GROWING THE TUTOR/MENTOR LEARNING NETWORK
We seek to create a nationwide network of knowledge centers, each providing information that informs the actions of tutor/mentor program leaders, volunteers, donors and youth in every part of the world.

We call this a **Tutor/Mentor Learning Network (TMLN)**
Since 1993 the Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC) has been collecting, organizing and sharing information intended to help tutor/mentor programs grow in poverty neighborhoods of Chicago.

The next two slides illustrate the comprehensive nature of this process. We house this in a

Tutor/Mentor Institute
Understand Needs

Time of Day
When are programs available?

Knowledge
More informed, more involved

Age Group
What programs are available for K-6, Jr. High, High School?

Models
What can we learn from existing programs

Location
What programs exist? Where are they? Where are voids?

Different time frames:
9PM-3PM;
3-5PM After School;
5-8PM & weekend

Different Age Groups:
Grade:
K-6
7-9
10-
work

Different Neighborhoods:
Programs Needed in Every Poverty and at-risk neighborhood

Different Services:
• safe place
• mentor
• tutor
• arts
• tech.
• science
• math

Our goal is to help everyone in the mentoring-to-career ecosystem learn from this information.

We don't want to do the research; we want to find it and make it available to others

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T/MC Knowledge Sharing Goal...

Help CURRENT volunteers, donors, business partners, etc. find useful knowledge

Help NEW programs start, and succeed

Help EXISTING programs grow and improve

Build and sustain flow of RESOURCES to programs in each neighborhood

MORE INFORMED, MORE INVOLVED

Different time frames:
- 9PM-3PM;
- 3-5PM After School;
- 5-8PM & weekend

Different Age Groups:
- Grade: K-6
- 7-9
- 10-12

Different Neighborhoods:
- Programs Needed in Every Poverty and at-risk neighborhood

Different Services:
- safe place
- mentor
- tutor
- arts
- tech.
- science
- math
- recreation

RESOURCE CENTER & MEETING PLACE

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Engineers and architects

...will rely on a massive set of complex blueprints to build the new World Trade Center.

America needs a similar set of blueprints to help millions of kids rise from a birth in poverty to

...be in jobs and careers by age 25

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The T/MC constantly asks

What are all of the actions necessary to help every youth born in poverty in one year be starting a career 25 years later?

In building a structure like the World Trade Center a parallel question might be

What are all of the things we need to do, and what resources and financing will we need, to build this building?
Engineers and architects have blueprints and a well established tradition of the steps needed to build any structure, large or small.

We don’t have such blueprints for building tutor/mentor programs that help youth move from poverty to careers.

..and we don’t have a financial commitment from America’s private sector.
They don’t exist. At least not anywhere on the Internet that we know of.

So Cabrini Connections and the Tutor/Mentor Connection are inviting innovators and experts from around the world to join with us in creating a better operating system... or a blueprint for helping kids rise from poverty.
At our web site we link to organizations that represent specific areas of expertise. We call these “hubs”

These hubs could be in different cities, or even different countries!
As HUBs link to each other more knowledge is shared...

...and greater traffic circulates to each organization in the network
This can increase funding opportunities, visibility, and impact

...for all members of the network
We face a number of challenges to accomplish what we're trying to do

- Collecting and organizing all that is known about what works in helping kids to careers. This obviously is a huge task. Not only is there a wealth of information already available to be mined, but new information is constantly being created.

- Creating interactive systems that collect, organize, display and share information while they also draw volunteers and dollars to every part of the support system is a critical first step that will enable all the rest of the work we do.

- Identifying stakeholders, both on the program/service side and on the volunteer/business resource provider side, and maintaining database/email/invitation lists is a huge challenge.

- Building a *Wal-Mart-like* advertising and PR campaign that draws visitors to the information, and volunteers, dollars, youth, etc. to tutor/mentor programs in every poverty neighborhood is something we must accomplish via partnership with business because we'll never have the dollars.

- Facilitating the understanding and use of the knowledge. We need to build a virtual university, as well as a host university, where we can educate leaders to the various roles that must be played over the next 50 years.

- Creating a virtual organization of leaders and stakeholders from all parts of the world who will inventory their own assets and bring those to this process as needed and on an on-going basis is essential.
The TMLN Components

- Link Existing HUBS of Knowledge via the Internet to the Tutor Mentor Institute Library and Each of The Hubs Libraries
- Link the HUBS with Each Other to Enhance the way Individuals and Organizations Meet and Share Information
- Open the Tutor Mentor Institute Library and Each of The Hubs Libraries to all Visitors
- Increase the Number of Network Users from 15,000 to 15 million without Increasing the Cost to any one HUB
Strategy

- Identify existing organizations that already act like HUBS
  - Build web links
  - Invite into eGroups
  - Look for opportunity to collaborate
- Identify organizations that could be HUBS if they had more help (technology, dollars, volunteers, etc)
- Adopt Existing High Tech Collaboration Tools
  - Provide Real Time Facilitated Workshops
  - Provide Real Time Interviews with Leaders in Mentoring, Tutoring, School-to-Work and Related Fields
  - Provide a Managed Listserv for E-Mail Interaction and Idea Exchange
  - Provide Production Rooms that are Virtual Working Areas for Developing New Products
- Enlist the help of Volunteers to Become Sponsors, partners or Both in Chicago and Worldwide
TMLN Outcomes

- Better knowledge available to any stakeholder
  - Less reinventing of the wheel
  - Lower costs to acquire knowledge
  - Constant innovation opportunities

- Real-time Problem Solving
- Identification of Common Goals and Best Practices
- Better Decisions, Greater commitment to long-term actions needed to support youth to careers
- Increased visibility for all members of the network
- Increased revenue for innovation, support systems and infrastructure
- More experienced leadership; career ladder for individuals within the tutor/mentor field
- More involvement of business
Greater Support to Tutor/Mentor Programs in every Poverty area

- A flow of visibility, volunteers and dollars
- Reduce costs of fund raising
- Better communications tools
- Greater involvement of volunteers
- Better training, staff support and staff retention
- Greater diversity of volunteers and learning activities within programs
- Integration of education-to-careers with youth development goals
- Better programs in more places

- More help for more youth in all neighborhoods of any city

- More kids stay in school and are prepared for jobs and careers of the 21st century

- Additional power point essays like this are available at http: www.tutormentorexchange.net in a section titled Tutor/Mentor Institute
- Learn about the Tutor/Mentor Leadership Conference - http://www.tutormentorconference.org
- Review the Chicago Program Locator at http://www.tutormentorconnection.org
- Join a tutor/mentor discussion and use the links library at http://www.tutormentorconnection.org
- Send us dollars to do this work. Cabrini Connections, which created and operates the Tutor/Mentor Connection, is a 501c(3) non profit

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