

Mentor Michigan News & Views

Mentoring resources that work for you

December 2008

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About Mentor Michigan

Thousands of people are looking for ways to help others. Mentor Michigan harnesses that energy by supporting more than 200 mentoring organizations around the state – organizations that match caring adults with young people in need of role models. Mentor Michigan strengthens those organizations through training, research, and partnerships with businesses, faith-based and nonprofit organizations, schools, colleges and universities, and government. Mentor Michigan also elevates public awareness of the positive impact of mentoring and the need for more quality mentors.

www.mentormichigan.org

Spotlight on Mentoring



Ottawa County *Adventures in Mentoring* Program Looks to Engage At-Risk Youth

Court involved youth in Ottawa County will now have the opportunity to become engaged in a unique mentoring program geared towards developing survival and outdoors skills. Adventures in Mentoring (AIM), a program of Event Marketing Enterprises, Inc., will partner with the Journey 4-H Youth Mentoring Program facilitated by Michigan State University Extension and will begin this spring.

AIM was created thanks to the efforts of Jim Dreyer, world-record ultra marathon athlete, and supported by the Ottawa County 20th Circuit Court. Probation officers worked to

broaden the focus of the court's various youth programs, including the Juvenile Justice Institute and juvenile Drug Treatment Court. Youth engaged in these programs will be recommended to MSUE's Journey 4-H Youth Mentoring Program. Once a youth is matched with an adult mentor those matches will then be eligible to join AIM.

The Adventures in Mentoring component of the Journey 4-H Youth Mentoring Program will include a six-week training program for teams of youth and adults to learn about orienteering, paddling, climbing, and mountain biking. and then test those skills in real world settings through weekend competitions. Journey 4-H matches will then test those skills in a weekend camp that includes a five-hour survival exercise and five-hour adventure race. Laura Schleede, Journey 4-H's coordinator, believes this new division of their mentoring program will do great things for the youth involved.

“We are excited to be a partner in piloting this effort. It’s a great opportunity for our youth to learn new skills and accomplish an incredible goal with the support of a caring adult mentor. Our hope is that it will be an exciting experience for our youth as well as a creative new way to recruit volunteers,” said Schleede.

AIM has received enormous support from the County including the 20th Circuit Court’s use of funds within the Juvenile Justice budget to see it to fruition. Sandi Metcalf, Director of Juvenile Services for the Court said they offered their support because it is clear that mentoring programs work for court-involved youth.

“We are confident the AIM program is going to offer the youth we serve within the court opportunities to learn a better way of life, through the development of relationships with appropriate, adult role models,” Metcalf said.

Further support will come from the Journey 4-H Youth Mentoring Program and Michigan State University Extension and also Jim Dreyer at Event Marketing Enterprises, Inc. – who originally piloted the Adventure Race concept in the Muskegon community. Dreyer will contract with Infiterro Sports of Flint to coordinate AIM instructional clinics and weekend camps.

“I believe the AIM program has a true point of difference that will assure its success as an effective mentoring tool. Matches working together as a team to meet the challenges of Mother Nature will teach many valuable life lessons,” said Dreyer.

For more information on the new Adventures in Mentoring program, visit the Journey 4-H Youth Mentoring Program’s website at www.msue.msu.edu/ottawa.

Recruiting 10,000 More Mentors



Mentor Michigan Welcomes New Member to Team

My name is Ben Gulker, and I am excited to be spending the next twelve months working with the Mentor Michigan team as an AmeriCorps*VISTA member.

I was born and raised in Holland, Michigan to proud parents of four children. All six of us are proud to call Michigan our home and still reside in this beautiful state. I was homeschooled for several years but graduated from Holland Public Schools in 2001. Go Dutch!

After graduation, I attended Spring Arbor University where I earned a BA in Philosophy/Religion with a minor in Psychology. I was also fortunate enough to play basketball there, and still lace up the old sneakers from time to time.

I graduated from SAU in May 2005 and shortly thereafter journeyed to Princeton, New Jersey where I continued my studies at Princeton Theological Seminary. After three years of studying and learning, I earned my Master of Divinity degree and graduated in May 2008.

This year, I will be joining the Mentor Michigan team on several promising initiatives. I will be working to provide resources and support to mentoring organizations who serve children of incarcerated parents and children in and aging out of foster care. In particular, I will be working

to provide support for and promote the Caregiver's Choice initiative and MentorPRO, an online case management tool. Also, I will be assisting organizations involved in the Men in Mentoring campaign.

