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## News from Connecting Generations

about Creative Mentoring, Seasons of Respect,  
Creative Transitions, Bridge to Employment, and More!

January 2010 Newsletter

# January is National Mentoring Month

Connecting Generations thanks all mentors and Creative Mentoring Partners and Supporters for the difference you are making in the lives of Delaware's children.



*"How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment, we can start now, start slowly changing the world. How lovely that everyone, great and small, can make their contribution...how we can always, always give something, even if it is only kindness."  
- Anne Frank*

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**Senator Carper Celebrates National Mentoring Month**



Senator Tom Carper, Delaware's most famous mentor, reflected last January on mentoring:

*"It is so important that every child in Delaware have a fair start in life, and often that means kids need more positive role models in their lives. I've been blessed all of my life with invaluable mentors who took me under their wings, gave me encouragement, set an example and, sometimes, gave me a "Dutch uncle talk" when I needed one..." [Read more here.](#)*

**JANUARY** January is National Mentoring Month!



Mentors and Mentor Coordinators are encouraged to visit these websites to gain inspiration and to help to generate ideas about how you can celebrate National Mentoring Month:

[www.nationalmentoringmonth.org/](http://www.nationalmentoringmonth.org/)


[www.serve.gov/mentor.asp](http://www.serve.gov/mentor.asp)

## National Mentoring Month Summit in Delaware

To celebrate National Mentoring Month, Connecting Generations, in partnership with Communities in Schools, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware, Delaware Mentoring Council, Business Mentoring Alliance, and DAPI formed a collaboration of mentoring organizations and key stakeholders in education to launch a "Mentoring Works" Summit, which will be held January 26th 2010 at the Dover Sheraton.

The collaboration decided to do something to celebrate mentoring in a new and interactive way. The "Mentoring Works" Summit is the product of our vision to have an inclusive and collaborative Mentoring event involving organizations and individuals statewide. The purpose is to strengthen mentoring in Delaware by encouraging involvement and participation by all stakeholders as a strategy for helping young people succeed in school, work, and life.

The Summit will begin with a light breakfast and networking, followed by a kick off into the day's activities. There will be two breakout session opportunities, each session lasting an hour in length and ranging in topic and intended audience. After the sessions, guests will reassemble for a sit-down lunch with Keynote Speaker Tyrone Jones, Director of Corporate Community Alliances at AstraZeneca and a Creative Mentoring partner and supporter.



**Save the Date!**

Join us for these upcoming events.



**Join Us For First Annual "Mentoring Works" Summit**

**When:** Tuesday, January 26, 2010  
8:30am-1:30pm

**Where:** Sheraton Hotel, Dover, DE

Tickets are on sale now!

[Click here for more details and to](#)

**purchase tickets.**



## SWING INTO SPRING

a cocktail party  
fundraiser

Honoring Maurice Pritchett,  
lifetime mentor and educator

Celebrating and raising funds  
for the programs of  
Connecting Generations

### When:

Saturday, March 13, 2010  
5:00pm-8:00pm

### Where:

Delaware Center for  
Contemporary Arts on the  
Riverfront in Wilmington

More details in the next issue!

### Imagine a World With Us



Start off the new year  
by learning more  
about Connecting  
Generations. Join us  
for one of our free,  
one-hour "Imagine a  
World" open house  
events in 2010:

The day will end at 1:30pm for the majority of participants, leaving all who attended with a higher, stronger mentoring purpose and a statewide support system to assist their efforts improving the lives of Delaware youth!

Connecting Generations is working hard to ensure the Summit will empower mentoring programs to seek collaboration and support from other organizations statewide, encourage Business Mentoring Partnerships, support the development of High School mentoring programs, and create a networking opportunity for mentors to develop synergy.

The Summit is being held in Dover to promote statewide participation. Tickets are offered at a low cost and are now available for purchase. All mentors will have the opportunity to apply for a scholarship to attend at no cost.

