

# News from Connecting Generations

Home of Creative Mentoring, Seasons of Respect, and Creative Transitions

Spring 2008 Newsletter

## Special points of interest:

- Our new website is live! Visit [www.connecting-generations.org](http://www.connecting-generations.org).
- Our newsletter format has changed. See insert for Creative Mentoring News.

## Jazz in January 2008 a Success!

On Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 215 of our closest friends joined us at the DuPont Country Club in Wilmington for *Jazz in January*, our annual fundraising event. The night was a big success! Not only did we reach our fundraising goal, we also accomplished something less tangible but equally important: *we celebrated and shared the stories of those individuals who give their time and commitment to children once a week, every week in schools throughout Delaware.*

For years many of our friends and supporters have looked forward to *Jazz in January* because of the music and dancing and good times. We at Connecting Generations look forward to this event because it raises a significant source of unrestricted funds for general operations and programs.



This year the planning committee decided that the event should be *more* than just a fun party and fundraiser. We wanted to bring attention to the selfless work that is being done by hundreds of individuals and businesses throughout Delaware. We wanted to honor those volunteer mentors who have gone "above and beyond" to make a difference in the lives of children in schools around our state. We had the privilege of honoring fourteen individuals with the first ever Connecting Generations Exemplary Mentor Awards.

*For more about the Exemplary Mentor Awards, see page 2*

## Carper Honored for Lifetime Achievement

This year's recipient of the Ninth Annual Connecting Generations Lifetime Achievement Award was the most well-known of all mentors in Delaware, Senator Tom Carper. Senator Carper has been a mentor himself for more than ten years, despite his

*continued on page 3*

*AstraZeneca helped us honor Senator Tom Carper. Pictured from left to right: Chip Davis, Jane Maroney, Tom Carper, Donna Jones, Tyrone Jones, Raye Jones-Avery*

## Strategic Plan Approved

Recently the Board of Directors of Connecting Generations approved a Strategic Plan for 2007 through 2012. The priorities for the next five years include:

- Establishing Connecting Generations as a leading public advocate for emotional development through mentoring and intergenerational learning.
- Responding to the changing needs of a growing population aged 50 and over.
- Expanding programs that encourage positive behavior in children and teens and respect for themselves and others.
- Demonstrating the measurable impact of Connecting Generations' programs on the community.
- Raising public awareness and the visibility of Connecting Generations.
- Building long-term organizational and financial sustainability.
- Enhancing organizational governance through Board development activities.
- Strengthening and diversifying fundraising efforts.

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Creative Mentoring News **Insert**

## Program Highlights

### Creative Mentoring

In the fall we put a call out to our school, business, and community partners to nominate those mentors who had gone "above and beyond" to receive a Connecting Generations Exemplary Mentor Award. The criteria was: the individual had been an active volunteer mentor for more than ten years, had mentored more than seven students, or had done something else extraordinary to support mentoring in Delaware. We received many more nominations than expected, and chose fourteen individuals to receive this year's Exemplary Mentor Award.

We look forward to honoring other mentors in the future. Congratulations to the 2008

### Fourteen Exemplary Mentors Honored at *Jazz in January*

Exemplary Mentors:

Stacey Altemus  
Karen Beare  
Michael Bove  
Stephanie Bryant-Crowe  
Martha Carper  
Vaughn Hopkins  
Nicole Kalinosky  
Tony Marchio  
Judy Melman  
Cynthia Osborne  
Richard Schauer  
Tom Stevenson  
Carol White  
Lyndon Yearick



CG Board Chair Jane Maroney and Senator Carper present awards to Exemplary Mentors

Visit [www.connecting-generations.org/awards](http://www.connecting-generations.org/awards) to see awardee photos and biographies.

### End of Year Statistics are In!

Because of staff changes at Con-

necting Generations, it's taken us a little longer than usual to compile statistics from school year 2006-07 about the effects of the Creative Mentoring program. But, we are pleased to announce that the numbers show, once again, that *CREATIVE MENTORINGWORKS!* Mentoring improves students' self-confidence, relationships, attitudes towards learning, classroom behavior, and grades. Mentoring improves loyalty and production in employees who are allowed to mentor. Parents and teachers want children to continue being mentored. And, school coordinators want more mentors!

