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News from Connecting Generations

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

March 2010 Newsletter

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Join Us For Swing into Spring

Saturday, March 13th 5pm-8pm

Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts, Wilmington Riverfront

Previously known as Jazz in January, this annual fundraising event is now being held in the spring but continues to celebrate the mission of Connecting Generations and honor mentors and mentoring champions from Delaware. With warmer weather and a more informal format, this fun cocktail party is sure to be our best ever! Past supporters and new friends are invited!

11th Annual Robert A. Kasey, Jr.

Lifetime Achievement Award

A Wilmington native who has been a lifelong mentor and educator, Maurice Pritchett will be honored for his commitment to our mission to help children build purposeful, fulfilling, and self-directed lives. Read more about Mr. Pritchett in the article below.





Big Prize Raffle

Featuring \$1000 cash prize, Weekend Stays in Lewes, DE and Cape May, NJ and valuable Gift Certificates. Raffle tickets can be purchased before and during the event. Winners need not be present to win. [Read more here.](#)

Great Food, Entertainment, and Location

Held at the Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts on the Wilmington Riverfront, guests will enjoy entertainment by Sean "Sinatra" Reilly and have access to the galleries featuring local and international artists. A variety of savory and sweet heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served by Sugarfoot. [Read more here.](#)



Exemplary Mentors and Coordinators and Seasons of Respect Champions will also be honored. [Read more below.](#)

Tickets, Sponsorships, and Donations

Tickets start at \$50, with a discount for active mentors. Ticket sales close on March 5th. Sponsorships and Donations are welcome. [Purchase your tickets or make your donations here.](#)

Help Support Our Programs

Big Prize Raffle Tickets are On Sale Now!!!



1 for \$10
3 for \$25
15 for \$100

Prizes include:

Creative Mentoring Corner

Exemplary Mentor and Exemplary Coordinator Awards To Be Presented at Swing into Spring

This year's Exemplary Awards will honor mentors, schools, and business mentoring program coordinators who have been exemplary mentoring champions. Schools, business, and community partners nominated these long-term, exemplary individuals who have gone "above and beyond" in their commitment

- \$1000 Cash Prize
- \$250 ShopRite gift card
- Weekend Stays in Lewes, DE and Cape May, NJ
- and more!!!

To purchase tickets [click here](#) or email jshanebrook@connecting-generations.org



Save the Date!

Join us for these upcoming events.



Save the Date!

Connecting Generations Celebration Breakfast 2010

What:

Free One Hour Breakfast to Celebrate and Learn More about our Mission and Programs

Where:

Christiana Hilton in Newark

When:

Tuesday, May 18th
8:30am-9:30am

More details coming soon.

Imagine a World With Us



Join us to learn more about Connecting Generations at a free, one-hour "Imagine a World" open house event in 2010:

to children.

Connecting Generations will honor six individuals during the awards ceremony at Swing into Spring 2010 for their outstanding service. **Exemplary Mentor Marc Ward** of Nottingham mentors 3 students at Shue-Medill Middle school during his lunch from Bank of America. **Exemplary Mentor Amanda Kimball** of Wilmington is the volunteer mentor coordinator and mentors herself at Lancashire Elementary. **Exemplary Mentor Delores Sebastian** of Middletown mentors at Townsend Elementary School. **Exemplary Business Mentoring Program Coordinator Allan Colleta** from Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics is a member of the Business Mentoring Alliance and mentors at Brader Elementary in Newark and facilitated getting financial support for Jen Donten, the school's mentor coordinator. **Exemplary School Mentoring Program Coordinator Nathan Palkovitz** is the guidance counselor and mentor school coordinator from Linden Hill Elementary School in Wilmington. **Exemplary School Mentoring Program Coordinator Ivan Neal** is the district-wide mentor program coordinator for the entire Indian River School District and is currently mentoring 5 students in grades 1 - 9. All of these individuals are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of young Delawareans each year.

Connecting Generations is proud to honor these Exemplary Awardees and raise awareness about the important work our 1200+ adult mentors are doing in more than 80 schools and community/faith-based mentoring programs in Delaware.

