



Connecting Generations

Creative Mentoring® Seasons of Respect Creative Transitions

Helping adults and children reach their full potential

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Local Mentor to be honored at National Mentoring Month event

Wilmington, Del. – Dirk Goverts of Bear will be honored by Senator Tom Carper and Connecting Generations for his exemplary work as a volunteer mentor at Connecting Generations' annual celebration event, "Jazz in January" during National Mentoring Month. Exemplary Mentors were nominated and selected based on their outstanding volunteer service and helping Connecting Generations, home of the Creative Mentoring program, achieve its mission to help Delaware's children reach their full potential. **Senator Tom Carper and Lt. Governor Matt Denn** will participate in the ceremony.

Dirk Goverts has been mentoring at Marshall Elementary School for four years. He has worked with 11 different students, focusing on academics and working with the "Quick Read" program. He is faithful in his attendance and continues to take on new students. He is currently working with four students, helping them with proficiency and comprehension. Dirk's School Coordinator, Karen Peterson, says Dirk is the "type of mentor we would like to clone!"

A total of seven exemplary mentors and program coordinators will be honored on January 31st in addition to three other distinguished honorees: **Jane Maroney, Edward F. "Mike" Eaton and James Patton, Sr., who will receive the 10th Annual Robert A. Kasey, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award.** This award is presented each year to individuals who have distinguished themselves through personal growth and contributions to individual and community development.

Connecting Generations will host "Jazz in January 2009" on Saturday, January 31, from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the DuPont Country Club. January is National Mentoring Month and Jazz Education Month, and this annual event celebrates mentoring and raises funds for its mentoring and education programs, Creative Mentoring, Seasons of Respect, and Creative Transitions. Jazz in January, designed around a Jazz theme, will include an exciting silent auction, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and dancing to the Tim Laushey Jazz and Swing Band, which is back by popular demand. AstraZeneca, a long time supporter of Delaware children and education, is sponsoring 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. Our 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.

Tickets for the event start at \$75, with a discount for active mentors. Sponsors are welcome. Donations can be made in honor of any of the awardees. Information about tickets, sponsorship, and donations is available at (302)656-2122, on the web at www.jazzinjanuary.org, or by mailing Connection Generations, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 1115, Wilmington, DE 19801.

Event and award information is available on the web at www.jazzinjanuary.org.

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Not for print. For media information only:

A digital photo of the award winner is available. Please contact Stephanie Ferrell at sferrell@connecting-generations.org or (302)656-2122 ext. 14.