See the Creative Mentoring News insert for details.

### Seasons of Respect

*Seasons of Respect* is an in-class workshop series designed for fifth grade students, offered in schools throughout Delaware. Workshops offer interactive experiences where children creatively learn how to behave with respect toward peers and others. Initially piloted in 2006, this growing program is now in 11 public schools in Delaware with 70 classes this school year. *Seasons of Respect* was developed in concert with the Positive Behavior Support Project of the University of Delaware

### What is Seasons of Respect?

and Delaware's Department of Education and the Attorney General's Bully Prevention Program. *SOR* activities are tied to State ELA and American School Counselor Association standards.

School principals or counselors who are interested in implementing *Seasons of Respect* next school year should contact Tinesar Forrest, Director of Programs, at 302.656.2122 ext. 17 or [tforrest@connecting-generations.org](mailto:tforrest@connecting-generations.org).

*"To me, respect means treating others the way you want to be treated, be kind and caring, and don't boss people around; just show love." -Jazzmine, 5th grader*

### Attention School Counselors:

*Seasons of Respect* will host a workshop and have an exhibit table at the DSCA Conference on April 22nd. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Creative Transitions

*Creative Transitions* is a program designed to smooth the path for people of all ages who are dealing with transition in their lives.

*Creative Transitions* workshops have focused on supporting adults who are transitioning from the workforce into retirement, helping participants reflect on their past experiences to understand where they are today and to explore options for their future.

### What is Creative Transitions?

An important component is how individuals can share these lessons with future generations.

Many of the activities and discussions in these workshops are applicable to all kinds of life transitions. We are putting together a task force that will consider new ways this program can support adults of all ages in all types of transitions, including those moving from high

school into college, those graduating from college and beginning careers, and those considering or in the midst of transitions in the middle of their careers.

If you are interested in joining our task force to further develop the *Creative Transitions* program, contact Tinesar Forrest, Director of Programs, at 302.656.2122 ext. 17 or [tforrest@connecting-generations.org](mailto:tforrest@connecting-generations.org).

## Organization Update

### New Newsletter Format

Connecting Generations is the home of *three* great programs and our newsletter has expanded to share information about the *whole* organization. An insert focused on *Creative Mentoring* will provide resources and news specifically for our mentors and mentor coordinators. We hope you will enjoy this new, more wholistic approach to sharing news from Connecting Generations!

### Staff Announcements



**Joanna Carty** has been our Office Manager since December and is the helpful voice you hear when

you call our office. She supports our three programs and generally keeps everything running smoothly!

### Tinesar Forrest

joined the team in February as the Director of Programs, coming all the way from



St. Louis, MO. She brings a wealth of experience and lots of enthusiasm to this new position.



**Rachel Markowitz** gave birth to Elizabeth Rose on February 23rd.

## Jazz in January 2008 a Success *continued*

very busy schedule and constant travel between Delaware and Washington, D.C. He has personally and very publicly encouraged thousands of people to get involved in mentoring. During his time as Governor, he actively pursued his goal of getting 10,000 new mentors in Delaware. He encouraged dozens of business and community partners to commit to the cause through the creation of the Delaware Mentoring Council (DMC), which is housed at the University of Delaware. Mentoring grew exponentially throughout the state during his tenure as Governor.

Many of our current Creative Mentors, and several of the fourteen who were honored with Exemplary Mentor Awards, credit Senator Carper with inspiring them to become mentors. We cannot thank him enough for all that he has done for Creative Mentoring and mentoring in Delaware.

University of Delaware's President Patrick Harker served as the event's Honorary Chairman. He acknowledged the important work mentors do and expressed UD's commitment to expanding mentoring in Delaware through the DMC.

As the event's Presenting Sponsor, AstraZeneca's Chip Davis presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Senator Carper. AstraZeneca is one of our most active Creative Mentoring Business Partners, and we were honored to present an Exemplary Mentor Award to one of their mentors, Vaughn Hopkins.

After the awards ceremony,

guests danced the night away to music by the Tim Laushey Jazz and Swing Band, with piano music by Michael Arenson and a dance performance from StarLiners Dance Studio.