New Creative Mentoring Partnership with Christiana Care

The Creative Mentoring Program has started an exciting partnership with the Christiana Care Health System. Thanks to the support of Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn and Wilmington Mayor James Baker, the Creative Mentoring Staff recruited nine members of the Christiana Care management team who were trained on February 23rd. Many of these mentors will be working with Pulaski Elementary to



**March 3rd 12pm-1pm
Community Service Building,
Wilmington**

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

**Upcoming Creative Mentoring
Training Sessions**

New Castle County
March 10th 1:00pm- 4:00pm
Community Service Bldg,
Wilmington

or
March 29th 5:00pm-8:00pm
Newark Public Library

Kent County
March 16th 1:30pm-4:30pm Williams
State Service Center, Dover

Sussex County
March 5th 9:30am-12:30pm
Georgetown State Service Center

Click here to register for any of these or other sessions to begin mentoring this spring.

Jessie Ball duPont Fund Grant

Christ Church Christiana Hundred has received a \$150,000 grant over three years from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. The grant is to support a partnership with Connecting Generations to strengthen and expand training for adult and high school mentors. This partnership will dramatically increase our mentor training capacity and study the effectiveness of our training programs and methods.

Improving the quality and scope of training topics available to mentors, coordinators and teachers while

support not only the initiative to recruit 500 new mentors for the City of Wilmington, but to help recruit 10,000 mentors for the State of Delaware.

If you are interested in learning more about what it means to be a business partner and the services and opportunities the Creative Mentoring Program can offer your work place mentoring program, please contact Rachel Markowitz at Rmarkowitz@connecting-generations.org, for more information.

Seasons of Respect Corner

School Counselors Help Seasons of Respect Program Grow

This year 9 school counselors from 6 school districts in Delaware are facilitating all of the Seasons of Respect lessons at their schools without the presentations being done by Connecting Generations facilitators. School Counselors from W. B. Simpson (Jen Wissman), Phillis Wheatley (Josie Hunsberger), Frankford (Jan Bomhardt), John Basset Moore (Linda Weeks) and Phillip Showell (Cheryl Carey) are in their third year with the program and all have been facilitating Seasons of Respect sessions for at least 2 years. Other schools presenting the program on their own include Maple Lane (Teryl Price), Lord Baltimore (Nancy Ward), Southern Delaware School for the Arts (Rebecca Mott-Lynn) and Leasure (Donna Jeandell). The cost savings to our program is enormous. All of these counselors recognize that running the program in their school gives them flexibility with their schedule and the ability to coordinate the lessons with other activities in their schools.

The Seasons of Respect program model is designed so Connecting Generations staff present lessons for two 5th grade classes in a school and then the school counselor presents to any additional 5th grade classes. In subsequent years, the school counselors will run their own program while receiving materials and support from Connecting Generations. Currently, there are eleven schools in their first year of this

reducing per person costs is the primary goal of this partnership. Creative Mentoring is viewed as the premier training program in the state as more than 75% of the mentors in Delaware have been trained as Creative Mentors. Connecting Generations partners with more than 90 site-based mentoring programs. These programs include traditional school based programs and programs in community and faith based after school programs.

This grant will also provide funds to increase training delivery methods. Currently our major training method is a three hour in-person training. This grant will help expand training options to include webinars, teleconference, video and other remote training methods. This use of technology will substantially decrease the cost for training while making our training sessions more accessible.

The parishioners of Christ Church can get involved in this project in many ways, including, but not limited to: becoming a mentor, being part of a pilot group to evaluate the training topics and methods, volunteering to work on the Board of Connecting Generations and/or its committees and/or supporting the organization through donations.

We thank the Jessie Ball duPont Fund for it's generous support!

program model. At Claymont Elementary Laura Shwait (school counselor) facilitates 7 of the 9 5th grade classes.

