This is an idea essay created by the Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC and Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC) as a result of 36 years of leading a volunteer-based tutor/mentor program in Chicago. Our mission is to provide information and support actions that lead to the growth of long-term, volunteer-based tutor/mentor programs in high poverty areas. Learn more about the T/MC mission and history at [http://www.tutormentorexchange.net](http://www.tutormentorexchange.net).
Adult tutors & mentors can make a life-enriching difference in the lives of inner-city children and youth...if they are connected in organized programs that provide on-going support to the youth and volunteer.

In the following pages we use the Illinois Senate’s 14 District as example of how maps can be used by elected leaders. This is not intended to single out the elected representative of this district because this process of leadership needs to be taking place in dozens of political districts in Illinois and other states.
The goal of the Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC) is to help comprehensive, volunteer-based programs grow in every high poverty neighborhood of the city and suburbs.

T/MC seeks to support leadership in every industry, in churches, and in universities, that mobilizes volunteers, leaders and donors to support Tutor/Mentor programs throughout the Chicago region.

As an example, this map shows places that received 2007 donations from the Lawyers Land A Hand Program. Learn more at:

- [http://www.tutormentorconnection.org](http://www.tutormentorconnection.org)
- [http://www.lawyerslendahand.net](http://www.lawyerslendahand.net)

* search the T/MC program locator by zip code, age group and type of program, to see what is available in high poverty areas.
Look at the Whole District
Not Just one or two places in the district

This map shows that part of the Illinois 14th Senate District has high levels of poverty, with many poorly performing public schools.

It also shows locations of organizations who provide various forms of volunteer-based tutoring and/or mentoring during non-school hours. Descriptions of these organizations can be found using the Tutor/Mentor Program Locator Database located at the www.tutormentorconnection.org web site.

These are areas where a comprehensive tutor/mentor program strategy, engaging volunteers from beyond poverty who pass through the neighborhood every evening as they go from work in the LOOP to the West and South Suburbs, could become an expanded learning support system for kids in these neighborhoods.
Search on-line for program info

In Chicago anyone can use the Tutor/Mentor Program locator to search by age group, type of program and zip code to find contact information for non-school, volunteer-based tutor and/or mentor programs in different neighborhoods ….if they exist.

Note: Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC does not make any claim as to quality of these programs. This service intends to help people find out what programs exist so they can then visit the sites and learn more of the types of services they offer.
Leaders need to form learning circles, to focus on solutions.

A learning circle is a group of people with a common background, or interest, who meet regularly to learn about an issue, and discuss ways to incorporate what they learn into their lives. Churches do this weekly when groups of people gather to discuss scripture. To solve problems of poverty and poor schools, such circles need to be in business, churches, hospitals, and in affluent areas, as well as high poverty areas.
While there are many churches in low income areas that could be meeting places for youth and volunteers, there are many faith communities in the more affluent parts of this district who could be providing volunteers, dollars and leadership to support the growth of comprehensive tutor/mentor programs, and to open doors to college and jobs as youth grow older.
While there are fewer churches from these denominations in the high poverty areas, there are many in more affluent areas, that could be providing volunteers, dollars and leadership to support the growth of comprehensive tutor/mentor programs, and to open doors to college and jobs as youth grow older. Review the suggested communications strategy for Faith Communities at:

http://www.tutormentorexchange.net/Partner/CC/Presentations/Leaders/HOW%20FAITH%20COMMUNITIES%20CAN%20LEAD%20VOLUNTEER%20MOBILIZATION%20FOR%20TUTOR.pdf
Hospitals and Colleges in the 14\textsuperscript{th} Ill Senate District

Hospitals face “costs of poverty” and workforce development issues, while universities seek to create a diversity pipeline and have meaningful engagement with their communities. At each hospital or university on this map, learning circles could form, developing engagement strategies that help more youth in the area surrounding each hospital or university, or throughout the entire district.
The goal should be to help a youth in all neighborhoods get through school and enter a job/career by age 25. It takes a village to make this a reality.

A comprehensive Tutor/Mentor Program is where the village can come together to achieve this.

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 REWARDING CAREERS
Using Internet connections, each group can learn from others, and can provide volunteers and dollars to each tutor/mentor program in the district.

