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Our newsletters are now available electronically. Visit our website and join our mailing list so we can email future issues to you.

Go to www.connecting-generations.org and click "Join our Mailing List."

We're on Facebook!

Become a fan and participate in discussions with other mentors, coordinators, and staff. Be the first to learn about upcoming events and opportunities. Show your support for mentoring.

If you're not already on Facebook, now is the time to join! Go to www.facebook.com, create an account, search "Connecting Generations," become a fan, and see what all the fuss is about!

Jazz in January 2009: A Success!

On January 31st, Connecting Generations held our annual fundraising and celebration event 'Jazz in January' at the DuPont Country Club. With the help of our closest supporters, we were able to surpass our fundraising goal! Not only did we double our profit over last year but, equally important, we celebrated those individuals who have been exemplary mentors and champions of the Connecting Generations mission.



Senator Tom Carper and **Lt. Governor Matt Denn** helped us celebrate mentoring in Delaware, sharing stories and inspiring guests to continue their commitment to mentoring. Lt. Governor Matt Denn announced the new Markell-Denn Mentoring Initiative and his own involvement in mentoring (see article on page 5).

This year's recipients of the Tenth Annual Robert A. Kasey Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award were three longtime board members who have led Connecting Generations over the past decade: former state legislator **Jane Maroney**, **Edward F. "Mike" Eaton**, and **James Patton Sr.** They were honored for their long volunteer service to the organization and for their combined leadership during the transition to today's Connecting Generations. Senator Carper and Gayle Kasey, daughter of organization founder Robert A. Kasey, helped present the awards to these passionate leaders who have kept the original mission alive while expanding and improving Connecting Generations.



Lifetime Achievement Awardees with Rich Kapolka (Connecting Generations' Executive Director)



Exemplary Mentors and Coordinators

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Connecting Generations is Going Green!

Connecting Generations has begun to send most correspondence, including newsletters, invitations, and announcements electronically! We will continue to send paper copies to those who request them.

Don't be left out! Make sure we have your most up-to-date contact information by visiting our website at www.connecting-generations.org.

Creative Mentoring End of Year Survey

The end of year survey is available online until May 29th at CreativeMentoring.org.

Completing the survey online will help schools get their results faster while supporting Connecting Generations' effort to go green! The survey is a valuable resource that helps us evaluate how we're doing and where we need to improve. It is also critical for us to maintain our funding and to apply for additional grants.

Every mentor, mentee, teacher, and parent who completes the survey is eligible for fantastic gifts! Visit the website in May for details.

For the second year, we highlighted those individuals who have gone "above and beyond" to make a difference in the lives of children in our state. Exemplary Awards were given to volunteer mentors, who give their time and commitment to children once a week, in schools and community/faith-based organizations throughout Delaware, and coordinators who run outstanding mentoring programs in a school or workplace.



We honored three Exemplary Mentors: **Ray Dotts**, **Dirk Goverts**, and **Victor H. Murray**; three Exemplary School Mentoring Program Coordinators: **Jennifer DeHoff**, **Barbara Jo German**, and **Jo Anne Rosenfeld**; and one Exemplary Business Mentoring Program Coordinator: **Barbara Derby**.

Music by the Tim Laushey Jazz and Swing Band, dancing, and an exciting silent auction rounded out this evening of celebration and fundraising.

We are grateful to our guests, sponsors, donors, and volunteers for making the event a success. Special thanks to **Event Sponsors** AstraZeneca, DuPont, and NKS Distributors; **Table Sponsors** Bank of America, BlackRock Investment Management Corporation, Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz, Anne and Wade Scott; **Gold Donors** Jeff Westphal, James and Kathleen Patton Jr., Wings Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware, John and Claire Kaiser, and Emalea Warner Trentman; and **Supporters** The Bancorp Bank, Clifford P. Diver Jr. and Kathryn Byrne, David Kasey, Ralph E. Pearce Jr., William and Marion Simeral, and Dale and Clarice Wolf.

Thank you also to all of the individuals and companies who donated goods and services to the silent auction. Without your generous support, we would not have been able to raise these important unrestricted funds for our programs.

Visit www.jazzinjanuary.org to see photos and read more about the event, honorees, and supporters.



High School Teachers Become Creative Mentors!

Forty-five teachers from Newark High School and fifty from the Appoquinimink School District, including Middletown High School, have been trained as Creative Mentors over the past few months. Connecting Generations is expanding its traditional training of adults who mentor elementary and middle school students to now include giving teachers the tools to be mentors to students of all ages. This new initiative is another way Connecting Generations is trying to serve even more kids in Delaware. Rich Kapolka, Executive Director of Connecting Generations, and Michelle Savage, assistant principal at Newark High, agree that teachers can make superb mentors. Their lives are already about making a difference in children's lives, and they are right there in the schools! According to Kapolka, teaching is not the same as mentoring, and "our new teacher-focused training helps clarify the difference in roles, while utilizing the skills we know teachers already have."



Anyone interested in getting their school involved in this teacher training initiative should contact Executive Director Rich Kapolka at 302.656.2122 ext. 11 or rkapolka@connecting-generations.org.



