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News from Connecting Generations

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

November 2009 Newsletter

In This Issue

[Upcoming Events and Training Sessions](#)

[Get Involved](#)

[Program Updates](#)

[Mentor Corner: Resources for Mentors](#)

[Coordinator Corner: Resources for Mentoring Program Coordinators](#)

Grotto's Community Pizza Night



Join us on November 3rd to help support Connecting Generation's first ever Grotto's Community Pizza Night! The events will be located at Grotto Pizza on Main St in Newark and Pennsylvania Ave in Wilmington from 4-9 pm.

Below is the Pizza Voucher- please print out a copy and present it when you place your order, whether you're eating in or taking food home. 20% of your total bill will be donated to Connecting Generations.

Program Updates

Update: Delaware Mentoring Council

Since the Delaware Mentoring Council lost its funding from the State of Delaware in FY09, Rich Kapolka, Executive Director of Connecting Generations, and Joe Duffy, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters, have been acting as Co-Directors. Public Ally Rachael Hotchkiss was hired on a part time basis this fall to support the work of the DMC as they reorganize and seek new funds.



A grant was submitted to the Federal Government last spring and it appears as if the grant has been approved in both the House and Senate. The recommended funding levels were at different levels so the final funding amount must be reconciled between the House and Senate. With the current focus on Health Care it may be spring time before we know the final amount of the grant.

The DMC is currently working on a new Executive Order for Governor Markell and substantial changes have been recommended for the membership of the new DMC. The role of the DMC is also being reviewed and the function of State Mentoring Partnerships with MENTOR the National Mentoring Partnership is being used as a model.

Bring some friends to enjoy a good meal and help raise funds and awareness about the Creative Mentoring, Seasons of Respect, and Creative Transitions programs.

Upcoming Creative Mentoring Training Sessions

New Castle County

November 4th 1:00pm-4:00pm
Newark Free Library

or

November 18th 5:00pm-8:00pm
Community Service Building

or

December 2nd 1:00pm-4:00pm
Bear Public Library

Kent County

November 17th 1:30pm-4:30pm
Williams State Service Center

or

December 8th 2:30pm-5:30pm
Smyrna Public Library

Sussex County

November 6th 1:00pm-4:00pm
Georgetown Public Library

or

November 18th 9:30am-12:30pm
Georgetown State Service Center

or

December 3rd 5:00pm-8:00pm
Lewes Library

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

"Imagine a World" With Us!

Join us for one of our next free one-hour "Imagine a World" open houses to learn more about Connecting Generations:

November 4th 9:30am-10:30am
Community Services Building,
Wilmington

Grant Awarded to Support After School Programs

Connecting Generations has been awarded a \$37,500 grant through the First State Community Action Block Grant program. The grant is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The funds will be used to support after school mentoring programs where high school students mentor younger elementary students. The mentoring focus is to help build the self-esteem of both the mentor and mentee and decrease the likelihood of at risk behaviors. The program will target low income youth who are exposed to high levels of risk. Each high school student will be trained by Connecting Generations, will mentor two younger children, and will be eligible for a \$40 per month stipend for their active participation in the program.

Seasons of Respect Program Partners with 20 Schools for the 2009/2010 School Year

Seasons of Respect, a free eight week program for fifth graders in schools throughout Delaware that covers topics including respect, bullying, conflict resolution, listening and understanding feelings, is still available to interested schools for this school year.



We welcome this year's Seasons of Respect School Partners:

New Castle County

Brandywood Elementary, Wilmington
Claymont Elementary, Claymont
Carrcroft Elementary, Wilmington
Downes Elementary, Newark
Forwood Elementary, Wilmington
Leasure Elementary School, Newark
Maple Lane Elementary, Claymont
Mt Pleasant Elementary, Wilmington
Southern Elementary, New Castle
Odyssey Charter, Wilmington

Kent County

John Bassett Moore Intermediate, Smyrna
Major George S. Welch Elementary, Dover
W.B. Simpson Elementary, Camden-Wyoming

Sussex County

Frankford Elementary, Frankford
Georgetown Elementary, Georgetown
Lord Baltimore Elementary, Ocean View

-hosted by Darryl Simms-

or

**November 10th 10:00am-11:00am
Newark Sr. Center, Newark**

-hosted by Stacey Altemus-

or

**November 16th 4:30pm-5:30pm
Lewes Library, Lewes**

Register today by clicking here or calling 302.656.2122 ext. 12.

January is National Mentoring Month!



Connecting Generations will be coordinating a mentor appreciation/recognition event during January, National Mentoring Month. Big Brothers Big Sisters and Youth For Christ have both agreed to partner with us and we are looking for other Mentoring Programs who would like to be part of the planning group. If you are interested in participating on the Planning Committee please contact Rachael Hotchkiss, Public Ally, at rhotchkiss@connecting-generations.org or 302.656.2122 ext. 17.