I am the benefactor of several supportive and formative mentoring relationships as both a mentor and mentee. I owe so much of who I am and where I am today to generous people who took the time to invest in me. I am grateful for these people, and it is one of my life goals to give back to others in the same way that others have given to me. I am thrilled to be back in my home state, and I am excited for the work that lies ahead.

BBBS Michigan Capital Region "55 Men in 55 Days" Campaign

To honor its 55th anniversary, Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region called on 55 men within the Lansing area to become mentors during the month of December. The call to action was part of their "55 Men in 55 Days" campaign which concluded on December 25. Overall, the organization recruited 54 male mentors.

Executive Director of BBBS Michigan Capital Region, Ed Hagan, said the recruiting drive has been key to engaging more males within their program, especially African-American and Hispanic males.

To find out more about the "55 Men in 55 Days" campaign, please visit <http://www.bbbs.org/site/c.rwI8LoN7IzF/b.3762269/k.BF60/Home.htm>.

2009 National & Michigan Mentoring Month – SAVE THE DATE!

January's Michigan Mentoring Month is quickly approaching but there are still plenty of opportunities to get involved. Please mark your calendars for important dates within the month, including Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on Monday, January 19, and Thank Your Mentor Day on Thursday, January 22. Both of these days provide great opportunities to get mentors and mentees involved in paying tribute to those who have made a difference. More information about the 2009 Michigan Mentoring Month is also available at www.mentormichigan.org.

Mentor Michigan is monitoring events planned throughout the state in 2009 in recognition of Michigan Mentoring Month. If you have not done so, please fill out the 2009 Michigan Mentoring Month event form, and submit it to Elyse Ver Berkmoes Walter at verberkmoese@michigan.gov.

On a national level, a new website has been launched for National Mentoring Month and is available at www.nationalmentoringmonth.org. The website offers a variety of tools and resources, including TV and radio PSAs, printed materials, a list of local partners, and ideas about how to get involved this January.

National Mentoring Month has also announced that General Colin L. Powell will headline the eighth annual volunteer recruitment drive with the theme "Expand Your Universe. Mentor a Child." General Powell has long been engaged in our nation's youth. Prior to his term as U.S. Secretary of State, General Powell founded the America's Promise Alliance, the nation's largest multi-sector collaborative dedicated to the well-being of children and youth.

Also on board with National Mentoring Month is President-elect Barack Obama. The *New York Times* recently printed an advertisement featuring Obama with the tagline, "Be the change.

Mentor a child.” There will also be a companion video clip available featuring President-elect Obama at www.nationalmentoringmonth.org.

Opportunities

Local Opportunities

January 2009

National & Michigan Mentoring Month
Mentor Michigan, Corporation for National and Community Service, the Harvard School of Public Health, and MENTOR.

For more information, visit www.mentormichigan.org.

January 19

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
Corporation for National and Community Service & Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change

Statewide & Nationwide

For more information, visit www.mlkday.org.

January 22

Thank Your Mentor Day

MENTOR

Statewide & Nationwide

For more information, visit www.nationalmentoringmonth.org.

January 30

Train the Trainer: Mentor Training

Mentor Michigan, Michigan Community Service Commission, and Michigan State University Extension

Indian River, MI

For more information, visit

www.msue.msu.edu/portal/default.cfm?pageset_id=298464&page_id=300579&msue_portal_id=25643.

February 5

Train the Trainer: Mentor Training

Mentor Michigan, Michigan Community Service Commission, and Michigan State University Extension

East Lansing, MI

For more information, visit

www.msue.msu.edu/portal/default.cfm?pageset_id=298464&page_id=300579&msue_portal_id=25643.

National Opportunities

January 29

Mentoring's Big Night: LIVE INSPIRED!

MENTOR

New York City, NY

For more information, visit www.mentoring.org.

February 9 – 15, 2009

Random Acts of Kindness Week

The Foundation for a Better Life

For more information, visit www.actsofkindness.org.

June 16 – 18, 2009

National School-Based Mentoring Conference – 4th Edition

Mentoring in Bloom

Kansas City, MO

For more information, visit www.askusa.com/youthfriends/index.html.

