TUTOR/MENTOR CONNECTION
and CABRINI CONNECTIONS
2000-2010 REPORT

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.

This report shows why Cabrini Connections ceased support for Tutor/Mentor Connection in 2011 which led to formation of Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC.

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Cabrini Connections, Tutor/Mentor Connection was a two-part organization.

This report was prepared in January 2010 before the split of Cabrini Connections and Tutor/Mentor Connection. The remaining pages show what the shared goal of this organizations was until June 30, 2011.
Vision of Cabrini Connections, Tutor/Mentor Connection

One day, there will be a comprehensive, mentor-rich, support system in place, so that every child born in poverty in one year is starting a job/career 25 years later.

The Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC) (also known as Cabrini Connections) is a grass-roots non-profit organization concerned about the large number of American children who fail to obtain the basic skills and experience that will be necessary to compete for employment in the global economy of the 21st Century.

The T/MC believes that after-school tutoring, mentoring and school-to-work programs like its own can make a significant difference in whether a young person finishes high school and enters the work force or drops out and becomes part of the next generation on welfare.

For many years, this organization has helped create school-to-work opportunities for inner-city children by recruiting volunteers to contribute time and energy to provide quality after-school tutoring and mentoring to teens living in the Cabrini-Green area of Chicago.

The Need for Volunteer-Based Tutor/Mentor Programs
Young people with the most severe unmet needs often live in very poor and high-risk neighborhoods with few opportunities to get the critical experiences needed for positive development. They often experience repeated racial and ethnic discrimination. Such youth have a substantial amount of free, unsupervised time during their non-school hours. (from National Academy Press, Community programs to Promote Youth Development (2001).

In the next few pages you’ll meet the students and volunteers who spend time each week throughout the school year at Cabrini Connections:
Founded in 1992, but with history dating back to 1965

In 1992 a small group of volunteers created Cabrini Connections. Its primary purpose was to provide one-on-one tutoring/mentoring to teens living in the Cabrini Green area of Chicago.

However, the group had a larger vision. The founders of Cabrini Connections realized that comprehensive tutor/mentor programs were needed in many neighborhoods of Chicago, not just Cabrini Green. They recognized a leadership void and decided to split their time, talent and resources to filling this void. Over the past 16 years their vision has become the Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC).

While Cabrini Connections and the T/MC will be entering their 17th year in 2009, the roots of this organization extend back to 1965 when a small group of employees from the Montgomery Ward Corporate headquarters in Chicago began to go to the 412 Building in Cabrini Green to tutor elementary school children.

Dan Bassill, founder of Cabrini Connections, T/MC, joined Montgomery Ward as an advertising copywriter in 1973, and became a tutor that fall. In 1975 Dan became the leader of the volunteer program. Between then and 1990 he held two jobs of growing responsibility. One as an advertising manager with Wards. One as the leader of a volunteer program that had 300 pairs of youth and adults involved by 1990.

Part of Dan’s success was that in 1976 he began inviting other tutor/mentor programs to gather and share ideas. This networking of leaders is what enabled Dan to build the Wards program into a nationally-recognized model. It also led to the creation of the Tutor/Mentor Connection. Many of the founders and current leaders of Cabrini Connections, and the T/MC first became involved in tutoring in the mid 1980’s when they joined Dan and the program at Wards.

Thus, as we celebrate the beginning of our 17th year, we also celebrate 44 years of history. We hope you will embrace our vision and continue to add your own time, talent and dollars to helping us succeed.
Cabrini Connections: Creating a Pipeline to Careers

Research shows that getting older youth to participate in non-school programs is more difficult than attracting younger youth, yet 56% of teens who have been part of Cabrini Connections since 1993 have been in our one-on-one program for two or more years and 34% (188 teens) for three to seven consecutive years!

After 18 years, we now have a pipeline of youth ranging from entry-level 7th graders to 2003 and 2008 college graduates — who were in 7th and 8th grade when they first joined Cabrini Connections in 1993.

College & Career Readiness Activities
For the past ten years Cabrini Connections teens and graduate students from Edgewood College in Madison, WI have connected each July in a 3-day workshop at Cabrini Connections. View this video about the Edgewood Experience: [http://tinyurl.com/edgewood-video](http://tinyurl.com/edgewood-video)

In 2009 a group of volunteers re-decorated one section of the tutoring center and created a COLLEGE ZONE which is staffed each week during tutoring sessions with a volunteer who coaches teens and volunteers about college choices. Each year college visits enable teens to visit places like DePaul, Westwood College, IIT, etc.