Details about the event are posted on our website: [www.connecting-generations.org/events.html](http://www.connecting-generations.org/events.html). Tickets can be purchased online or by calling 302.656.2122 ext. 12.

## Mentor Corner

### Mentor Share and Care Sessions

Looking for an opportunity to talk with other mentors about your successes and challenges so far? Stay posted for more information about Mentor Share and Care Sessions in February. We will host them via teleconference, so you will have the chance to talk with mentors from all over the State.

### Join us at the Summit!

Three breakout sessions at this month's "Mentoring Works" Summit are targeted at active mentors,

**January 14th 4pm-5pm,  
Community Service Building,  
Wilmington,  
Hosted by Jim Patton**

**February 9th 9:00am-10:00am,  
Community Service Building,  
Wilmington**

**February 18th 4:30pm-5:30pm,  
Williams State Service Center,  
Dover**

Register today by clicking [here](#) or calling 302.656.2122 ext. 12.

### **Upcoming Creative Mentoring Training Sessions**

#### **New Castle County**

January 27th 1:00pm-4:00pm  
Community Service Building

#### **Sussex County**

January 22nd 9:30am-12:30pm  
Georgetown State Service Center

Click here to register for any of these sessions to begin mentoring this fall.

### **A New Partnership**

We are really excited about a new partnership with the Greater Dover Committee to support mentoring in schools and after school programs. We have had multiple meetings since this summer with Shelly Cecchett, Executive Director, and board members Rob MacLeish and Ed Dulin as they performed their due diligence before making a decision about the focus and design of their mentor program support. Their

including "Building Your Mentee's Self Esteem", "Mentor Round Table" and "Activities for Mentors".

Scholarships are available. Learn more at <http://www.connecting-generations.org/events-mentor-summit.html>.

## **Coordinator Corner**

### **High School Mentors Are a Great Resource!**

So far over 200 high school students from 15 high schools throughout Delaware have been trained to be mentors during 2009! In 2010 we are looking to keep the momentum going. We are looking to continue training high school students to be mentors, and helping to form partnerships between high schools and their area elementary schools. Interested program coordinators should contact Iazia Jones McTeer at [imcteer@connecting-generations.org](mailto:imcteer@connecting-generations.org) or 302.290.8117.

### **Celebrate National Mentoring Month**

[Click here](#) for ideas to show your mentors how much you appreciate all that they do.

## **Seasons of Respect Program Update**

### **New School Partners**

The Season of Respect program continues to expand throughout Delaware. As we continue to teach 5th grade students about respectful behaviors and anti-bullying techniques, we are happy to welcome the following new SOR partners:

goal is to support mentoring programs at the site level and to help bring the combined efforts of their business partners to bear to help recruit mentors for local site based programs.

The Greater Dover Committee is a non-profit membership organization created in the late 1980's by CEOs and top business executives in the greater Dover area. At the present time, The Greater Dover Committee has 51 active members, all of whom are civic minded CEOs/top executives of a business in the greater Dover area. Their mission is to identify emerging community issues and to take on projects that will improve the quality of life for the residents of greater Dover. The Greater Dover Committee defines their area of focus as the Caesar Rodney and Capital School Districts. Their website <http://greaterdovercommittee.org/index.htm> provides an excellent overview of their membership and focus of their work.

We will provide ongoing updates about our progress as we target the beginning of the 2010-11 school year for the placement of a significant number of mentors to support our youth in the Greater Dover area.

## Bridge-To-Employment Update

Bridge-To-Employment update on the BTE class of '09! Eight students successfully completed their first semester at Norfolk State College; Wesley College; University of Delaware; Cheney State University; Morgan State University and Delaware Technical and Community College. All of the freshmen students earned GPA's of 3.0 or better. Four BTE graduates are gainfully employed at local organizations, and three have met the requirements for the '09 high school graduation.

