

2010 Connecticut Mentoring Theme: Kids Need YOU! Care. Share. Mentor!

Many thanks to mentoring coordinators for your support as we celebrated National Mentoring Month in January. We were proud to recognize the amazing contributions of Connecticut companies to mentoring, and we appreciate your willingness to recommend businesses for inclusion on our Mentoring Corporate Honor Roll.

At our January Honor Roll event, keynote speaker Marian Heard said, "[Businesses] are doing great things, but you need to do more. We need more money for mentoring. We need more from your company. We need you to reach out to your vendors, to other businesses, to everyone you can to bring in the resources we need to get mentors for our kids. They need you."

We accept that challenge, and The Partnership is working to provide all Honor Roll companies with the tools, inspiration and incentive they need to respond. As partners, we will surely succeed in bringing more money and mentors to mentoring programs throughout Connecticut. Join us as we support businesses in the upcoming months to make great things happen in 2010.

The Partnership is grateful for the commitment of all mentoring coordinators. We invite you to [visit our website](#) to view Corporate Honor Roll presentation photos. Look for the company you recommended, and enjoy memories of the event!

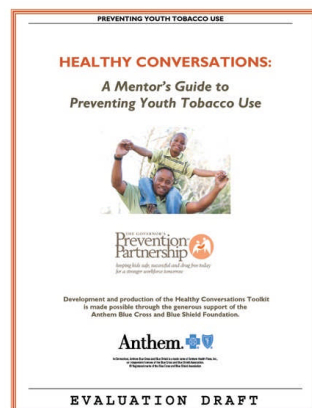
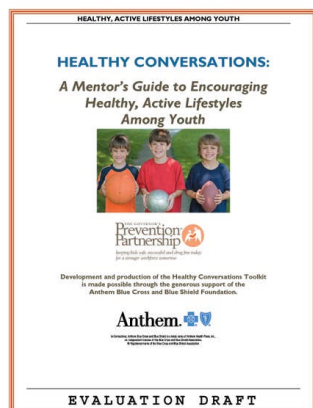
Your partner in mentoring,



Roland Harmon, Program Manager
The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership

Healthy Conversations

Mentoring Programs Pilot Innovative Toolkits



Community-based programs in Bridgeport, Hartford and Waterbury are now piloting Healthy Conversations mentor toolkits (A *Mentor's Guide to Encouraging Healthy, Active Lifestyles Among Youth* and A *Mentor's Guide to Preventing Youth Tobacco Use*) developed by The Partnership last year. Programs received free training and technical support to help mentors address the health needs of adolescents at a critical turning point in their development.

The products are designed to guide mentors in having natural, appropriate conversations with their middle-high school age mentees about health/prevention topics in the course of their regular meetings. The toolkits include health facts, entry points for discussion, guidelines for

Coordinator Training and Development Opportunities Spring 2010 Upcoming Trainings

March 11-12, 2010
[How to Build a Successful
Mentoring Program](#)

March 26, 2010
[Cultural Competency
Training](#)

April 9, 2010
[Training of Trainers](#)

May 11, 2010
[Quality Standards Training](#)

Regional Round Table Meetings

May 18, 2010
The Governor's Prevention
Partnership
10:00am – 11:30am

June 8, 2010
United Way Fairfield
County
2:00pm – 3:30pm

At the touch of a button!

**Online searchable
database** of Connecticut
mentoring programs that
meet quality standards

**Is your program
registered? Contact
[Cheryl Yetke](#)**

conversations and activities, sample conversations and activities, and additional references. Accompanying the kits are program-coordinator orientations and PowerPoint presentations that can be used to train mentors.

Toolkit implementers include two programs in Bridgeport (Hall Neighborhood House, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern CT), four programs in Hartford (Covenant To Care, Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters, My People Clinical Services, Hartford Job Corps Academy), and two programs in Waterbury (Waterbury Youth Services, Connections Mentoring Program - Living in Safe Alternatives).

Contact [Cheryl Yetke](#), Senior Program Coordinator, at 860-523-8042 ext. 23 to find out how to begin implementing the Evaluation Draft of these mentor toolkits in your community-based program.



Development of the Healthy Conversations toolkits was made possible through the generous support of the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation.

National Mentoring Advocate Urges Businesses to Ramp Up Mentoring Involvement

Over 100 businesses were recognized for their commitment to mentoring at the Connecticut Mentoring Partnership's 2009 Mentoring Corporate Honor Roll Breakfast on January 27, 2010. The celebration featured remarks from Lt. Gov. Michael Fedele and a keynote presentation by Marian Heard of Oxen Hill Partners in Boston. Heard is also Vice Chair of MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership and a founder of the Points of Light Foundation.



Ranging from Fortune 500 corporations to small companies, Honor Roll companies mentor students in more than 100 communities. They provide employees who mentor—often including company presidents and CEOs—with release time from work. Many of the companies have formed a mentoring relationship with a local school or school district.