Support Connecting Generations

Have some time to volunteer during the week in a local school or our office?

Want to help cover the costs of our free mentor training? (every little bit helps)

Want to get involved in a

**North Georgetown Elementary, Georgetown
Phillip Showell Elementary, Selbyville
Phillis Wheatley Middle, Bridgeville
Southern Delaware School of the Arts, Selbyville**

For information on how your school can participate in this free program, contact Joanna Carty at 302.656.2122 ext. 10 or jcarty@connecting-generations.org. Read more about the program [here](#).

Bridge-To-Employment Program Update

Our Bridge-To-Employment program at Bayard Middle School is off to a great start. Activities this fall have included: Bridge-To-Employment Orientation; Bayard Family BBQ; Back-To-School Night; Parent Teacher Association Meeting; Career Choices (BIE Alliance); and Gearing Up for School (ASPIRE).

On October 24th "Gearing Up for School" was an all-day event sponsored by the ASPIRE program at the University of Delaware. BTE students participated in workshops designed to help them achieve in school, and also to help them prepare for high school and college. Bridge-To-Employment graduate, Amber Beaman, was on-hand to inspire our BTE eighth-graders from Bayard School. Amber is a member of the ASPIRE program and is attending the University of Delaware.

This month, BTE students will begin meeting after-school fun-filled afternoons of learning activities, snacks and prizes. The Rodel Foundation has scheduled the opening of the parent resource center, and students will receive grades for the first marking period the end of October.

Bridge-To-Employment had a 70% graduation rate among its first cohort of students and helps young people build solid futures through school-to-career development, work-based learning, mentoring, family involvement, service and career exploration. Interested parents can contact Ms. Joanne Parker-Henry at 302.378.7251 for more information or a Bridge-To-Employment application. Spaces are limited, so call today!

Mentor Corner

Websites to Visit with your Mentee

If you have the opportunity to access the internet with your mentee, check out these websites. Let us know if there are others you already enjoy together.



committee or Board?

Click here to find out how you can help us continue to make a difference in children's lives in Delaware!

Our Interns and Volunteers in Action



We're now accepting applications for interns for the winter and spring semesters. Click here for job descriptions and how to submit an application.

Welcome To our Newest Interns and Volunteers

Alyson Murray

Seasons of Respect Intern

Katrina Marcinek

Creative Transitions Intern

Katie Anne Sweeney

www.kids.nationalgeographic.com- National Geographic's kids' site offers activities and information about the environment, animals, and different cultures in a very fun, kid-friendly way. Check out the amazing videos that are sure to instigate interesting conversation.

www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov- The U.S. government's bully prevention site for kids offers lots of advice, stories, and activities for kids who are bullies or who have been bullied, and advice for adults who are working with kids who are either bullies or victims.

Mini Grants Awarded

Through the generous support of Valero Delaware City Refinery, Connecting Generations was able to offer Mini Grants to partner programs throughout the state again this fall.

Interested programs with an active agreement submitted requests for up to \$400. Many of the selected programs plan to use the funds to purchase supplies and games for their mentoring rooms, or fund mentor appreciation events to thank their dedicated volunteers.

27 Mini Grants were awarded to the following schools:

- Baltz Elementary, Wilmington
- Bayard Middle School, Wilmington
- Brader Elementary, Newark
- Bunker Hill Elementary, Middletown
- Delmar Middle
- East Millsboro Elementary
- Frankford Elementary
- Georgetown Middle School
- Highlands Elementary, Wilmington
- Lancashire Elementary, Wilmington
- Laurel Kids Connection, a Program of DAPI
- Long Neck Elementary, Millsboro
- Lord Baltimore Elementary, Oceanview
- Marshall Elementary, Newark
- McVey Elementary, Newark
- Mt. Pleasant Elementary, Wilmington
- North Dover Elementary
- North Georgetown Elementary
- Phillip Showell Elementary, Selbyville
- Porter Road Elementary, Newark
- Rehoboth Elementary
- Selbyville Middle School
- Shue Medill Middle School, Newark
- Silver Lake Elementary, Middletown
- Southern Delaware School of the Arts, Selbyville
- Thomas Edison Charter School, Wilmington
- Warner Elementary, Wilmington

Communications Intern

Lucretia Taylor

Seasons of Respect Evaluation
Intern

Marsha Conley

Creative Mentoring Volunteer

Congratulations to these strong partner programs and thanks again to Valero for its continued support of the Creative Mentoring program!