We are very grateful to our guests, sponsors, donors, and volunteers for making the night a success. Special thanks to sponsors AstraZeneca, DuPont, Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware, Anne and Wade Scott, the University of Delaware, and WSFS for their support and participation. Thank you also to all of the individuals and companies who donated to the silent auction. Our guests were very excited about the variety and quality of items that were available.



For more photos from the event, visit [www.jazzinjanuary.org](http://www.jazzinjanuary.org)

## Creative Mentoring Program Receives \$10,000 from Valero



Valero's De. City Refinery VP & GM Andrew Kenner presents check to CG

Connecting Generations program Creative Mentoring was selected as a recipient of the Valero Texas Open Benefit for Children Golf Classic 2007. We received \$10,000 at a breakfast on January 25th honoring Valero Delaware City Refinery Partners and Benefit Recipients. We were in good company, among more than 30 local nonprofits that work to improve the lives of children. The Texas event is the top ranked charitable giving event on the PGA tour, and this year it raised \$8 million that was distributed to charities in Valero communities. Creative Mentoring will use this money to reinstitute the Creative Mentoring Mini-Grant Program and extend the Refer-A-Friend Program into the 2008-09 school year. Thank you Valero for your generous support!



We're on the Web!  
[www.connecting-generations.org](http://www.connecting-generations.org)

## Connecting Generations

Home of Creative Mentoring, Seasons of Respect, and Creative Transitions

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*Connecting Generations. Helping Children and Adults Reach their Full Potential.*

### Senator Carper Calls for Individuals, Businesses, and Government to Support Mentoring

Senator Carper invited guests at *Jazz in January* to pledge to become mentor advocates and to make mentoring a campaign issue in Delaware this year. After defining an advocate as someone who actively supports a cause, he suggested ways that individuals, businesses, and government leaders could actively support mentoring:

**Individuals** can become mentors and spread the word about the important volunteer work being done in schools throughout Delaware. Those who aren't able to volunteer can donate to Connecting Generations, supporting its mentoring and education programs.

**Business leaders** can become Creative Mentoring Business Partners, allowing employees to spend one hour a week volunteering as mentors in local schools. Businesses can also financially support Connecting Generations, which is touching the lives of adults and children

in the communities in which they do business.

Finally, **government leaders** are encouraged to make mentoring a priority in Delaware and as part of their campaigns; showing Delawareans they care about the important work all volunteer mentors are doing, and that it is possible for individuals to make a difference. *We can* create a better future for children, one child at a time.

The Senator asked guests to join him as a mentor and to advocate for mentoring. He acknowledged that none of us think we have the time, but as he says, "If I can do it, anyone can."

Merriam Webster defines an advocate as "a person who actively supports or favors a cause."

The most important part of that definition is **ACTIVELY SUPPORTS**.

Pledge to actively support mentoring in whatever capacity you can.

*"If I can do it,  
anyone can."*

*-Senator Tom Carper*



# Creative Mentoring News

Building a better future, one child at a time.

Creative Mentoring is a program of Connecting Generations



## Refer-A-Friend Campaign was a Success!

Our first ever Refer-A-Friend Mentor Recruitment Campaign this fall was a success! We recruited nine new mentors in six schools. The premise was simple: current mentors would tell their friends about the positive impact mentoring had in their lives and invite them to apply to become Creative Mentors. After the new mentor completed the application, screening, and training process, the referring mentor's school would receive a \$25 gift certificate to buy supplies for its mentoring program.

The schools benefiting from their mentors' efforts are: Delaware School for the Deaf (\$50), Highlands Elementary (\$25), Lombardy Elementary (\$25), Lulu Ross Elementary (\$25), Providence Creek Academy (\$25), and Rehoboth Elementary (\$75). Thanks to those mentors who encouraged their friends to get involved and to those who have become mentors. And thanks to Valero we will reopen the Refer-A-Friend Campaign this summer (see article on page 3).

## Mini-Grant Program to Begin this Spring

We are happy to announce that, thanks also to Valero, we are able to re-institute the Creative Mentoring Mini-Grant Program, which provides funds to school-based mentoring programs for materials, supplies, or events.

Requests for proposals for these competitive grants will be announced in late Spring, for payment of up to \$500 in September 2008.

