



Connecting Generations

Creative Mentoring® Seasons of Respect Creative Transitions

Helping adults and children reach their full potential

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Local Mentor is Recognized for her Commitment to Children, Schools Looking for More Like Her

Dover, Del. -- The nonprofit Creative Mentoring® program recognized Dover resident Amanda Adel Adel for her outstanding commitment to children at East Dover Elementary School on this month's "Mentor Highlight" portion of their website. East Dover has a small but active mentoring program, and the school program coordinator, Gina Simon, has an urgent need for new mentors this coming 2008/2009 school year, because mentors like Amanda are following their mentees to middle school and school budgets are tight. Ms. Simon says she "hope[s] to find other volunteer mentors who are as committed as Amanda has been". Schools around the state are also feeling the squeeze with state budget cuts and a lack of new mentors. The Creative Mentoring program is actively recruiting and training volunteer mentors for schools like East Dover.

Amanda Adel Adel is following her mentee to middle school because of the strong bond they have built over the past year. This means that Gina Simon is losing one of her best mentors, and is looking for new volunteers who are as dedicated to helping her students reach their full potential through these meaningful, one-on-one relationships. Creative Mentors are safe, trained, committed adults who volunteer in schools near where they live or work for one hour each week. They volunteer with children who need some extra support. Gina says: "It is great that [Amanda and another great mentor have] chosen to follow their mentees. It means so much to the girls. I only hope I can get more mentors like them!"

Amanda has been mentoring for two years at East Dover Elementary. She is one of more than 25 mentors from Aetna in Dover, one of the Creative Mentoring program's most active Business Partners. Stephanie Bryant-Crowe, who coordinates the mentor program at Aetna, said about the recognition Amanda received: "We're very fortunate to have Mandi as a mentor and it's nice when others notice." Amanda sees the positive effects mentoring has had on her mentee, Katie, such as improved self esteem, confidence, socialization skills, and grades. Amanda says that Katie's mother and teacher have told her what a positive experience this relationship has been for Katie. Even though she only spends one hour per week with Katie, Amanda knows that the changes and life skills that Katie has learned through their time together will last a lifetime. She says to anyone considering becoming a mentor: "Give it a try. You may not think you are making a difference but the small amount of time you give these kids makes a life lasting impression on them. You may not see the benefits immediately but they will come." Every month the Creative Mentoring® program highlights an

extraordinary mentor on its website at <http://www.connecting-generations.org/mentor-corner.html>.

The Creative Mentoring® program is currently recruiting new mentors for the 2008/2009 school year for schools in Dover and around the state. With funding cuts to schools and the Delaware Mentoring Council, there is an urgent need for mentors in schools in every district in Delaware. Any individual interested in becoming a mentor or businesses interested in starting their own workplace mentoring programs can get more information from the website at www.CreativeMentoring.org.

Connecting Generations is a nonprofit organization that serves children and adults throughout Delaware by providing creative programs and services to help them lead purposeful, fulfilling and self directed lives. Based in Wilmington, Connecting Generations offers three distinct state-wide programs: *Creative Mentoring* (Delaware's largest training and support program for adult volunteer mentors and in-school mentoring programs), *Seasons of Respect* (an in-school anti-bullying workshop series offered to fifth graders), and *Creative Transitions* (a workshop series supporting adults going through life transitions). More information about these programs is available at www.connecting-generations.org, or by calling (302) 656-2122. Connecting Generations is located at 100 West 10th Street, Suite 1115, Wilmington, DE 19801.

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