A Decade in Review
This report features charts showing number of youth and volunteers in Cabrini Connections each year since the 1999-2000 school year, and the funds that have been available each year.

It also shows the number of people reached through the Tutor/Mentor Connection and the funds it has had available to support its efforts to help youth throughout the Chicago region.
While the majority of students still reside in Cabrini Green many now live in poverty neighborhoods on the West and South sides of Chicago.

The distance students travel to attend weekly sessions shows the value they place on Cabrini Connections, and the lack of alternatives in their own neighborhoods.
Cabrini Connections students active at end of each school year

(number of students at the end of each year is 80-85% of number that started in fall)
Students participating 3 to 6 years in Cabrini Connections

(Number of students participating 3 to 6 years ranges from 48% to 68% in all but 1 year.)
Cabrini Connections, T/MC volunteers active at end of each school year

(Number of volunteers with students in one-on-one, group and coordinator roles shows in blue. Additional volunteers include board, advisory council, tech support and key Tutor/Mentor Connection volunteers.)
This alumni is a college grad and a donor supporting Cabrini Connections.

Tramaine Montel Ford (middle) is an actor in New York and graduate of Syracuse. He got his acting start at Cabrini Connections.

This chart does not reflect students who participated for one to 5 years but did not stay through senior year.

These alumni both have Master’s degrees.

This alumni is a college grad.
Annual Operating Expenses from 2000 to 2009 for Cabrini Connections. Rent and utilities for 4200 sq ft at 800 W. Huron is 30% of expense.

(Cabrini Connections has received a $40,000 contract from the City of Chicago each year since 2000 for operation of the tutor/mentor program.)
“We estimate the present value of saving a 14-year-old high risk juvenile from a life of crime to range from $2.6 to $5.3 million. Similarly, saving a high risk youth at birth would save society between $2.6 and $4.4 million.”

New Evidence on the Monetary Value of Saving a High Risk Youth –
Mark Cohen and Alex Piquiero, Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management, TN, Nashville, USA

With so much potential benefit, why can’t we find more funding to support Cabrini Connections each year? Can you help?
If you believe that a program like Cabrini Connections is a value, then what can you do to help it and similar programs get the resources they each need to operate effectively?

This is the challenge the Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC) seeks to address.

**MISSION:** Gather and organize all that is known about successful after-school tutor/mentor programs and share that knowledge to expand the availability and enhance the effectiveness of these services throughout Chicago.

T/MC actions draw dollars, volunteers, and training to tutor/mentor program in every part of the city and suburbs of Chicago.

This map shows transit routes that bring potential volunteers and donors through poverty neighborhoods, and past tutor/mentor programs, as the come and go to work. This is an example of maps created by the T/MC, that can be used to support involvement decisions of businesses, churches, volunteers at tutor/mentor programs in all parts of the city and suburbs. See Program Locator at [http://www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net](http://www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net).
Each May and November since 1994 the T/MC has invited leaders of tutor/mentor programs and other organizations listed in the T/MC resource library at [http://www.tutormentorconnection.net](http://www.tutormentorconnection.net) to gather for two days of networking and information sharing. The conferences are intended to stimulate the flow of ideas between programs, but are also intended to help us attract public attention, and increase the flow of dollars and volunteers to tutor/mentor programs throughout the Chicago region. On this page are images from the November 2008 and May 2009 conferences which were held at the Northwestern University School of Law and at the Chicago Field Museum. Visit [http://www.tutormentorconference.org](http://www.tutormentorconference.org) to see more pictures.

This map shows poverty areas where tutor/mentor programs are most needed. The red dots are participants in the November 2008 conference. Money raised by CC, T/MC helps make these networking conferences possible.
Mapping Conference Impact
Analysis of November 09 Conference

Using donated software and volunteer time, the T/MC is creating maps to illustrate the network-building role of the T/MC and the conferences. This map represents the distribution of organizations that attended Nov 09 conference. The map has been color-coded to represent tutor/mentor programs, programs supporting tutor/mentor programs, donors, schools, universities, literacy and media. See more like this at [http://kalyanimisra.blogspot.com](http://kalyanimisra.blogspot.com)
Participation in the May and November Tutor/Mentor Leadership and Networking Conferences declined as funds to promote them were less available. Economic factors also reduced the number of participants who could attend, as did growth of conferences in other cities.
The Tutor/Mentor Connection, is a small organization with a big vision. We lead an innovative strategy that works on three levels:

- we mentor youth and volunteers at a Chicago program, called Cabrini Connections, that serves Cabrini-Green area teens;

- we mentor hundreds of organizations in Chicago and around the country that provide tutoring/mentoring services to thousands of inner-city and at-risk youth;

- we mentor business, philanthropy, media, and other institutions to help them be more strategically involved in using their volunteers, dollars, jobs and technology in PULLING kids from poverty to careers.