Why is this special? The 12 students were part of a cohort of students who started the BTE program in '04-'05 from an area of the city where only 1 in 11 students have graduated

- MOT Charter School, Middletown
- Serviam Girl's Academy, New Castle
- Southern Elementary School, New Castle
- Central Elementary, Seaford
- Blades Elementary, Seaford
- Harlan Elementary, Wilmington
- Stubbs Elementary, Wilmington
- Bancroft Elementary, Wilmington

[Read more about Seasons of Respect.](#)

## Seasons of Respect Celebrations

Central Elementary School in Seaford, North Georgetown Elementary School and Long Neck Elementary School have completed the Seasons of Respect Program for this school year. Students and staff have worked very hard with Kim Taylor, Seasons of Respect Facilitator in Sussex County, to reflect on the lessons learned about respectful behaviors. All students receive a "RESPECT" bracelet and certificate of completion.



Schools celebrate completion of the program in a variety of ways: North Georgetown celebrated by playing fun educational games and Long Neck and Central Elementary both opted to invite Miss Delaware, Heather Lehman, to their celebrations. Miss Delaware's focus on the importance of respect and good character echoes the message of Seasons of Respect, so we look forward to a continued partnership with her.

high school. BTE was started with funds from Normaco and Johnson and Johnson.

In December, Bridge-To-Employment held the "Annual Holiday Celebration" and "Bayard Winter Festival" for students and their families at Bayard Middle School.

Parents of 8th grade students in the Christina School District interested in the Bridge-To-Employment program can contact Ms. Parker-Henry at [servnt@earthlink.net](mailto:servnt@earthlink.net) or at (302) 378-7251. This is a great opportunity for eighth-graders to improve their performance, and thus their chances of graduating from high school.



Miss Delaware celebrates SOR

School partners tailor the Seasons of Respect program based on their needs, so stay tuned for more about how other schools are celebrating completion of the program throughout the year.

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We all lost a good friend and champion of Children when Darryl Simms, our Board Chair, passed away unexpectedly on December 9, 2009.

I had the privilege of knowing Darryl for over 25 years. First as a fellow administrator in the Christina School District in the mid 80's and again most recently with Connecting Generations.

When I think about Darryl the word that most quickly comes to mind is GENTLEMAN. The definitions of Gentleman seem to have been written with Darryl in mind. He was a "noble man", "elevated by personal qualities" and "a man of good, courteous conduct". He believed in the good in all people and had a passion for working with our youth.

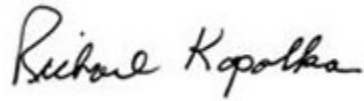
Darryl was a school Psychologist by training and served in that role when he first starting working in the Christina School District. He later served as an assistant principal at Christiana High School and then as Principal of the Douglas Alternative School in Elsmere. He also served in the capacity of Acting Principal of the Thomas Edison Charter School. He was a man of infinite patience and truly believed in finding the good in all people. At Darryl's Funeral Service the comment was made that Darryl never said a bad word about anyone. It was obvious from the number of nodding heads that the sentiment was shared by many.

When Darryl's health no longer allowed him to work full time, he continued his life's work of helping children reach their full potential through his volunteer work. In the last few years his leadership was immediately recognized by the board and staff of Connecting Generations. Darryl quickly went from a new board member to being the Vice Chair and then Board Chair. Darryl led by example, always keeping the end in mind. For Darryl, the end was "How can we promote the good in all people and help them reach their full potential"?

Darryl was one of the first facilitators of our newest program, Seasons of Respect, and he helped make improvements to the program and its curriculum after its first year. In his new role as Board Chair, Darryl helped hire a new Executive Director and became a strong advocate for all of our programs. Darryl personally invited many guests to our "Imagine A

World" Information Sessions and loved talking about our organization and our programs.

Darryl was a lifelong mentor and his life's work fit naturally in the Mission of Connecting Generations. He was a friend and mentor to thousands of school children and adults whom had the privilege of knowing him. He will be missed!



Executive Director, Connecting Generations

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