



City of Wilmington

James M. Baker, Mayor

Louis L. Redding City/County Building
800 N. French Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801-3537

www.WilmingtonDE.gov

July 28, 2009

Dear Leader in Wilmington's Faith Community,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the many youngsters in the City of Wilmington who would benefit from having mentors in their lives. Your help is urgently needed; for many children, having a caring mentor can make the crucial difference between success and failure.

On Wednesday, August 19, the Wilmington Mentoring Commission, in partnership with the City of Wilmington, will hold a breakfast to help recruit new mentors from our faith-based community in an effort to support both our school-based and community-based mentoring programs. The breakfast will begin at **8:00 a.m. at the Double Tree Hotel located at 8th & King Streets, in Downtown Wilmington.**

In addition to joining us on August 19 for our mentoring breakfast, I respectfully ask you and other ministers in Wilmington to urge your congregations to support mentoring. What better way to serve as an example to your followers than by volunteering as a mentor yourself? Commitment as a school mentor is about 45 minutes a week. Commitment as a community mentor is 2-4 times a month after school or on the weekends.

Research shows that mentoring works. Students who are mentored are less likely to be absent from school, drop out of school, and become involved in crime. Mentored students also show significant improvement in academic performance.

I know personally what a difference a mentor can make in the life of a young person. I also know that it is not just the youngster who benefits in the mentoring relationship, but the mentor as well.

Would you ask your members to volunteer their time as mentors? If you have a bulletin or newsletter, a plea for mentors could be advertised. Members of the Mentoring Commission could make an announcement at one of your upcoming services. Most of all, we hope you will set the example and demonstrate your leadership by becoming a mentor yourself.

We would be deeply grateful for your attendance at the breakfast on August 19. Wilmington is already "in the middle of it all;" now help us make Wilmington the "City that Mentors." **Please contact Rachel Markowitz (Connecting-Generations) at (302) 656-2122 ext 15 or rmarkowitz@connecting-generations.org by August 5, 2009, to confirm your attendance.**

With best regards,

James M. Baker
Mayor



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