

Having trouble viewing this email? [www.connecting-generations.org/newsletters.html](http://www.connecting-generations.org/newsletters.html)



## News from Connecting Generations

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

September 2009 Newsletter

### In This Issue

[Staff and Board Updates](#)

[Get Involved](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[3 Programs Gearing Up For Fall](#)

### *In Their Own Words*

After 12 years working with 8 different mentees, Karen Beare continues to mentor because, as she says, "the kids need it." Karen has been active in trying to recruit new mentors at her church and among her friends. She was honored in 2008 with Connecting Generations' Exemplary Mentor Award.

Karen is planning to mentor two children at Baltz Elementary School this year and is following another former mentee to Jones Elementary School. She also continues to serve as a Big Sister to a young woman at McKean High School whom she's been mentoring for 12 years.



*In Karen's Own Words:* "They love the attention they receive from me . . . We work on their reading and math but they really love to play games and beat me! I look forward to seeing my kids each week. The smile when they see me appear at their classroom door is priceless."

[Click here to read more Creative Mentoring stories](#)

If you'd like to share your story and photo, email it to [sferrell@connecting-generations.org](mailto:sferrell@connecting-generations.org)

#### Board Member Updates

Welcome back to **Edward F. "Mike" Eaton**, a long time Connecting Generations volunteer and former

#### ShopRite's Creative Mentoring Program in the News

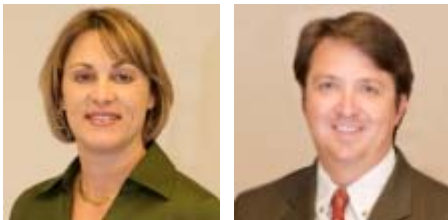
[Watch Video](#)

#### Businesses and Faith Groups Support

Board member. Mike has remained involved and was honored with our Robert A. Kasey Lifetime Achievement Award last winter.



We congratulate **Stacey Altemus**, Vice Chair, and **Shane Breakie**, Treasurer, on their new positions on the Board of Directors.



We thank the **Honorable Jane Maroney** for her service to Connecting Generations. Jane stepped down from her role as Immediate Past Chair in June, but remains active on our Fund Development Committee and Creative Transitions Task Force.



### Staff and Intern Updates

**Rachel Markowitz** is now the Director of the Creative Mentoring Program after serving as the Manager of Recruitment and Training for the past year.

**Joanna Carly** has been promoted to Director of the Seasons of Respect Program. She also continues to serve as Director of

## Mentoring!

Connecting Generations joined Wilmington's Mayor Baker and the Wilmington Mentoring Commission as they hosted two breakfasts aimed at getting business and faith leaders involved in mentoring. The City has held recruitment events and several churches, synagogues, and businesses are preparing to start mentoring programs. The goal is 500 new mentors in the city. Creative Mentoring has already signed on 81 new mentors and organizations including Big Brothers Big Sisters, Latin American Community Center, Cathedral Choir School, Youth For Christ, Boys and Girls Club, CTAC, and The Village Learning Center are also recruiting new mentors in the city.

If you'd like to get your business or congregation involved in mentoring, contact Rachel Markowitz at [Rmarkowitz@connecting-generations.org](mailto:Rmarkowitz@connecting-generations.org) or 302-656-2122 ext. 15.

## BlackRock and Other Creative Mentoring Business Partners Gear Up For the Fall

Creative Mentoring Business Partner BlackRock held two recruiting events this summer in their Wilmington office. Mentor Program Coordinator Barbara Derby, a recent Connecting Generations Exemplary Business Coordinator Awardee, recruited 6 new mentors this year and 17 new mentors last year. BlackRock Employees are mentoring at Mt. Pleasant Elementary and Wilmington Manor Schools.



BlackRock's Barbara Derby (left) with Connecting Generations' Stephanie Ferrell, Jacki Shanebrook, and Beverli Simms-Jackson.

If you'd like to get your business or congregation involved in mentoring, contact Rachel Markowitz at [Rmarkowitz@connecting-generations.org](mailto:Rmarkowitz@connecting-generations.org) or 302-656-2122 ext. 15.

## Bank of America Supports Creative

Operations.

Welcome to our newest staff members and interns:

**Jennifer Marek**, Creative Mentoring Program Assistant



**Iazia McTeer**, Mentor Manager



**Jacki Shanebrook**, Development and Communications Coordinator



**Kim Taylor**, Seasons of Respect Facilitator



**Jai Boyer**, Office Assistant



**Rachel Hotchkiss**, Public Ally

## Mentoring Program

Creative Mentoring Business Partner Bank of America not only started a new Mentoring Program and held two successful recruitment events in August, but the Bank of America Charitable Foundation also made a generous donation to the Creative Mentoring program. Team Bank of America presented the \$10,000 check to Connecting Generations' Executive Director Rich Kapolka this summer. The funds will be used to expand our Creative Mentoring program to include training and support of mentors for Community and Faith Based After School Programs.



Bank of America's April Birmingham, Jim Kilcur, Connie Montana, Scott Ellis, and Kristin Chambers with Rich Kapolka (right).

We thank Bank of America for its generosity and ongoing commitment to mentoring!

## Bridge-To-Employment Program Starting Now

We are busy welcoming eighth-graders, at Bayard Middle School, to the world of Bridge-To-Employment (BTE). On October 24th participants will attend a full-day of college awareness activities at the University of Delaware. These activities are designed to help our students succeed in school and are sponsored by the University's Aspire Academic Support Program.