## Updated Creative Mentoring Website to Go Live in April

The Connecting Generations website has been redesigned and is already live. The CM sub-site, still at [www.creativementoring.org](http://www.creativementoring.org), is also being revamped. The information and resources you rely on will still be there, but we're also adding, among other things, a Coordinator Corner and a Mentor Corner to provide additional support and resources. Check it out!

## Self-Esteem Activities for Mentors and Mentees

These suggestions are taken from the Creative Mentoring training manual, *Elements of Effective Mentoring*. Refer to either CM manual or the new CM website for more activities.

### My Name is a Poem (Appropriate for Grades 2-5)

**Goal:** To help the child focus on his own unique characteristics by using his name as the basis for a writing activity.

**Materials:** Paper, pencil, crayons, markers, etc.

**What to do:** Have your mentee write his first name across the top of the paper. Next, have him write the letters down the left-hand side and then end the column with his last name. Tell your mentee to think of a word that describes him for each of the vertical letters and read the poem! (For younger children, you can either write a poem for your mentee or work with your mentee to look up words in a dictionary.) When the poem is finished, let your mentee decorate his poem with crayons and other art tools.

**Example:**

T	A	M	E	K	A							
T	a	k	a	t	i	v	e					
A	c	t	i	v	e							
M	u	s	i	c	a	l						
E	n	e	r	g	e	t	i	c				
K	i	t	t	e	n	p	l	a	y	i	n	g
A	f	f	e	c	i	o	n	a	t	e		
J	O	N	E	S								

### Sing A Song of Self-Esteem (Appropriate for Grades 4-8)

**Goal:** To help your mentee achieve a positive self-image through a medium popular with adolescents - music.

**Materials:** CD with one or more of the suggested songs; CD player; lyric sheet(s) of the song(s) you select.

*Continued on Back*

## Tell Us Your Story!

Let us know how mentoring has affected your life. Or, brag to us about the great improvements you've seen in your mentee since you began meeting. *We'd love to hear and share your story!*

Email it to Stephanie Ferrell, Director of Development, at [sferrell@connecting-generations.org](mailto:sferrell@connecting-generations.org).

## Creative Mentoring Technology Corner

*Great Websites to Visit with Your Mentee*

[www.kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://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. There are some amazing videos (try the one about the zombie snails or the suspense video of the octopus and the egret) that are sure to instigate interesting conversation.

[www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov](http://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.

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### Self-Esteem Activities *continued*

**What to Do:** Listen to one or more of the following songs with your mentee:

- "Greatest Love of All: - George Benson
- "Respect Yourself" - Staple Singers
- "I'm Special" - Pat Benatar
- "Reach Out and Touch" - Diana Ross

- Include titles and artists your mentee likes

Ask your mentee to read aloud the verses of the song(s) from the lyric sheet(s). Talk to him about what the lyrics of the song(s) mean to him.

**Follow-up:** Assist your mentee in writing a song or a rap about his own positive feelings.

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## Creative Mentoring Works!

Statewide Statistics from the 2006-2007 School Year\*

\*Statistics are based on End of Year Surveys submitted by students, teachers, and parents for grades K - 8.

### Mentoring Increases Self-Confidence in Students

**90%** of parents saw an increase in their child because of mentoring

**86%** of mentors saw an increase in their mentee

### Mentoring Helps Children Build Relationships

**87%** of mentors felt that their mentee trusted them more throughout the school year

**68%** of teachers felt that their mentored students were able to build better relationships with peers

**71%** of teachers felt that their mentored students showed more respect for adults

**75%** of parents felt that their mentored children had a better relationship with their family

### Students Like Being Mentored

**92%** of mentees want to have a mentor again next year

**81%** of mentees enjoy school more because they are mentored

### Teachers Like Creative Mentoring

A majority of teachers saw an improvement in mentored students':

- Ability to work well with others
- Attitude towards learning
- Classroom behavior

**60%** of teachers saw an improvement in mentored student's grades

**90%** of teachers recommend their student continue to be mentored by a Creative Mentor next year

### Employees Like Being Creative Mentors

**70%** of mentors who were encouraged by their employer to mentor felt more productive when they returned after mentoring

### Parents Like Creative Mentoring

**90%** of parents recommend their child continue in the Creative Mentoring program next year

## Creative Mentoring Works. We Just Need More Mentors.

**97%** of in-school coordinators of mentoring programs say that their greatest need is **MORE MENTORS!**