Connecting Generations' Marie McIntosh trains teachers to become Creative Mentors

You Are Invited to a Creative Mentoring Appreciation Event!

We know that mentors and coordinators work hard all school year, and we want to show you how much we appreciate your service. We also know that we could not do what we do without our generous donors and committed partners!

The next event will be on:
June 1st 4pm-5pm at Georgetown Elementary School in Georgetown

Lt. Governor Matt Denn will join the staff and board of Connecting Generations for these celebrations.

Visit our website for details and registration, or contact 302.656.2122 ext. 18 or Stephanie Ferrell at sferrell@connecting-generations.org

Refreshments will be served and gifts will be provided to all mentors who have registered in advance. (See article about Panera Bread's support of mentor appreciation on page 6.)

We hope to see you there!

High School Students Are Helping "Connect the Generations"

Connecting Generations has begun training high school students to mentor elementary-age youth in schools around Delaware. The Creative Mentoring program was pleasantly surprised to learn that more than 2,000 high school students were involved in mentoring in the 2006-2007 school year, but with little or no formal training. Due to the dire need for more mentors, and high school students' enthusiasm about volunteering and making a difference in their communities, as well as teenagers' unique ability to connect with younger students, this new initiative is a win-win for everyone involved.

This new Connecting Generations initiative will be ready for the 2009-10 school year. It has been piloted this school year in St. Andrews and Howard Technical High Schools, where students received instruction from long time Creative Mentoring trainers. Creative Mentoring will develop a standard high school training model this summer, with the new manual and program to be ready in the fall. Connecting Generations will be looking for school partners to fully expand the High School Mentoring Initiative during the 2009-10 school year.

Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Executive Director Rich Kapolka at 302.656.2122 ext. 11 or rkapolka@connecting-generations.org.

Seasons of Respect Program Served 2,500 Kids This Year!

Our anti-bullying Seasons of Respect workshops will all be completed by the end of May. This school year we were able to offer this interactive respect-focused workshop series to twenty-one schools and we served more fifth-graders than ever: more than 2,500, which is almost double the amount of kids served last year.



Linda Weeks and fifth graders from John Bassett Moore Intermediate School

Thanks to the counselors and teachers in the following schools who have helped us implement this important program:

New Castle County

Bancroft Elementary, Wilmington
Claymont Elementary, Claymont
East Side Charter, Wilmington
Elbert Palmer Intermediate, Wilmington
Highlands Elementary, Wilmington
Kuumba Academy, Wilmington
Maple Lane Elementary, Claymont
McVey Elementary, Newark
Southern Elementary, New Castle

Kent County

Kent Elementary Intensive Learning Center, Camden
W.B. Simpson Elementary, Camden-Wyoming
John Bassett Moore Intermediate, Smyrna

Sussex County

Frankford Elementary, Frankford
Long Neck Elementary, Millsboro
Lord Baltimore Elementary, Ocean View
Milton Elementary, Milton
North Georgetown Elementary, Georgetown
Phillis Wheatley Middle, Bridgeville
Phillip C. Showell Elementary, Selbyville
Rehoboth Elementary, Rehoboth
Southern Delaware School of the Arts, Selbyville

Learn more about the program by visiting
www.connecting-generations.org.

If you are interested in getting your school involved in the Seasons of Respect program for next school year, contact Executive Director Rich Kapolka at 302.656.2122 ext. 11 or rkapolka@connecting-generations.org.

New Volunteer Opportunity: Mentoring Program Coordinator

Want to make a difference in the lives of children in your community? Connecting Generations is looking for volunteers to support the mentoring programs in our partner schools and/or community/faith-based organizations throughout the state. This volunteer position's responsibilities may include helping to recruit mentors, working with school administrators and teachers to identify mentees, interviewing and matching mentee/mentor pairs and monitoring the mentoring matches throughout the school year.

Training and support will be provided to you before you begin and throughout your volunteer experience. Volunteers should have great interpersonal and organizational skills and basic computer knowledge. A year long commitment of 10-15 hours per week, during the school day, is required for the position.

Interested? Please contact Rachel Markowitz at 302.656.2122 ext .15 or Rmarkowitz@connectinggenerations.org.

Are You 55+ and Going Through a Life Transition?

Join us for a
Creative Transitions workshop!

Review your past,
take stock of your present,
and explore options for your future
at one of our two day sessions!

Visit our website at:

[www.connecting-generations.org/
ct-workshops.html](http://www.connecting-generations.org/ct-workshops.html)
for details and upcoming
workshops.

News about the Markell-Denn "Better Delaware" Initiative

The Markell-Denn administration's "Better Delaware" initiative is a public service project focused on promoting state-wide volunteer efforts. The project recently launched a new website, www.betterdelaware.org, that allows volunteers to track their service hours. Mentors are encouraged to participate, because your volunteer service hours deserve to be counted! The site is also a great resource for discovering other local volunteer opportunities. It's a great way to get involved, so be sure to check it out!