Each year the T/MC publishes an email Tutor/Mentor Report Newsletter, that reaches more than 4,000 stakeholders per month. The T/MC also participates in a variety of email forums that connect us with thousands of additional people and social benefit organizations each month. These include: Mentor Exchange, Youth Mentoring (researchers) ListServe, Learning to Finish Wiki of Pew Partnership for Civic Change. www.socialedge.org, http://www.nonprofitcongress.org, http://www.womenoncall.org, and numerous others.

Interactive Map now on-line
Thanks to a $50,000 gift received in November 2007, the T/MC has rebuilt its map library, launched a new interactive map in March 2009. With this service, anyone can create their own map views of an area of the city or suburbs where tutor/mentor programs operate, or are needed. Funds for operating this and constantly upgrading the technology ran out in mid 2009!!!
Search “Google” for the ‘tutor mentor’ and see T/MC on first page.

First web site was established in 1998 by volunteers. Since then several additional web sites have been created to meet specific goals. See list at [http://www.tutormentorexchange.net](http://www.tutormentorexchange.net)
To help have a citywide strategy to help tutor/mentor programs grow requires:

a) Knowledge of existing programs
b) Advertising
c) Training of non-profit & for-profit leaders
d) Continuous flow of dollars, volunteers, etc.

OHATS was launched in 2000 to document actions taken by T/MC and other leaders to help tutor/mentor programs grow in Chicago area.
In 2000-2002 a $25,000 grant was provided each year just to organize the August/September Chicagoland volunteer recruitment campaign. Without the work of volunteers and interns and the use of the internet the Tutor/Mentor Connection would not exist.
Annual Operating Expenses from 2000 to 2009 for Tutor/Mentor Connection with Rent & Utilities excluded.

Includes costs of
• collecting information about Chicago tutor/mentor programs,
• hosting program locator directory
• organizing conferences
• web based library
• eMail newsletter
• one on one consulting
• Extensive network building

In 2000-2002 a $25,000 grant was provided each year just to organize the August/September Chicagoland volunteer recruitment campaign. In 2008 a $50,000 donation was given to revamp T/MC mapping and program locator. In 2007 & 2008 $30,000 grants were given by Lawyers Lend A Hand to Youth for T/MC research and collaboration. None were repeated in 2009 or 2010.
TMC ranks as the highest population served compared with mentoring partnerships in 10 other locations.

*Estimates of the Resident Population by Selected Age Groups for the United States, States, and Puerto Rico: July 1, 2008 US Census Bureau
TMC ranks last in revenue compared with mentoring partnerships in 10 other locations.

Note revenue data was not available for The Mentoring Partnership of Arizona (MPA).
Total Revenue available each year from 2000 to 2009 to support Cabrini Connections, Tutor/Mentor Connection in Chicago

90% of revenue is non-government

(Loss of the Montgomery Ward Corporation as host and major sponsor in 2000 as well as the decade-long economic challenges have hurt fund raising.)
Changes in economy and donor giving cause swings in funding and services. Cost cutting lags behind revenue declines since more than 50% of giving comes in last part of year and often cannot be predicted.
Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC will continue to be a center for learning, innovation and collective action.

Can you take this role?

- donor
- business
- media
- college
- Elected leader

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?

The only way to assure that Cabrini Connections and similar programs in high poverty inner city neighborhoods continue is to have volunteers, alumni and other leaders constantly tell people they know about the work these programs do and help secure donations to fund the program on a consistent level.

The Tutor/Mentor Institute is a place to learn, teach, innovate and find new ways to make high quality, volunteer-based tutor/mentor programs available to youth living in high poverty neighborhoods of Chicago and other cities.

We will support the continued operations of the Tutor/Mentor Connection in Chicago and help similar intermediary groups form in other cities.

Daniel F. Bassill, founder Cabrini Connections, Tutor/Mentor Connection and Tutor/Mentor Institute.
Visit our web sites to learn more about these ideas and ways you can help.

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