Every time one leader talks about tutoring/mentoring, they need to end by pointing to the map of Chicago and saying, “we need good programs in every poverty area”.

http://www.tutormentorconnection.org

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Connecting With Others on Internet

http://debategraph.org/mentoring_kids_to_careers

This is one place where anyone can share ideas and strategies for mentoring youth through school and into jobs and careers. Anyone can use these ideas at any time in their own community.

Another portal is http://tutormentorconnecti on.ning.com
Anyone, adult or youth, can be a leader who can launch a learning circle within a church, company, or school. Someone needs to be the catalyst to make this happen.

Every elected representative can be such a catalyst, using maps to mobilize resource for all parts of a district where extra help is needed, and to show where they are having an impact.

Flags on these maps could indicate which churches, colleges or hospitals have active strategies. They could also show which programs have benefited as a result of the actions undertaken by elected leaders.

Such leadership would contribute to the growth of learning circles, and in the growth of comprehensive volunteer-based learning support systems in every neighborhood with high poverty and poorly performing schools.

View the T/MC OHATS section of http://www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net/OHATS/home.aspx to see how actions can be documented. Contact the T/MC to discuss how actions can be mapped.
Part of this may already be happening.

- The Tutor/Mentor Connection was established in 1993* to collect “everything that is known” about what others are doing to help kids participate in tutoring and/or mentoring. That’s a lot of information to try to gather.

- Thus, we suspect there are many leadership initiatives in place that we do not know about. Many churches, hospitals and businesses may have strategies in place to support tutoring/mentoring, that are not included in the T/MC knowledge base.

- Thus we encourage those who are already involved in helping tutor/mentor programs grow in this district, or other parts of Chicago, to submit information, using the forums at http://www.tutormentorconnection.org, or by posting comments on http://tutormentor.blogspot.com

- As we collect more about what is know, we make more information available to everyone working to help kids.

- This is information that anyone can use to improve what is being done to help kids in high poverty neighborhoods have access to comprehensive, volunteer based tutoring and/or mentoring programs.

*In July 2011 the Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC was formed to continue to support the Tutor/Mentor Connection strategy in Chicago and to help similar intermediary groups grow in other cities.
See Maps for other Districts

http://mappingforjustice.blogspot.com/search/label/politics

Visit of the interactive Tutor/Mentor Program Locator to make maps for different Chicago region political districts. http://www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net/GovernmentMapGalleries.aspx. This is a demonstration site. Become a partners/sponsor and help us build this resource.
Learn more, ask questions

Why are tutor/mentor programs needed? How does poverty impact learning? Find articles and research on this and related issues in the library section of http://www.tutormentorconnection.org

Find more maps on the T/MC web sites. Use the Program Locator’s Google Map feature to locate businesses in the same area as tutoring and/or mentoring programs.

http://www.tutormentorconnection.org
http://tutormentor.blogspot.com

Email tutormentor2@earthlink.net or call 312-492-9614 to discuss ideas for collaboration and capacity building among programs, or between cities.

History: The Tutor/Mentor Connection was launched in 1993, along with the Cabrini Connections tutor/mentor program, by a small group of volunteers who wanted to do more to help 7th to 12th grade teens living in Cabrini Green succeed in school. The leaders recognized that to help the teens in one program, an infrastructure needed to be created that would draw consistent support to all volunteer-based tutoring and/or mentoring programs in the Chicago region.

In June 2011 the Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC was created to support the T/MC strategy in Chicago and to help similar intermediary groups form in other cities in future years

Tutor/Mentor Institute is not a 501 (c) 3 non profit, yet it focuses all money raised toward activities that help volunteer-based tutor/mentor programs grow in many places where they are most needed. Your support, investment and involvement is essential for this strategy to be successful.
Want to get involved?

To learn about tutoring and/or mentoring in different zip codes, visit the Tutor/Mentor Program locator at:
http://www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net/programlocator/default.asp

Read more about how maps and visualizations can be applied in a leadership strategy. http://www.tutormentorexchange.net/mapping-the-programs

If you know of additional programs, or can help update this information, contact the Tutor/mentor Connection at the address shown below.

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