Gov. Jack Markell with (from left to right) Connecting Generations' Rachel Markowitz, Rich Kapolka, and Susan Brown

Connecting Generations participated in the Markell-Denn "A Better Delaware" Weekend of Service on Saturday, January 24th. Several service projects took place on the Wilmington Riverfront including food and clothing drives to assist Delawareans in need. This weekend of service was scheduled in place of the traditional inaugural ball, demonstrating the governor's commitment to volunteerism and non-profit organizations.

Creative Mentors Over Age 55+ Can Join RSVP

Any volunteer age 55+ qualifies to join RSVP, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. This national service program is sponsored locally by the state government and the State Office of Volunteerism. The program offers a variety of service opportunities, an annual recognition luncheon and as an added bonus, supplemental accident and liability insurance!

As a volunteer for RSVP partner Connecting Generations, you can become a member and have your hours reported to Congress. Not only are you giving back to your local community, but you are serving your country!

Contact RSVP at 302.255.9882 (New Castle County)
or 302.856.5815 (Sussex County).

Lt. Governor Matt Denn is a Creative Mentor!



Lt. Governor Denn was trained by Connecting Generations during January, National Mentoring Month, and is now a mentor of a second grade boy at Bancroft Elementary School in Wilmington with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Denn spoke at Connecting Generations' 'Jazz in January' event about the importance of mentoring (above).

He and his staff have put these words into action and are working hard to expand mentoring in Delaware by reaching out to local businesses for more volunteer mentors and support. Read more about the Markell-Denn "Better Delaware" initiative on the left.

Connecting Generations is proud to be part of this initiative and to count Lt. Governor Denn as one of our more than 1,000 active Creative Mentors in Delaware!



Denn (left) taking notes at Creative Mentor training

Connecting Generations Partners Honored by the Delaware Mentoring Council

Connecting Generations congratulates our business partners who were honored by the Delaware Mentoring Council during National Mentoring Month for their commitment to mentoring children in our community. WSFS Bank was honored with The Thomas R. Carper Award for Youth Mentoring and a number of organizations were recognized with Delaware Mentoring Council Certificates of Appreciation.

The awards were presented on January 27 at the 'Celebration of Mentoring' at the Baby Grand in Wilmington. Lt. Governor Denn and Wilmington Mayor Baker were also there to address the event's participants and encourage them to continue supporting mentoring.

Connecting Generations staff and Board members were present to help honor their business and community partners:

Business

Aetna, Inc.

Agilent Technologies

AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals

Bank of America

Black Rock

Nationwide Financial Network

Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics

The Bancorp Bank

Wilmington Trust Company

WSFS Cash Connect

Faith-based Organization

Cathedral Church of St. John

Christ Church Christiana Hundred

School District

Appoquinimink School District

State Agency

Delaware Department of Services
for Children, Youth and Their Families

Government

City of Newark



*Jim Patton (CG volunteer), Jane Maroney (CG volunteer),
Jim Wolf (De Chamber of Commerce) and
Dean Michael Gamel-McCormick (UD)*

ASK RACHEL

Rachel Markowitz, Manager of Training and Recruitment, answers commonly asked mentor questions. Visit our website at CreativeMentoring.org for more FAQs and our new Facebook page to pose and respond to questions.

Question: "I just got trained this spring and am eager to begin working with a student. What is the next step I should take, since it's so far into the school year?"

Answer: The Creative Mentoring program primarily organizes placements with school partners in the fall. However, there are a few options for those new mentors who just can't wait. Call me and I'll provide information about additional opportunities and help set up a placement. As we continue to form community-based partnerships there will be even more choices for new mentors. Stay in touch, keep your contact information up-to-date, and check our website often for news and upcoming opportunities!

p.s.- Another common question I get at this time of year is about how to stay in touch with mentees over the summer. Visit our website and Facebook page to see what I and other mentors suggest.

Rachel can be reached directly at 302.656.2122 ext. 15 or Rmarkowitz@connecting-generations.org.



We're On the Web!!

For more information on anything in this newsletter, visit us at

www.connecting-generations.org



Creative Mentoring®
Seasons of Respect
Creative Transitions

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

Our Newsletter is Now Electronic!!

More details on the cover.

Sponsor a Mentor!

Do you believe in mentoring but can't find the time to volunteer yourself?

Or, are you a mentor and want to give back to the organization that helped you get started?

It costs us around **\$50** to provide training and materials to each new mentor.

Make a donation of **\$50** today to help another mentor get started! Mail your check to:

Connecting Generations
100 W 10th Street, Suite 1115
Wilmington, DE 19801

Or donate online at
www.connecting-generations.org

Help us continue to help mentors make a difference in children's lives in Delaware!

"Imagine a World" With Us!

Connecting Generations has begun hosting free one-hour "Imagine a World" open houses to share our story about Creative Mentoring, Seasons of Respect, and Creative Transitions, and our vision for the future of these programs that help children and adults reach their full potential.

We invite you to attend one of these free informational events or help us host one:

Newark
June 17th 6:00pm-7:00pm

Wilmington
July 15th 1:00pm-2:00pm &
Sept. 3rd 5:30pm-6:30pm

Register today by visiting our website or contact Stephanie Ferrell at 302.656.2122 ext. 14 or sferrell@connecting-generations.org

Check Out our Facebook Page!