The event included a performance by the Talented Teens step troupe of Milner Core Academy in Hartford,

under the direction of Kimberly Bridges and concluded with a vocal solo by Deremius Williams, Executive Director of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield's Provider Network.

PHOTO: At the Mentoring Corporate Honor Roll Breakfast (l to r): Roland Harmon, Program Manager; Jill Spinetti, President and CEO; Marian Heard, MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership; and breakfast emcee, John Motley, Partner, MotleyBeup Group

Governor Rell Proclaims January Connecticut Mentoring Month

In proclaiming January Connecticut Mentoring Month, Governor M. Jodi Rell stated, "Mentors build character, encourage success, boost confidence, lift expectations and expand the universe of a child, serving as friends, role models, teachers and sources of stability and support during a critical time in a child's life."

"Mentoring strengthens Connecticut's economic and social well-being by helping young people fulfill their potential while helping maintain healthy families and promoting more vibrant communities. Residents of Connecticut are making a profound difference every day in the lives of our young people by serving as mentors," said Governor Rell, adding, however, that "over 150,000 Connecticut children are in need of a caring adult mentor in their lives, and closing this mentoring gap will take more investment, partnerships and volunteers ready to make a difference in a child's life."

Mentoring Publications

[My Mentor & Me](#)
(Elementary, Middle & High School)

[Preparing My Mentor For Me](#)

Upcoming Conferences

[2010 Best Practices Conference Positive School Climate & Student Success](#)
Tuesday, April 6, 2010

[Unleash Your Inner Hero: Connecticut SADD Youth Leadership Conference](#)
Monday, April 26, 2010

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Web Resources

[The National Mentoring Partnership](#)

[The Connecticut Clearinghouse](#)

[The Wisdom of Age: A Guide for Staff](#)
(Mentor 7/14/09)
Andrea Taylor

[Enriching the Mentoring Experience Through Ongoing Mentee Training](#)
MRC Mentoring Resource Center

Connecticut Mentoring Census Yields Valuable Insights

Have you had a chance to read The Partnership's [2009 census of mentoring programs](#) in Connecticut? The study revealed that three-quarters of programs are located in Connecticut's most populated counties (Hartford, Fairfield and New Haven), and 60% of mentoring programs serve academically at-risk youth from low-income, single-parent homes.

The census also showed that boys and girls are being served almost equally in mentoring programs and that half of mentored children are age 10 or younger. Almost three of every four mentored youth are youth of color: 34% African American, 26% Latino, 26% Caucasian and 12% from other races/ethnicities. In contrast, 76% of mentors are Caucasian, 15% are African American and 9% are Hispanic/Latino.

For more information on the 2009 Mentoring Census, please contact [Roland Harmon](#) at 860-523-8042 ext. 18.

MENTOR Michigan Offers Toolkit to Help Recruit Male Mentors

A new, research-based male-mentor recruitment toolkit provides mentoring program staff and trained recruiters with a step-by-step process, as well as talking points and tips to use when asking men to become youth mentors. It takes into account a variety of recruitment settings and addresses the main components of a complete recruitment message.

"Programs tell us that recruiting men is one of their biggest challenges. Most of their mentors are female, and they find that traditional recruitment techniques don't seem to motivate the male audience to become mentors," said Amber Troupe of MENTOR Michigan. "So we worked closely with Michigan-based Kahle Research Solutions and Pace & Partners to create this research-based toolkit to address the need."

Additional resources include audio podcasts, documents and a PowerPoint presentation that can help in training.

[Click here](#) to download this free toolkit.

Amachi Project Serves Children of Prisoners

The Governor's Prevention Partnership is leading a three-year project that brings the Amachi mentoring model to Connecticut. Amachi has an important goal: matching children of convicted offenders with adult role models to help break the intergenerational cycle of incarceration. The Partnership is collaborating on the project with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern CT, Connecticut Department of Correction, Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters, Hall Neighborhood House, Champions Mentoring Program, Restoring Lives Inc., Cathedral of the Holy Spirit and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern CT.

The Amachi Connecticut Project serves children ages 6 to 17 and works with faith-based and secular partners to recruit mentors. Additionally, the project serves youth who have been adjudicated or court supported, who have a family member who has been or is currently incarcerated and who resides in one of the state's top 10 cities/towns affected by incarceration.

More than 30 mentor-mentee matches have been made thus far, and over a three-year period, over 400 youth are expected to receive mentors. This project is funded via a partnership with Public/Private Ventures, a grantee of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership is seeking additional partners for years two and three of this project. Funding is available to programs that are registered with The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership and have two to five years of experience in working with youth impacted by incarceration. Contact [Roland Harmon](#) at 860-523-8042 ext. 18 for more information.

