In November 1992 Daniel F. Bassill and six other volunteers created a non-profit called **Cabrini Connections** to help inner-city teens in the Cabrini Green area of Chicago connect with volunteer tutors, mentor. At the same time they created the **Tutor/Mentor Connection** to help programs like Cabrini Connections grow in all parts of Chicago. Learn more about why this two-part strategy was created. Learn how it is being continued now by the **Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC**.
In November 1992 seven volunteers created a two-part strategy to help inner city youth reach careers.

1) We created a Cabrini-Green area tutor/mentor program called Cabrini Connections

2) We created the Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC) which helps every poverty neighborhood have a full range of tutor/mentor programs

In June 2011 the Board of Directors voted to discontinue support of the Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC). The Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC was created by Dan Bassill, founder of CC, T/MC, to continue the work of the T/MC.
Cabrini Connections was formed in November 1992 by a team of seven volunteers led by Daniel F. Bassill, a former Montgomery Ward Advertising manager.

However, the roots of the organization go back to 1965 when employee volunteers of Montgomery Ward launched a tutor/mentor program for 2nd to 6th grade kids living in the Cabrini Green development.

This was front page of Chicago Sun Times on Oct. 15, 1992 when our leaders created Cabrini Connections.

Timeline from 1965
http://tinyurl.com/Timeline1965
Cabrini Connections was formed with a three-part mission. In 1992 the T/MC was just a vision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cabrini Connections</th>
<th>Training Connection</th>
<th>Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 7th to 12th grade program started in Jan. 1993.  
- Saturday morning improvisation at St. Joseph’s Church  
- Bi-weekly lunch at Wells HS  
- 580 teens involved from 1993-2010 | Would provide training for volunteers in tutor/mentor programs | Would help build public awareness, and generate resources for tutor/mentor programs  
- Would fill leadership void |
In 1993 this became a two-part strategy.

**Cabrini Connections**

- 7th to 12th grade program started in Jan. 1993.
  - Saturday morning improvisation at St. Joseph’s Church
  - Bi-weekly lunch at Wells HS

**Tutor/Mentor Connection**

**Training Connection**

- In 1994 the training connection became part of the T/MC
  - Would help build public awareness, and generate resources for tutor/mentor programs
  - Would fill leadership void
Cabrini Connections program design concepts grew from lessons learned leading Montgomery Ward/Cabrini-Green Tutoring Program since 1975

Origin of CC ‘s Volunteer based structure
Origin of CC ‘s commitment to teens
Origin of T/MC
Networking and learning with other Chicago programs since 1976.

Origin of T/MC
Networking and learning with other Chicago programs since 1976.

Origin of CC ‘s Volunteer based structure
Origin of CC ‘s commitment to teens
Origin of T/MC
Networking and learning with other Chicago programs since 1976.

Cabrini Connections program design concepts grew from lessons learned leading Montgomery Ward/Cabrini-Green Tutoring Program since 1975

Origin of CC ‘s Volunteer based structure
Origin of CC ‘s commitment to teens
Origin of T/MC
Networking and learning with other Chicago programs since 1976.
Cabrini Connections has grown to become a mentor-rich, career focused strategy. Visit the web site at www.cabriniconnections.net
While it is easy to understand where the Cabrini Connections program came from, the roots of the Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC) may be more obscure.

The T/MC grew from lessons Dan Bassill learned in leading the Montgomery Ward/Cabrini Green TP between 1975 and 1990.

By 1996 the T/MC was gaining national attention and was invited to be a “Teaching Example” at the 1997 Presidents’ Summit for America’s Future. However, most people only understood CC, T/MC as a single program serving one neighborhood.
By leading a tutor/mentor program since 1975, we’ve build an understanding of “what it takes” for youth and volunteers to connect each week in a structured program.

Many people understand the idea of connecting a youth and mentor.

Few people spend much time thinking of the infrastructure needed to support long-term connections of youth and adult volunteers in every inner city neighborhood.
Lessons learned from 1975-1992. Reasons for launching Tutor/Mentor Connection in 1993:

a) There is no source of trained leaders for Cabrini Connections

b) Operating resources are difficult to find and even more difficult to keep from year to year

c) Occasional news stories don’t generate daily public awareness and draw dollars to Cabrini Connections the way advertising draws customers to retail

d) Small non profits do not have board members and volunteers with the “civic reach” needed to generate the philanthropic investment needed to build strong organizations

e) Without philanthropic capital Cabrini Connections does not have resources to do all it needs to “help kids to 12th grade” let alone provide support to growing number of alumni
While a single program struggles to get the capital and operating resources it needs, so do most others. Lessons from 1975-1992.

a) there was uneven media coverage of kids’ in poverty stories

b) there was no database of tutor/mentor programs.

c) public attention tended to focus on a few high profile programs or a few high profile neighborhoods (Cabrini Green, Robert Taylor, etc.)

d) there was no consistent effort to distribute funds or volunteers into every neighborhood.

e) no one was consistently reaching out with a “how can I help you succeed” message

f) there was no consistent leadership from the Mayor, Governor, United Way or School Board to fill the non-school hours with comprehensive tutor/mentor programs
No one had a master database of Chicago tutor/mentor programs in 1992.

