



NEWS

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Mayor Michael Pavia supports Connecticut Mentoring Month

*Issues call-to-action for individuals, corporations, community groups
to become mentors, create programs*

STAMFORD, CT- In support of Connecticut Mentoring Month in January, sponsored by The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership, an initiative of The Governor's Prevention Partnership, Mayor Pavia is encouraging individuals, corporations, and community groups to become mentors, create mentoring programs, and to enjoy the personal rewards associated with volunteerism.

In support of these efforts, The Partnership will provide technical services for Stamford Youth Services, and become the much-needed resource to connect all mentoring programs in Stamford, thereby enabling groups and individuals to distribute and exchange ideas and resources.

"I am a huge supporter of volunteerism in our communities and look forward to working with The Partnership to continue to build and sustain quality mentoring programs in Connecticut," said Mayor Pavia. "Connecticut Mentoring Month is a great opportunity to be reminded that our efforts today can only help our young people achieve their goals and become valued and productive members of our future workforce."

Throughout Connecticut, it is estimated that more than 190,000 children need mentors to guide them toward a healthy future. These children are at risk for personal and academic failure as a result of poverty, family issues, incarcerated parents and other problems.

"Our work with Mayor Pavia and the City of Stamford is one more step in our work to provide mentors for every child who needs one in Connecticut," said Jill K. Spinetti, President of The Governor's Prevention Partnership. "Studies show that youth who have ongoing relationships with caring adults are more likely to avoid alcohol and/or other drugs, stay in school and get good grades, have a better self-image and have better relationships with their families and friends."

In fact, according to a recent study by The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership and University of Connecticut, mentors in five urban-located programs reported that on average; 88 percent of mentees felt they had more options for the future, 45 percent of mentees had better attitudes toward school and 66 percent of mentees had better grades.

To reinvigorate efforts to engage mentors, Mayor Pavia plans to call a roundtable early this year that will include The Partnership, Stamford Youth Services, and key members of the business and education communities in Stamford.

To become a mentor, go to www.preventionworksct.org or contact Roland Harmon, Manager of The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership at 860.523.8042 ext. 18 or Roland.harmon@preventionworksct.org.

With a focus on Connecticut's youth, The Governor's Prevention Partnership, is a statewide non-profit public-private alliance, building a strong, healthy workforce through leadership in mentoring and prevention of violence and bullying, underage drinking, alcohol and drug abuse.