Why Bridge-To-Employment? Less than 10% of eighth-graders residing in at-risk neighborhoods of Wilmington (Delaware) will graduate from high school. Bridge-To-Employment is an innovative achievement program that helps young people build solid futures through school-to-career development, work-based learning, mentoring, family involvement, service and career exploration. But more importantly, 70% of BTE students, from these neighborhoods, are graduating from high school this year. Some are attending post-secondary training or college programs. And several graduated with honors, received college



**Alexandra Kiernan**, UD  
Communications Intern



Read about all of our staff and volunteers online at [www.connecting-generations.org/staff.html](http://www.connecting-generations.org/staff.html).

scholarships, and were recognized for their achievements and service.

Interested parents of eighth grade students can contact Ms. Parker-Henry at 302.378.7251 for more information or a Bridge-To-Employment application. Don't miss this opportunity for your eighth-grader to participate in innovative programming that will improve their performance, and thus their chances of graduating from high school.

Please remember that spaces are limited!

## **Creative Mentoring Program Gearing Up for October!**

Most school mentoring programs begin in October. If you are already trained, and haven't heard yet from your school, call the school's mentoring coordinator directly or contact us for assistance: 302.656.2122 ext. 17 or toll free 877.202.9050 ext. 17 or email [Rhotchkiss@connecting-generations.org](mailto:Rhotchkiss@connecting-generations.org).

If you haven't been trained yet, and you're interested in mentoring this fall, whether in a Creative Mentoring school mentoring program, after school mentoring program, or other site-based mentoring program, [click here to apply now and register for an upcoming training session near you.](#)

## **Seasons of Respect Program Has Begun!**

Seasons of Respect is a free eight week program that focuses on helping fifth grade students develop communication skills to improve their understanding of both verbal and non verbal cues from others. Topics in the program cover respect, bullying, conflict resolution, listening and understanding feelings.

Last year over 2500 students from 19 schools across the state of Delaware participated in this free and exciting program. For information on how your school can participate in Season of Respect contact Joanna Carty at 302.656.2122 ext. 10 or [jcarty@connecting-generations.org](mailto:jcarty@connecting-generations.org). Read more about the program [here](#).

### **Special Event Committee Members Needed!**

Love events? Want to get involved on a fun committee this fall and winter? Join our Special Event committee and work on anything from the silent auction to decorations to logistics to sponsorships for our annual fundraising event.

Our first planning meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 30th from 3pm-5pm in the Community Service Building. RSVP to [sferrell@connecting-generations.org](mailto:sferrell@connecting-generations.org).

### **NEW! Join a Program Task Force to help shape their future**

We are looking for interested members from the community to join each of these newly formed task forces:

Creative Mentoring Task Force  
Seasons of Respect Task Force

### **High School Mentor Training Coming This Fall**

The Creative Mentoring program is now training high school students to be mentors!

Creative Transitions Task Force

Contact Stephanie Ferrell at  
sferrell@connecting-  
generations.org or 302.656.2122 ext.  
15 for more information.

Check out our October e-newsletter for more information about this exciting new initiative. If you are interested in finding out more about our high school training, contact Iazia McTeer at imcteer@connecting-generations.org or 302.656.2122 ext.16.

### "Imagine a World" With Us!

Join us for one of our next free one-hour "Imagine a World" open houses to learn more about what's coming up at Connecting Generations.

**October 6th 12:30pm-1:30pm  
Community Services Building,  
Wilmington**

-hosted by Darryl Simms-

or

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

or

**November 10th 10:00am-11:00am  
Newark Sr. Center, Newark**  
-hosted by Stacey Altemus-

Register today by clicking  
[here](#)

### 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 committee or Board?*

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

### New Resource for Adults Age 50+

Check out the new "Coming of Age: Delaware" website for people 50+ who are wondering "what's next" and want to combine personal fulfillment with community impact.

[www.de.comingofage.org](http://www.de.comingofage.org)

## Book Recommendation

**We hope you'll enjoy this new feature, where friends, partners, mentors, and coordinators review and recommend resources.**

***"The Teacher Who Couldn't Read" by John Corcoran***

*"My name is Marilyn Whorl and I am a volunteer at Connecting Generations. Recently I picked up a book from the Connecting Generations library in their office in the Community Service Building in Wilmington to read on my lunch break. The title of the book is "The Teacher Who Couldn't Read". I was absolutely spellbound by such a story that happens to be true. The author, John Corcoran, wrote of his years of being able to slip by the educational system from grade school through college without being able to read beyond the second grade level. After graduating from high school, he received a basketball scholarship to Texas*

*Western. Corcoran graduated with a bachelors degree in education in 1961 and in the midst of a teacher shortage, talked his way into a job teaching high school. He taught grammar and social studies. The students read aloud and he evaluated his students orally and also learned to develop his listening skills with the students in the class room. Finally at age 48, he learned to read after a family business failed. He is now a national literacy advocate.*

*Corcoran said he respects the education system but reform was needed. Any child that cannot read is a form of child neglect and child abuse. He feels the only cure for illiteracy is literacy. How fortunate that today we have programs such as Connecting Generations that bring mentors and mentees together through the generosity of people who offer their time and caring to those students who need extra help to find their way.*

*This book is available through Amazon.com or at Barnes and Noble.*

*The publisher is Kaplan Publishing and was last published in September of 2008. Contact Connecting Generations if you would like to borrow it from their library."*

*Thanks to Marilyn for this recommendation. Please let us know if you have a book or other resource to recommend and we may feature it in a future issue of this newsletter.*

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe**®

This email was sent to sferrell@connecting-generations.org by [sferrell@connecting-generations.org](mailto:sferrell@connecting-generations.org).

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe](#)™ | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Connecting Generations | 100 W. 10th St. Ste. 1115 | Wilmington | DE | 19801