Career Mentoring Toolkit Development and Evaluation

The Partnership will launch a new Career Mentoring Toolkit in March 2010, thanks to the generous support of the Travelers Foundation. The kit guides mentors as they engage mentees in work readiness activities, including career exploration and workplace ethics, resume writing, completing an employment application, interviewing techniques, dressing for success, job shadowing and visiting a work site. Career mentoring addresses career preparation and work-based learning experiences, with emphasis on positive attitudes, skills and behaviors necessary to meet expectations in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) careers.

The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership will provide a sneak peek of the toolkit to students served by OPMAD (Organized Parents Make a Difference), a nonprofit, parent-run organization that provides after-school programs in four Hartford public elementary schools.

To find out more about the development of the Career Mentoring Toolkit, contact [Roland Harmon](#) at 860-523-8042 ext. 18.

Pitney Bowes Donation Revives Shelton Mentoring Program

Nearing the end of the 2009 fall semester, the Shelton Board of Education was considering eliminating the position of Mentor Program Coordinator as part of a "mitigation plan" for budget crises. A last-minute donation by the Pitney Bowes Foundation, however, buoyed the Shelton Mentoring Program budget enough to continue operation through the spring semester. The program currently has 130 participants and more than 30 additional youth on the waiting list. Valerie Knight-Di Gangi, the program's coordinator, sincerely thanked Pitney Bowes PR specialist, Elizabeth Reinhart, saying, "In these tough economic times, the public needs to know that, despite everything, there are civic-minded companies like Pitney Bowes that are willing to support programs that are essential to the well-being of at-risk children and their families and are willing to support their employees in volunteering their time to help others."

Adventures in Program Evaluation

Looking for a well-rounded picture of the benefits that mentees experience as a result of your program? Here are two tips: (1) Try to gather information from at least three "informants," and (2) balance subjective reported data from informants by also collecting objective data, such as grade point average, rate of homework completion, school attendance or school disciplinary incidents.

Informants are individuals who would be able to assess positive changes in the young person. They can include mentees, teachers or other staff who work closely with the youth, parents/guardians and mentors. If all informants give similar answers, you can be more confident in your results. Keep surveys short and simple for each informant. Instead of mailed surveys, try a five-minute phone call with three targeted questions or a quick web-based survey. Avoid limiting answer choices to "yes" or "no," and opt instead for a five-point rating scale that can help show degree of impact.

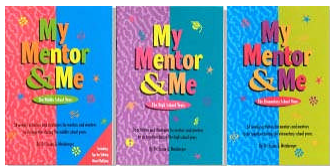
In school-based programs, data release can often be a sensitive issue. However, parent or guardian permission for accessing a student's school records can often be gained as part of the initial parental consent process for the mentoring program. Schools often keep student records electronically by assigning a code number, and data for mentees can be analyzed at the group level without the identity of individual students being revealed.

The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership provides technical assistance on program evaluation. Give us a call today to receive information on No-Fuss Evaluation for Busy Mentor Coordinators at 860-523-8042 ext. 18 and speak to Roland Harmon, Program Manager.

Staff Announcement

Veronica DeLandro, Sr. Program Coordinator of the CT Mentoring Partnership accepted a position at College Summit in January 2010. "Veronica provided quality service to mentoring programs in our state, and we wish her well and thank her for four years of dedicated service to the field of mentoring," said Jill Spinetti, President and CEO of The Partnership. "Her commitment to ensuring that every child has a mentor and hard work to support the Mentoring Institute in Bridgeport will be missed." The Partnership will launch a search for a new Sr. Program Coordinator in early spring. News about the search will be posted on our website as soon as it becomes available.

My Mentor & Me Spring Book Sale!



Take advantage of a limited-time opportunity to order Dr. Susan Weinberger's complete *My Mentor and Me* series, which includes guides for mentors of elementary, middle, and high school students PLUS her latest volume, *Preparing My Mentor for Me*.

[All four mentoring guides for \\$19.95 plus shipping and handling](#)

This offer is good only for orders received by April 30, 2010.

Spring Mentoring Regional Networks

The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership Regional Networks bring together program providers in various regions of the state to identify and discuss common issues, exchange views, support one another and promote common interests in mentoring throughout Connecticut.

Contact [Cheryl Yetke](#) at 860.523.8042 ext. 23, to register for the next regional roundtable.

Roundtable for Hartford area programs

May 18, 2010; 10:00am-11:30am

The Governor's Prevention Partnership, 30 Arbor Street, Hartford, CT

Roundtable for Bridgeport/Fairfield area programs

June 8, 2010; 2:00pm - 3:30pm

United Way Fairfield County, 75 Washington Avenue, Bridgeport, CT

We are eager to hear from you and learn more about your program, your successes and challenges, and to discuss how we can assist you.

Since 1989, the impact of our public-private partnerships has been substantial, resulting in strong prevention initiatives, including mentoring, reaching hundreds of thousands of young people.

In partnership, and with a focus on Connecticut's youth, The Governor's Prevention Partnership builds a strong, healthy future workforce through leadership in mentoring and prevention of violence, underage drinking, alcohol and drug abuse.