MISSION: Provide an organized framework that empowers and encourages volunteers to give their time, skills, and support in seeking life-changing solutions for children who live in an educationally, disadvantaged environment.

Tutor/Mentor Connection  Cabrini Connections
800 W. Huron, Chicago, Il. 60622  312-492-9614  tutormentor2@earthlink.net
Participation in a long-term tutor/mentor program can transform the life of the youth, and the volunteer.
We created the Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC) in 1993 to help programs like Cabrini Connections grow in every poverty neighborhood of the city and suburbs of Chicago.

Using the Internet, the T/MC is now connected to organizations throughout the world, and is helping tutor/mentor programs, and citywide networks grow in Chicago and other cities.

Visit
http://www.tutormentorconnection.org
http://tutormentor.blogspot.com
http://www.tutormentorconference.org
And
http://www.cabriniconnections.net
Role of Tutor/Mentor Connection

Draw needed resources to tutor/mentor programs on a constant basis.

Those Who can help

Those Who Need help

T/MC Cabrini Connections

Host Knowledge Library at http://www.tutormentorconnection.org that anyone can use to innovate better strategies to help kids.
The goal should be to help a youth go through school and enter a job/career by age 25. It takes a village to make this a reality. Comprehensive Tutor/Mentor Programs are such villages.

To SUCCEED
We must recruit business leaders who will use their resources in **PULLING** Youth to Careers

To SUCCEED
We must help tutor/mentor program leaders, volunteers, schools and parents be more effective in **PUSHING** Youth to Careers

T/MC GOAL: SUPPORT THE GROWTH OF TOTAL QUALITY MENTORING PROGRAMS THAT HELP INNER CITY YOUTH REACH CAREERS
THE GOAL IS NOT TO FINISH 6\textsuperscript{TH} GRADE. IT’S TO REACH A CAREER.

Every program serving youth on this time line needs volunteers, dollars, technology, etc.

Agencies that help each other do more to help kids stay in school and reach careers.

Instead of competing for resources, the T/MC seeks to help programs work together to increase the availability of resources for all tutor/mentor programs.
SHARING RESPONSIBILITY

Programs serving youth in one age level, or one time frame, can do better work if the child comes to them better prepared.

To finish school and enter a career...
...youth who participate in great K-8 programs still need support to finish high school, college and to enter careers.

EXAMPLE
A program serving 5th and 6th grade kids is able to do more if programs serving the SAME kids in K-5 have laid a reading/math learning/motivation foundation.

These are feeder programs. If kids have access to good K-5 programs they will perform better in 5th and 6th grade and high school programs.
Innovative strategies are needed to assure availability of programs in more places

At this time the biggest obstacle to participating in a tutor/mentor program in Chicago or in most other major cities is that

- there are not enough programs
- there are not enough good programs, and
- there is a poor distribution of programs in neighborhoods where they are most needed.

Chicago

The shaded areas are where poverty levels in Chicago are 20% or greater. The black dots are locations of non-school tutor/mentor programs. In many areas there are almost no tutor/mentor programs.
It Takes a Multi-Year Strategy

Without the proper guidance or motivation, a child's life can come to a standstill. But if people come together to lend a hand...as tutors, mentors and friends, we can teach them to soar to their fullest potential. That's what Cabrini Connections is all about. Written by Cabrini Connections teens and volunteers in 1995.

The following Success Steps must repeat each year. Read more about these at www.cabriniconnections.net

Steps 1 & 2 - Build regular participation of youth and volunteers in weekly tutor/mentor activity.
Our first priority, on a continuous basis, and most difficult challenge, is to motivate our teens and volunteers to participate in regular weekly tutor/mentor sessions that continue for many years. Most of our teens start with Cabrini Connection in 7th and 8th grade. More than 30% stay for 3 to 7 years. More than 20% of volunteers have been involved for 3 to 10 years.

Steps 3 - 6 - Provide a variety of enrichment and learning activities that build aspirations and skills that lead youth through school and into careers. Cabrini Connections provides a variety of arts, technology, travel and college and career readiness activities.

Step 7 - Youth are starting careers and have a commitment to help others. Youth who were in 7th and 8th grade when they joined Cabrini Connections are now beginning to graduate from college. Some are volunteers at in the 2005-06 program.
All Tutor/Mentor Programs have Common Needs

* volunteers
* leaders, champions
* public visibility
* operating dollars
* technology
* training/learning
* evaluation tools/staff
The Tutor/ Mentor Connection seeks LEADERS to help raise and distribute needed resources to every tutor/mentor program in the city and suburbs of Chicago.

Visit [http://www.lend-a-hand.net](http://www.lend-a-hand.net) to see the leadership strategy that is growing in the Chicago Legal Community.
Each year the T/MC helps programs recruit volunteers in Aug/Sept. and helps programs train those volunteers and convert them into leaders as each program moves through the School year. As each program ends the year it has more people helping it build capacity and quality for the following year.

By repeating this call to involvement each year for the past 13 years, we create greater public awareness of tutoring/mentoring, and greater traffic to web sites of the Tutor/Mentor Learning Network.

*If leaders of business, professional and faith groups took this same role, the response of volunteers and donors would be much larger.*
This is the T/MC Theory of Change

If cities have strategies that look like the steps on this chart, more kids will move through school and be prepared for 21st Century jobs and careers.

Maintaining a database and building a network of programs and leaders is the step that enables everything else to happen. As leaders join the T/MC, this process can be happening in every city of the country.

Visit the T/MC Web Portal and learn more. Encourage your peers to join. http://www.tutormentorconnection.org

View the T/MC Program Locator Database, and read more essays like this, in the Tutor/Mentor Institute section, LINKS Library and Discussion Board.
Tutor/Mentor Learning Network: A Theory of Change proposed by the Tutor/Mentor Connection

“If this (initiative) is accepted and acted upon, it can change the way philanthropy and charities work together in America and throughout the world. It can change the future for millions of kids born into poverty each year.”

--Daniel F. Bassill, President of Cabrini Connections and the Tutor/Mentor Connection

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