No leaders were using maps to show where tutor/mentor programs are needed, based on poverty, or where existing programs were operating.

Thus there was no way for leaders to build a program-support strategy that would help all neighborhoods have great tutor/mentor programs.
Cabrini Connections – and every other volunteer-based tutor/mentor program in Chicago -- needs the following resources every year to keep youth and volunteers connected:

* trained leaders
* volunteers
* public visibility
* operating dollars
* technology
* training/learning
Until the T/MC, no leader was trying to pull these resources into every poverty neighborhood of Chicago or into every neighborhood with poorly performing public schools.
By talking about the needs of an entire city...

The T/MC generates public awareness that draws these resources to the Cabrini Connections program and every other program in Chicago
Our strategy is to enlist volunteers and leaders from every industry to mentor kids to careers.

Cabrini Connections and T/MC both seek business partners to help in PULLING youth To careers.
By focusing on “what it take” to help tutor/mentor programs get consistent resources, we create graphics that illustrate our ideas. See more like this in essays and blog articles.
By focusing on “what it take” to help youth in many neighborhoods move through school, we create graphics that illustrate the need for infrastructure at the program level, and at the intermediary, city-wide level.

Step 7: The Result of T/MC Work

- More youth stay in school, are safe in non-school hours, graduate, and move to careers
- Better programs in more places for more age groups
- Actions that increase the flow of resources to each program

If Step 1 to 5 are happening in every poverty neighborhood, youth and families will have access to more of the help they need, better programs, and more consistent, longer-term services.

This will begin to achieve the changes in school performance and career preparation that we all want:

- better attendance in school
- lower drop out rates
- less youth violence
- better academic performance
- business reports better prepared workers
Recognizing that non profits have few advertising dollars, we seek to teach youth, volunteers, leaders from Cabrini Connections and many programs to be network-builders, using blogs, social media, personal networking, etc. to expand the frequency and reach of our messages to potential supporters.

Can you take this role?

Can you connect your network to programs in other parts of Chicago? Can you help increase resources for all programs in a geographic region, and thus for YOUR program?
Strategy intended to generate greater media attention

The T/MC strategy sought to increase media stories about tutor/mentor so that more volunteers and donors would support tutor/mentor programs in all parts of the Chicago region...and that some donors would also support the intermediary role of the T/MC.
How Cabrini Connections Benefits from T/MC

Without the T/MC, Cabrini Connections could not have survived its first few years. By talking about the needs of the entire city, the T/MC helped CC get more public attention.

T/MC visibility has helped recruit volunteers and donors for Cabrini Connections.

T/MC library of information provides an on-going wealth of information for Cabrini Connections to innovate with.

T/MC shares costs for rented space, staff, and utilities with Cabrini Connections, lowering the costs and making better space available.
How T/MC Benefits from Cabrini Connections

Direct involvement in the Cabrini Connections program provides day-to-day reasons for T/MC to exist

Cabrini Connections volunteers and staff created the T/MC and took us to the internet.

Cabrini Connection news stories and videos add to public awareness generated by T/MC

Cabrini Connections experience keeps T/MC focused on everyday needs of small volunteer-based tutor/mentor programs
The Tutor/Mentor Connection has enabled Cabrini Connections, T/MC to connect with leaders it might not have known.
Cabrini Connections, T/MC founded in October 1992 by a team of seven volunteers

Cabrini Connections has been able to connect more than 580 inner city teens with a wide range of volunteers, celebrities and learning activities.
Dan Bassill created the Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC in July 2011 as a strategy to continue to support the Tutor/Mentor Connection in Chicago while helping similar intermediaries grow in other cities. As of December 2011 this strategy is still evolving. Sponsors, partners, thinkers and volunteers are needed. Email Dan at tutormentor2@earthlink.net if you’d like to know more.

From 1992 to 2011 the volunteers and supporters of Cabrini Connections bore the responsibility of raising money to support the T/MC efforts to help tutor/mentor programs grow in all parts of Chicago.

The Board of Directors decided it could no longer do this and voted to end support of the T/MC effective June 30, 2011.
This global strategy is now supported by Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC and your help is needed.

If you want to support a single volunteer-based program in one neighborhood of Chicago...

1) Look at the Cabrini Connections program in the Cabrini-Green area

If you want to help more k-12 youth be part of volunteer-based programs....

2) Become a partner, sponsor or volunteer with the Tutor/Mentor Institute and help us support intermediaries like the Tutor/Mentor Connection in Chicago and every other major city of the world
Support one, or both.
Visit these web sites to see what we do and make your donor decision.

Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC sites:
http://www.tutormentorconnection.org
http://www.tutormentorexchange.net
http://www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net
http://www.tutormentorconference.org
http://tutormentorconnection.ning.com
http://tutormentor.blogspot.com
http://mappingforjustice.blogspot.com

Cabrini Connections: http://www.cabriniconnections.net
Cabrini Connections blogs: http://cabriniblog.blogspot.com