During the first full year of implementation, Seasons of Respect partnered with 11 schools. In year two, the program grew to 18 schools. Understanding that every school and district is different, schools facilitating their own training have helped the program expand to 30 schools this year. Budget cuts to the program of 8% in FY 2009 and 21% in FY 2010 totaled \$32,600. These counselors have created the opportunity for Connecting Generations to bring additional schools into the program that we would not have been able to accommodate. As we anticipate future funding cuts, we are exploring ways to maintain and grow the program.

If you would like more information about the Seasons of Respect Program, please contact Joanna Carty at jcarty@connectinggenerations.org or 302.656.2122 ext. 10.

Seasons of Respect Champions to be Honored

For the first time, we will present awards to School Counselors who have given extraordinary support and assistance to the Seasons of Respect program. This year's honorees are:

Jennifer Wissman - W. B. Simpson Elementary School in Wyoming - Caesar Rodney School District

Teryl Price - Maple Lane Elementary School in Claymont - Brandywine School District

Presenting the Recipient of the 11th Annual Robert A. Kasey, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award:

Maurice Pritchett



Maurice Pritchett, Sr. is a retired educator and the CEO of Pritchett Associates. A former teacher and principal in the Christina School District, Mr. Pritchett has continued mentoring young people



because of the mentors who made a difference in his life. He credits his success to his early mentors: Bancroft Elementary School teachers Clifton "Gator" Lewis and Nathan "Doc" Hill. Their leadership instilled in him a passion for serving his community. Today Mr. Pritchett mentors a nine year old at Bancroft, the school he led for more than three decades in Wilmington.

He has become an icon in Wilmington, where he runs into former students, colleagues, and friends, and where parents constantly stop him in the street to thank him for the difference he made in their child's life. As a principal, Mr. Pritchett looked for ways to connect the community to the school, including lobbying Wilmington business leaders to serve as one-on-one reading mentors. His efforts did not go unnoticed: A few years after winning the state's top principal award, Bill Clinton called Pritchett after hearing one of Mr. Pritchett's former students, a White House chef, talk about Mr. Pritchett. President George W. Bush visited Bancroft after hearing about Pritchett's efforts to make Bancroft more like a community than just a school.

He's been mentoring his current mentee, Abdullah, since last school year. Mr. Pritchett said he knows not everyone can give as much time as he does but wishes more would at least give an hour a week to mentor a young child. "Every day, someone in the school should tell them that they love them. I think that would make a huge difference because a lot of times, no one tells them that they love them," he said. "Every time I see Abdullah, I tell him how much I love him."

"Having a constant, dependable male presence in his life over an extended period of time that is modeling universal values -- it's priceless," said Sue Coffing, Bancroft's mentoring coordinator.

"People have lost their sense of community. A lot of people won't roll their sleeves up anymore and help," he said. "If you want to make it better with these young kids, you've got to get involved," Pritchett said. "You can't just sit back and criticize them and say you don't want to put your time into them. I believe what God wants me to do is to provide services to help other people get on their feet so they can become better citizens in this country," he said. "My dream is that they'll come back and help someone else the same way."

Reared on the east side of Wilmington, Delaware, Mr. Pritchett received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Delaware State University in 1965 and his Master's Degree in Educational Administration in 1974. Today, Mr. Pritchett runs an educational consulting firm, Pritchett Associates, which sends retired teachers and administrators into schools to train staff in classroom management, lesson planning and parental involvement. During his many years of service, Mr. Pritchett has received numerous accolades. His selection as the State of Delaware 1994/1995 National Distinguished Principal afforded an opportunity for Pritchett to attend a program in Washington, DC that honors America's National Distinguished Principals. This award was presented to Pritchett by the president's appointee, Secretary of Education, Richard W. Riley. Maurice Pritchett and his wife Juanita, a special-education teacher at Glasgow High, have four children: Maurice Jr., Andre, Dwayne and Danielle.

Mr. Pritchett will be honored with the Robert A. Kasey, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award, named after the founder of Connecting Generations, on March 13th at our annual fundraising event "Swing into Spring." [Read more about the event and award here.](#)

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