

Connecting Generations



News and Updates

On-Line Trainings: New Creative Mentor Training Initiative

Thanks to a generous 3 year grant from the Jessie Ball DuPont Foundation and financial support from Christ Church Christiana Hundred, we are pleased to announce our new online training initiative. We have piloted new web-based training for mentors and mentoring coordinators in November and will start hosting training sessions monthly for individuals looking to expand their knowledge in mentoring.

Our upcoming trainings will begin December 13th and focus on easy mentor recruitment, motivating students, activities for mentors, and getting a mentoring program up and running. For more information, including the dates and times of these training sessions, click the [link](#).

Program Growth

The 2010-11 school year saw another year of expanded programs.

In spite of continued funding cuts from the State of Delaware, the number of mentors we trained increased to 1,550 from the 341 we trained in 2007-08. During this same period of time the funding for our Creative Mentoring Program declined from \$260,000 to \$183,000.

Our Seasons of Respect program provided support to 3,330 students last year compared with 1,600 in the 2007-08 school year. We expanded the program to include 4th grade students in addition to the traditional 5th grade program. While our program grew, our state funding decreased from \$120,000 to \$78,700.

We have received an increase of 20% in our State funding for our Seasons of Respect program for the 2011-12 school year but unfortunately have not received an increase in our funding for Creative Mentoring.

Our continued program growth would not be possible without the generous support of individual donors, and our other partners.

SAVE THE DATE!

January is National Mentoring Month

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

3rd Annual Mentoring Works Summit at the Dover Sheraton



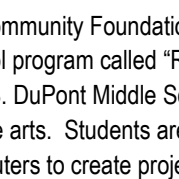
Newsletter Highlights:

- \$125,000 grant allows AmeriCorps Youth Ambassador to serve another year
- New Seasons of Respect Initiative
- Welcome new staff member
- New Board members added
- [Upcoming On-Line Trainings:](#)
12/13 Activities for Mentors
12/15 Initial Program Start-Up

With the AmeriCorps Grant the Youth Ambassadors Will Serve Another Year

Connecting Generations has been awarded a competitive AmeriCorps grant of \$125,000 for the second year in a row! The grant was developed in partnership with [Communities in Schools](#) of Delaware. Like last year, the grant is being used to support 10 AmeriCorps members serving as Mentor Coordinators in New Castle County and the Capital School District. The Mentor Coordinators, called Youth Ambassadors (YA), help to recruit, place, and train mentors and continue to support them through the year in partnering school based programs.

Last year our 10 AmeriCorps Youth Ambassadors participated in over 200 mentor recruitment events, coordinated and supported almost 300 mentors who mentored 412 mentees for a grand total of 4,225 hours! Since the launch of the YA program on October 3rd each member has hit the ground running recruiting new mentors and coordinating mentoring programming for their sites. I am so excited to welcome the newest class of AmeriCorps members! To find out who our new AmeriCorps members are, where they will serve, and much more follow the [link](#) to our website.



Seasons of Respect FY 11 Review

Seasons of Respect finished out FY 2011 with great participation in our 5th grade program and the development of a new 4th grade program known as "Exploration Respect". We also received funding to develop two new middle school pilots.

Our 5th grade program reached approximately 2700 students last year. Our partner schools were in all three counties and included 27 schools. The program continued to grow despite funding cuts in FY11 due to the great support from school counselors who help us achieve our goal of making the program sustainable by integrating the program into their counseling lessons.

Through a grant from Christ Church Christiana Hundred and the Laffey-McHugh Foundation, we were able to create "Exploration Respect", a Seasons of Respect Program for 4th grade students. Core Lessons cover Respect, Friendship, Healthy Anger and Gratitude. We were able to work with seven schools to introduce the program and a team of school counselors and SOR trainers to revise the curriculum over the summer.

Finally, we received two grants in the spring of 2011 to fund two new middle school pilots.

New Seasons of Respect Initiatives

This year in addition to our new 4th grade curriculum, Seasons of Respect has two new middle school pilot programs under development. Both programs are being developed through grant funding.

The first was a grant from the Delaware Community Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Board. The grant is being used for an afterschool middle school program called "Respect through the Arts Project". The program is being done in partnership with P. S. DuPont Middle School in Wilmington. Twelve students are exploring "Respect" through art and creative arts. Students are using a variety of mediums to explore themes. Students also will be using computers to create projects to capture the themes of the program.

