Dear Friend,

I hope you and all of your family and friends will enjoy a healthy, happy holiday season. Thank you for visiting the Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC web site and browsing the articles.

In a Nov. 29 article on http://tutormentor.blogspot.com/ I quoted the chief executive of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation who described five qualities of social change makers: “figuring out what needs to change and then showing the vision, courage, knowledge, and tenacity to make things better.”

Of those qualities, he said, tenacity is the most elusive—and the most valuable. He also said, "Social change takes time."

At the top of this page you can see a 1995 Chicago Tribune article which you can find in the archive at http://www.tutormentorexchange.net/news-pr. While this was written almost 18 years ago, I include it to illustrate my tenacity and the long-term effort needed to build strong volunteer-based tutoring, mentoring and learning organizations and support youth from first grade through high school and into careers.

The other graphic is from one of the PDF essays I've created over the past 18 years. While I've had these on the Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC library since 2000 I was not able to get a count of how many were reading them. I've posted about 40 articles on http://www.scribd.com/daniel-f-bassill-7291 since October 2011 and these have been viewed over 32,000 times in just over one year. Maybe you are one of those who have read these and shared them with your own network. Thank you.

I spend time every day of the week connecting with people from Chicago and around the country, sharing my ideas and adding their ideas to the library I host at http://tinyurl.com/TMC-Library which includes a list of more than 200 Chicago area youth organizations and the Interactive map-based Program Locator. No other city has this service and few leaders use their maps and directories to try to draw volunteers and donors to every tutor/mentor program in every high poverty neighborhood.

I've been persistent in this effort, even without money to pay me a salary or cover the minimal costs of hosting the various web sites I host and offering the May and November Tutor/Mentor Leadership and Networking Conferences in Chicago. My total costs this year will be about $18,000. Through November my revenue is $5,000.

Thus, I hope you will send a contribution to support my efforts once again this holiday season. If you'd like to use PayPal this page has a link. http://www.tutormentorconference.org/platform_tmi.htm
The only thing that has changed in what I’m doing now from what I was doing from 1993 to 2011 is my tax status. I’m not a 501-c-3 charity. I’m a “social entrepreneur” -- meaning I can look for money and partnership to fund what I do from more places. It also means you don’t get to take a tax deduction if you send money to help me. So far I’m still trying to find a way to make this work.

It will take just one or two major sponsorships, clients, gifts or bequests to generate the capital needed in 2012 to re-build a staff and team of people who work with me to develop the many opportunities that I describe on my web sites. Until that type of financial muscle is discovered I depend on help from you and others.

Please help me in two ways:

1) Read my blog articles at http://tutormentor.blogspot.com at least once every two weeks and repost these on Linked In, Facebook and/or Twitter so we expand the range of people looking at these ideas.

2) Reward my persistence and tenacity with your own financial support.

There is much to do and too few people helping me, yet I thank you for continuing to help make this “master plan” a reality in more places. Please Email me at tutormentor2@earthlink.net if you have questions or want to get involved in any way.

Sincerely,

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