



Connecting Generations

Creative Mentoring® Seasons of Respect Creative Transitions

Helping adults and children reach their full potential

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Lt. Governor Matt Denn announced his support of mentoring and helped honor mentor champions at National Mentoring Month event

Wilmington, Del. – **Lt. Governor Matt Denn** helped Connecting Generations celebrate mentors and mentor champions at their annual event “Jazz in January 2009” on Saturday, January 31st at the DuPont Country Club. January is National Mentoring Month, and this annual event celebrates mentoring and raises funds for its mentoring and education programs. Lt. Governor Denn informed the group that he had recently been trained by Connecting Generations’ Creative Mentoring program and is starting to mentor at Bancroft Elementary School in Wilmington. He also reiterated the Markell-Denn administration’s support of mentoring.

Senator Tom Carper, who has been a longtime supporter of mentoring and was honored at last year’s “Jazz in January” event with the Lifetime Achievement Award because of his advocacy for mentoring, spoke about the importance of mentoring and presented awards to Exemplary Mentors and Exemplary Mentoring Program Coordinators from schools around Delaware. Exemplary Awardees included Exemplary Mentors Ray Dotts (of Camden), Victor Murray (of Selbyville), and Dirk Goverts (of Bear) and Exemplary Mentoring Program Coordinators Barbara Derby (from BlackRock Investment Management Corporation, Wilmington), Jo Anne Rosenfeld (from North Dover Elementary School, Dover), Jennifer DeHoff (from Mt. Pleasant Elementary School, Wilmington), and Barbara Jo German (from Delaware School for the Deaf, Newark) for their exceptional commitment to mentoring.

The Senator also helped Executive Director Rich Kapolka present letters of commendation from Delaware’s Department of Education to principals and mentoring program coordinators from North Dover Elementary School; Sterck Delaware School for the Deaf; Marshall Elementary School; Wilmington Manor School ; Mt. Pleasant Elementary School; and the Indian River School District.

Rich Kapolka, Executive Director, also announced two new initiatives: Expanding Creative Mentor training to high school students and promoting Mentor Programs in Community/Faith Based organizations. The number of mentors has steadily decreased since then Governor Carper’s promotion of mentoring in the mid 90’s. These initiatives are aimed at increasing the times when mentoring can take place and by using the energy and potential of high school students to serve as positive role models to Elementary age youth.

The individuals honored with Connecting Generations’ 10th Annual Robert A. Kasey, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award were **former state legislator Jane Maroney, Edward F.**

"Mike" Eaton, and James Patton, Sr. for their outstanding commitment to the mission of the organization and for being mentoring champions. The three Lifetime Achievement Awardees are longtime Board members and have been involved with Connecting Generations since its founder, Robert A. Kasey, Jr. started the "Creative Grandparenting" program in 1990. Together these three vision champions and former Board Chairs have led the organization through substantial growth and change and the recent transition of leadership to a new Executive Director and Board. They were honored for their long volunteer service to the organization and for their combined leadership during the transition to today's Connecting Generations.

Jazz in January is a fundraising and celebration event that supports Connecting Generations' programs Creative Mentoring, Seasons of Respect, and Creative Transitions. Jazz in January will include an exciting silent auction, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and dancing to the Tim Laushey Jazz and Swing Band, which was back by popular demand.

Jazz in January celebrates both Jazz Education Month and National Mentoring Month. The event is designed around a Jazz theme and supports Connecting Generations' education and mentoring programs. AstraZeneca, DuPont, and NKS Distributors sponsored the event.

Connecting Generations is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, offering the programs Creative Mentoring, Seasons of Respect, and Creative Transitions in all three counties in Delaware. Their mission is to help Delaware's children and adults lead purposeful, fulfilling and self-directed lives through mentoring and other programs. The website is www.connecting-generations.org. Event and award information is available on the web at www.jazzinjanuary.org.

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The following contact info is not for publication and for media use only.

Digital photos of Lt. Governor Matt Denn at the Creative Mentoring training, any of the event speakers and the Lifetime Achievement Awardees are available. Contact Stephanie Ferrell, Director of Development, at (302)656-2122 ext. 14 or sferrell@connecting-generations.org.



Available for interviews:

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