The second grant was from Christ Church Christiana Hundred to create a Seasons of Respect curriculum and pilot for middle school students. We are working with Phyllis Wheatley Middle School in Bridgeville, DE and P. S. DuPont Middle School in Wilmington, DE.

2011 Creative Mentoring Training Highlights

The Creative Mentoring Team trained over 1500 people in the State of Delaware last year. That number includes over 600 new members, 350 teachers, and 275 high school students to support students in site based mentoring programs. We were able to reach more mentors last year than ever before because of the great recruitment efforts of the AmeriCorps Youth Ambassadors, our Site Coordinators, as well as the Capital Mentors program and business partnerships. Thank you to our trainers and Jen Marek, our CM Program Specialist. With increased efficiency in scheduling and delivering classes we were also able to cut our training cost per mentor from 28.35 to 23.55 – a savings of over \$6,000! We are looking forward to another great year.

Welcome Tara Kester Wiggins!

Tara Kester Wiggins joins our organization as the new Project Coordinator for Creative Mentoring.

Tara most recently served as the Program Coordinator for the Youth Volunteer Corps of West Monroe, Louisiana. She created and launched the program, which is a national affiliate. It focuses on engaging youth, ages 11-18, in service learning projects throughout their community. Prior to that, Tara collaborated with the Northeast Louisiana Big Brothers Big Sisters program where she created a course of study for a summer enrichment program that focused on language and culture; assisted in the day to day planning of the enrichment program; and assisted with the week long summer day camp. She also helped with mentor inquiries, intake and training. Tara mentored two youth who were in the custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services for over 6 years. The eldest is about to graduate from high school and start on her college career pursuing pediatric medicine.

Tara holds a Master of Arts in History from the University of Louisiana Monroe and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Howard University. While completing her graduate degree she was a Graduate Research Assistant in the Office of Marketing and Communication. In this position she developed a customer service initiative which required development of evaluation processes and tools. She assisted in monitoring the university's website, contributed to the bi-annual alumni magazine, and produced a university focused talk radio show. She also has a minor in German, extensive coursework in Spanish and experience teaching English and tutoring in foreign languages.

Her passion is education and equal opportunity and focuses on providing everyone with an opportunity and voice.

Tara's primary role will be promoting and expanding the High School Initiative. This involves recruiting and supporting high school students who will mentor younger elementary students as well as strengthening our training program and support materials for adults mentoring high school students.

In addition, Tara will be providing marketing support with our webpage and newsletters and will help coordinate our Mentor Summit.

Tara's contact information is:

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Board of Directors

Our volunteer Board of Directors elected officers for the new Fiscal Year (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012).

Those officers include:

Chair Stacey Altemus, WSFS Cash Connect - Vice President, Client Operations

Vice Chair Carmen A. Jordan-Cox Ph.D., Rowan University - Associate Professor of Education Leadership

Secretary Mike Eaton, Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz - Attorney

Treasurer Shane Breakie, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation - Director of Energy Services

We also added Kanani Hines to the board. Kanani joins us from United Way of Delaware where she serves as the Assistant Director, Community Engagement.

Glenn Stelzer completed his second 3 year term on the board and remains as a member of the Finance Committee. We thank him for his service and appreciate his continued involvement through our Committees.

Thanks to Our Government, Corporate, Foundation and Faith Based Partners

In addition to the 1,500+ volunteers who help us make a substantial impact on the lives of young people we have benefitted from the financial and volunteer support from a host of generous partners. Those partners include:

Corporation for National and Community Service – \$125,000 to support the placement of 10 AmeriCorps members to serve as Mentor Coordinators in schools. There is a \$110,000 match that is required to operate the program.

Longwood Foundation - \$60,000 per year for three years (FY11 – FY13) to support the AmeriCorps Youth Ambassador Program.

WSFS Foundation - \$10,000 per year for two years (FY11 & FY13) to support the AmeriCorps Youth Ambassador Program

Bank of America - \$10,000 for FY11 to support our Creative Mentor Program. Bank of America staff also volunteered in local schools and mentored students in the Howard High School School of Finance. Students were provided with a monthly lecture by a BOA employee and the mentors would then follow up with individual students about the topic of the month.

