creative Mentoring?*

It's simple. Just complete the United Way designation form with the amount you wish to contribute to Creative Mentoring and be sure to include our address and designation number as follows:

Creative Mentoring  
100 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1115  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
**Designation Number: 9344**

You do your best every week when you meet with your children. Creative Mentoring pledges to continue to do our best to meet the needs of ever increasing numbers of children in our Delaware schools.

## Gone Mentoring

We're trying to raise awareness

about mentoring in the workplace. Employer Mentor Coordinators will be receiving Creative Mentoring Desk Tents to give to active employee mentors. These are a visual way to show that you are away from your desk because you're "Gone Mentoring" and provides an opportunity for your co-workers to ask you about mentoring and how they can get involved.

### Co-workers qualify for the Refer-A-Friend Program!

If you don't work for one of our partnering businesses but would like a "Gone Mentoring" Desk Tent, please let us know.

## Organization and Staff Update

You may have seen or heard the name Connecting Generations on the newsletter or when you called the office, but you're not sure how it fits with Creative Mentoring. Connecting Generations is the home of **Creative Mentoring**, **Seasons of Respect**, and **Creative Transitions**, three great programs that, cohesively, fulfill our mission to provide creative approaches to services that help children and adults lead purposeful, fulfilling and self-directed lives. To learn more about all of Connecting Generations' great programs, visit our new website at: [www.connecting-generations.org](http://www.connecting-generations.org).

Rachel Markowitz has been promoted as our new Manager of Recruitment and Training. She will be working with school coordinators and managing the application process. If you have any questions or concerns about mentoring, Rachel is the one to call!



Stephanie Ferrell has joined the team as the new Development Manager. She will be working with our business partners and funders, planning events, and raising awareness about the work being done

by the organization and all of our mentors.

Celeste Hall has left the organization to pursue other opportunities. We wish her the best in all of her endeavors!

Laura Anderson retired in July. While the Board of Directors searches for her replacement, Pamela Leland, PhD, has been hired from the Nonprofit Center at La Salle University as Interim Executive Director. We wish Laura a happy and well-deserved retirement and welcome Pam to Connecting Generations!

### NOTABLE QUOTES

"Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light." Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965), Alsatian medical missionary and philosopher

"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up." John Andrew Holmes, Jr. (1841-1935), American writer and minister



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## Save the Date!

Invitation to Follow, visit [www.jazzinjanuary.org](http://www.jazzinjanuary.org)

Connecting Generations' annual fundraising event,

### *Jazz in January*

will be held on Saturday, January 19, 2008 from 6pm-11pm  
at the DuPont Country Club.

Connecting Generations will be honoring **Senator Thomas Carper** with Connecting Generations' 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Lifetime Achievement Award and long-term mentors from across Delaware for their outstanding commitment.

The event will feature: \*Fine Cuisine \*Silent Auction \*Dancing to live jazz by the Tim Laushey Orchestra

January is both **Jazz Education Month** and **National Mentoring Month**. Jazz in January is an event designed around a Jazz theme to support Connecting Generation's education and mentoring programs. "*Hot Jazz on a Cold Night*" not only warms the spirits of all those present but also the spirits of those who benefit from Connecting Generations programs throughout the year.