June 22 – 24, 2009

National Conference on Volunteering and Service

Corporation for National and Community Service and Points of Light Institute

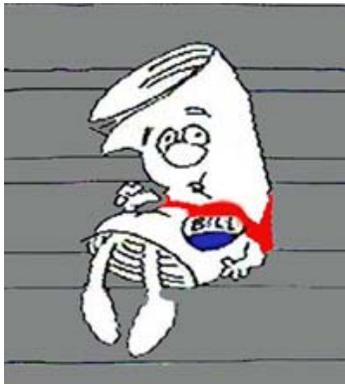
San Francisco, CA

For more information, visit www.volunteeringandservice.org.

Job Opportunities

Do you run a mentoring organization and are looking for some great employees? If you are, then this is the section for you. Mentor Michigan will market your job postings for free in the Mentor Michigan monthly newsletter. Simply fill out the job posting template and send it to verberkmoese@michigan.gov. Questions or comments? Please call or email Elyse at 517-241-0063 or verberkmoese@michigan.gov.

In the News



Michigan Bill to Amend Child Protection Law Passes Unanimously in Senate

On Wednesday, December 10, House Bill 5910 passed unanimously in the state Senate and now awaits the Governor's signature. The bill would amend the Child Protection Law to expand access to central registry clearance information for employment or volunteer purposes.

All reports filed with the Michigan Department of Human Services in which relevant and accurate evidence of child abuse or neglect is found to exist are kept on record in the central registry. Currently this information is only available to certain entities and authorized individuals. The DHS may give an individual documentation stating he or she is not named in a central registry case as the perpetrator of child abuse or neglect. To receive this information, the individual must affirm that he or she is employed by, volunteers at, is applying for employment in, or is seeking to volunteer in a child care center, child caring institution, or child placing agency. If passed, the bill would delete these provisions.

The passage of this bill would also allow an employer, a person or agency to which an individual was applying for employment, or a volunteer agency, with appropriate authorization and identification from the individual, to request and receive central registry clearance information.



Metro Detroit Mentor Collaboration Receives Comcast Community Connection Award

In early December the Metro Detroit Mentor Collaboration (MDMC) received Comcast's first-ever Commitment to Education Award. This award was

given out in conjunction with Comcast's first-ever Community Connection Awards.

MDMC was recognized for its efforts to enhance the impact of mentoring relationships and its focus on character, value development, goal-setting, and strategic planning. Kristine Marshall, President and CEO of Winning Futures, accepted the award on behalf of the MDMC.

CNCS Grant to America's Promise Alliance Will Help Detroit

Earlier this December it was announced that America's Promise Alliance has received one of the Corporation for National and Community Service's (CNCS) Youth Development Grants.

America's Promise Alliance was awarded \$2,050,000 to support its work to reduce the nation's high school dropout rate. Specifically the grant will be used to fund work in 12 "Featured Communities" across the country. The 12 communities were identified by America's Promise Alliance and its partners to receive dedicated resources and special attention to support their work to help young people graduate high school with the skills necessary to succeed in college, work, and life. Included in those 12 cities is Detroit, Michigan.

CNCS' Youth Development Grants are distributed to organizations that are addressing the needs of children and youth, particularly those most at-risk, through a collaborative approach as well as offering direct programming at the local and regional level to help young people achieve success in school.

- Information courtesy of CNCS

MENTOR's *Elements of Effective Practice Toolkit* Available

MENTOR has announced that there are now two ways you can access the *How to Build a Successful Mentoring Program Using the Elements of Effective Practice Toolkit*.

The toolkit may be downloaded online free of charge at www.mentoring.org/eeptoolkit. Or you can order hard copies directly through MENTOR at www.mentoring.org/ordertoolkit. The Toolkit and accompanying CD cost between \$12 and \$25 each, depending on the quantity ordered.

MENTOR says this Toolkit has guided mentoring programs nationwide in support of their efforts to provide quality mentoring. This Toolkit may be used by existing programs to improve current practices and by new mentoring programs looking to ensure their program is developed in accordance with the Elements of Effective Practice guidelines for program quality.

- Information courtesy of MENTOR

Mentor Michigan Makes Online Directory Changes

In the near future big changes to the online Mentor Michigan Directory will be made. Mentor Michigan is currently working to merge the Mentor Michigan Directory with the National Mentoring Database to create a comprehensive list of mentoring programs in Michigan. This directory is an important resource for people looking for an opportunity to mentor or looking for a mentoring program for their child.

Please stay tuned to the Mentor Michigan listserv for more information on this transition in January. If you're not signed up for the Mentor Michigan listserv, you can do so at www.mentormichigan.org.