



Connecting Generations

Creative Mentoring® Seasons of Respect Creative Transitions

Helping adults and children reach their full potential

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Connecting Generations names Richard Kapolka as Executive Director

Wilmington, DE. – The Board of Directors of Connecting Generations has unanimously named Richard Kapolka as Executive Director. After a nation-wide search, the Board chose Delaware native Kapolka because of his vast experience in education and nonprofit youth programming. Connecting Generations is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that offers the programs Creative Mentoring (Delaware's largest training and support program for volunteer mentors and in-school mentoring programs), Seasons of Respect (an in-school anti-bullying workshop series), and Creative Transitions (a workshop series supporting adults going through life transitions).

Kapolka brings a wealth of school and nonprofit leadership to the home of the premiere mentor training program in Delaware, Creative Mentoring. Jane Maroney, former Connecting Generations Board Chair and former state legislator, said: "His long service as Principal of elementary and high schools in the Christina and Seaford districts, coupled with his dedication to mentoring children in their formative years, made him a strong qualifier for Connecting Generations, Inc.'s further growth. Rich's familiarity with the public school system will enable him to quickly develop relationships with the segment of the system Connecting Generations has targeted as their point of service since 1990, when the late Bob Kasey established what was known for many years as Creative Grandparenting."

Kapolka, who will begin on July 1st, has also held leadership positions with the Boys and Girls Club and AmeriCorps. Maroney said: "His experience in the nonprofit community enriches our organization's ability to emerge in new and exciting directions." Darryl Simms, Connecting Generations Board Chair and head of the Executive Director Search Committee, said: "I am confident that his experience will enable him to help our organization grow as we look at new and expansive ways to apply our unique intergenerational approach to encourage all people, both young and 'seasoned', to reach their fullest potential."

After being in retirement for two years, Kapolka decided to search for a position that would allow him to use and expand his skills and experiences working with people of all ages to help them improve themselves and their communities. As a mentor himself, he is extremely interested in Connecting Generations' intergenerational approach and focus on helping children and adults reach their full potential. Kapolka said: "Connecting Generations has a rich history as a leader in providing mentors to students in our public schools. I'm excited to have the opportunity to provide leadership to

continue this tradition and strengthen the Seasons of Respect and Creative Transitions programs.”

“I’m more convinced now than ever, that if our society is to have any chance of solving the many challenges that face children, families and others in transition we must stop looking for government to solve our problems. If we can help promote cooperation, interaction, and exchange between any two generations we will foster relationships that have the power to transform lives and strengthen the ties that bring us together.”

Kapolka has served on numerous Boards including Junior Achievement, the Delaware Community Service Commission, the Boys and Girls Club of Western Sussex, and the Greater Newark Boys and Girls Club. He holds an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and a B.A. in Mathematics Education from the University of Delaware. He is the father of two and lives in Middletown with his wife.

Mr. Kapolka will replace Interim Executive Director Pamela Leland, who led the organization while the Board searched for a replacement to long-time Director Laura Anderson, who retired last summer.

Connecting Generations is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that offers the programs Creative Mentoring, Seasons of Respect, and Creative Transitions. Its mission is to provide creative programs and services that help children and adults lead purposeful, fulfilling, and self-directed lives. Its website is www.connecting-generations.org.

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Richard Kapolka, new Executive Director of Connecting Generations