Young, Conaway, Stargatt & Taylor - \$10,000 in FY11 to support the matching costs for our AmeriCorps member at Stubbs Elementary School. They also provided 30+ Mentors who worked with Stubbs students on a weekly basis, purchased gloves and hats for all of the students at the beginning of winter and had a luncheon for students at the Corporate Office in Wilmington and took all of the students on a tour of the different departments at the law firm. The view from the 17th floor of the Brandywine Building provided the Stubbs students with a view of their neighborhood that they had never seen before. It also provided the students with a view of their own potential supported by the caring staff at YCST.

Black Rock - \$2,500 to support the Creative Mentoring Program and 18 staff serving as mentors primarily at Mt. Pleasant Elementary School.

The Greater Dover Committee – The Greater Dover Committee provides support with funding and mentors for the Capital Mentors Program. Working in partnership with Connecting Generations, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Communities in Schools they have made a substantial impact on the number of mentors and the capability of offering our training programs in the Capital School District. Leadership has been provided by Shelly Cecchetti, the Executive Director of the Greater Dover Committee and Ed Dulan, the President of Independent Newspapers Inc. In the first year of the initiative 168 new mentors were recruited, trained and placed with students in schools in the Capital School District.

The Delaware Mentoring Council - \$12,500 for FY11 - \$7,500 to support the work of Creative Mentoring and \$5,000 to support the work of our Public Ally, Rachael Hotchkiss, on the Mentoring Summit. The DMC, under the leadership of the new Executive Director Dr. Robert Andrzejewski, also provided \$220,000 of funding for over 20 mentoring programs in the state.

Harrington Raceway – Under the leadership of Patti Key, the Chief Executive Officer and Hank Rosenberg 35 mentors were placed in schools in the Lake Forrest School District. They also provided exceptional service and pricing for our Celebration Breakfast last spring.

The Jessie Ball DuPont Foundation – The Jessie Ball DuPont Foundation awarded us a grant for \$150,000 over three years to expand our training topics beyond our Pre-service training. In addition we now have the capability of offering our training topics using the internet through webinars.

Christ Church Christiana Hundred – In FY11 CCCH provided \$5,000 to support the Jessie Ball DuPont Foundation Grant to expand our mentor training and \$7,000 to support our Seasons of Respect Program. In addition, the church membership is very active in supporting all of our efforts.

Youth Philanthropy Board - \$2,500 to support the development of an arts based Seasons of Respect program for middle school students at PS DuPont.

The Johnson and Johnson Foundation – \$100,000 over three years to support the Bridge to Employment Program. This international program uses careers in the Health Field to help motivate students to complete their high school education and pursue post secondary opportunities. With the first cohort of students at Newark High School the graduation rate was increased from 1 out of 11 students in the Southbridge section of Wilmington to 65% at the end of the 5 years of the program. Many of these students are now attending college.

Wilmington Flower Market - \$3,150 to support the Bridge to Employment Program.

Noramco – Normaco provided \$10,000 to support the continuation of the Bridge to Employment Program. Noramco has been involved in supporting students in Wilmington for over 8 years. Their staff provides leadership on the steering committee for the program, mentors to support the high school students and fundraising through staff events.

PNC Bank - \$500 sponsorship of the Celebration Breakfast held at Harrington Raceway

Wings Foundation - \$3,500 in matching funds for new donors in our Celebration Breakfast donation campaign.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2012 "Mentoring Works Summit"

January 31, 2012

Connecting Generations will host the Third Annual "Mentoring Works Summit" at the Dover Sheraton. This summit provides an opportunity for mentors, mentoring coordinators, and mentor supporters to attend developmental and innovative workshops, to network, and to be recognized. It is a pivotal stop on the track to having an effective mentoring program and being a great mentor!

[Early Bird Registration](#) begins at the end of the month!

Nomination forms for Exemplary Mentors are available now!

Become A Mentor!

If you have 30 minutes to an hour once a week consider changing the life of a child! It only takes a little time to make a world of difference in the life of an elementary, middle or high school student!

If you cannot mentor consider making a donation of gently used books, games or other materials mentoring pairs can use.

For more information go to:
www.connecting-generations.org