End of the Year Evaluation Contest Winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in the End of the Year Survey last spring. Your feedback has been shared with your School Coordinator and we are using the survey information to improve the services we offer and to seek additional funding to support our partner mentoring programs. In total, we received 1373 respondents across all 5 types of surveys- Mentor, Mentee, Teacher, Parent and Program Coordinator.

Winners of the special incentives offered in each category were selected at random: a parent who submitted a survey from Mount Pleasant Elementary received a Delaware State Park Pass; a teacher from Rehoboth Elementary received a \$25 gift certificate to the Learning Station; and three schools (Marshall Elementary, Frankford Elementary and Brader Elementary) received \$50 to use for a Mentoring Kick-off Party or to purchase supplies for mentors.

United Way of Delaware Campaign

Did you know you can support the Creative Mentoring program through United Way? Please consider designating your donation to us if you're planning to participate in this year's United Way of Delaware Campaign.

Designate:

"Creative Mentoring Book# 9344"

Thank you! We appreciate your support!

Coordinator Corner

Mentor Program Coordinator Update

- We've posted new recruitment materials that you can tailor for your program. Check out the [Coordinator Corner](#) on our website.
- We'd love to highlight your Exemplary Mentors and generous business and faith partners in a future e-newsletter. Nomination forms are also posted on the Coordinator Corner.
- January is National Mentoring Month. Next month's e-newsletter will share ideas about how to recognize and celebrate your mentors.
- Our Facebook page is a way for you to interact with other coordinators and share ideas with mentors. If you're not already a Fan, search "Connecting Generations" and become one!
- Did you know? Wal-Mart will donate \$250 to schools where their employees volunteer. This is a great resource as you are recruiting new mentors for your programs.

Book Recommendation

Recommendations by and for friends, partners, mentors, and coordinators

Marilyn Whorl, a committed Connecting Generations volunteer describes her most recent recommendation:

Occasionally while on my lunch break in the Connecting Generations office in Wilmington, I will look for a book in our library that would be of interest to our many wonderful mentors. Recently I discovered a book entitled "Stand By Me: The Risks and Rewards of Mentoring Today's Youth". The author is Jean E. Rhodes, an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

The following is one of several comments by professionals involved in the important field of mentoring: "Stand By Me" is a treasure trove of ideas for adults who want to make a difference in the lives of young people. Jean Rhodes' research and synthesis of the "do's and don'ts" of mentoring will help create the types of meaningful bonds between young people and others that will help them thrive, not simply survive.

"Stand By Me" is published by Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts. The book may be purchased at Barnes & Noble, Borders, Amazon.com and Harvard University Press.

Please join Grotto Pizza and Connecting Generations for a fundraising event

Community Pizza Night

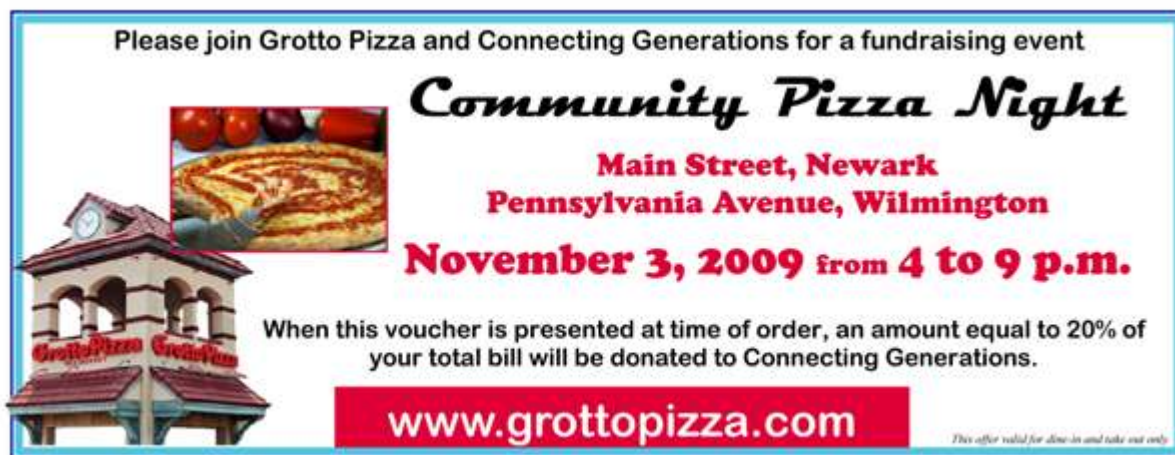
**Main Street, Newark
Pennsylvania Avenue, Wilmington**

November 3, 2009 from 4 to 9 p.m.

When this voucher is presented at time of order, an amount equal to 20% of your total bill will be donated to Connecting Generations.

www.grotopizza.com

This offer valid for dine-in and take out only.



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