First Report of Tutor/Mentor Program Availability Released in November!

When the Cabrini Connections Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC) launched its research process in January of 1994 its goal was to locate every tutor/mentor program in the city and learn who they serve, including age, grade, etc., what hours they provide service, what neighborhood they serve, and how many volunteers were involved as one-on-one mentors, etc.

Working with Metro Chicago Information Center, a professor from Illinois Wesleyan and borrowing from research provided by The Chapin Hall Center for Children, we launched a survey and lead-development process that beat 120 programs by April 1994. A survey of those programs indicated that most operated in isolation and would come together if we hosted a low/no-cost conference.

While we have continued the survey from year to year, and built a library of case histories, training materials and reference books that now serves as a resource for anyone looking to build or expand a tutor/mentor program, the T/MC’s goal has always been to use this research to establish a “baseline” of services availability that could be a comparison for year to year.

For the 8th time in four years the Tutor/Mentor Connection hosted a conference of program leaders, volunteers and resource providers to help improve the overall quality of tutor/mentor programs in Chicago. These conferences are intended to help leaders gather and share ideas, so that each program continuously improves, borrowing from the best work being done anywhere in America.

Co-sponsors were the Chicago Public Schools, Literacy Volunteers of America-IL, Science Linkages in the Community and Loyola University Chicago.

More than 20 organizations hosted display booths at the conference, including First Book, First Book to Chicago programs.

Conference topics ranged from basics, such as recruiting and retaining volunteers, marketing and fund raising, and volunteer training to workshops on diversity and how programs might involve youth in leadership activities. On Saturday, one of the workshops was presented by The Associated Colleges of Illinois, providing volunteers with tips of how they can better prepare older students for college.

As with previous conferences there also has been a request for handouts which the T/MC does not have the funds to provide. We have listed workshop presenters on the T/MC web site, with contact information so anyone reading this newsletter can make a direct contact.

The next conference will be May 1 and 2, in Chicago. Sponsors and workshop presenters should call the T/MC to see how you might become involved.

Visit the T/MC Web Site at www.reveregroup.com/tmc

More conference information on page 4
EDITORIAL: What Will It Take to Succeed?

What will it take for youth groups in every neighborhood to look like the Quantum Opportunities Program (QOP)? How can businesses, foundations help?

QOP found that "it is possible to make a quantum difference in the lives of inner city teens attending public high school in impoverished neighborhoods, but it takes a critical mass of service, support, nurturing, incentives, creativity, caring, compassion, and especially patience. Furthermore, the impacts on young people gain strength over time."

Starting with entering freshmen in the 1989-90 school year, QOP provided sequenced education, service and development activities over the four years of high school, along with modest stipends and completion bonuses to encourage responsible participation. The program operated at five sites around the country and was evaluated by Andy Hahn of Brandeis University's Center for Human Resources.

As General Colin Powell and America's Promise call for more volunteers and corporations to help children, following are some lessons from QOP which should serve as benchmarks for non-profits, businesses, foundations and communities.

Starting programs that achieve such results requires more than a model—it requires a funding and leadership commitment. As communities across America hold summits this spring to address the needs of children, we encourage them to include plans to mobilize dollars as well as volunteers so that hundreds of QOP-type programs can emerge and succeed.

1) Disadvantaged youth need sequenced multi-year services accommodating but also stabilizing the turbulence of the teen years. Too many youth programs intervene only after problems occur. They follow a medical diagnosis and treatment gestalt, trying (usually with limited success) to "cure" adolescent problems with "one shot" treatments.

2) A holistic approach is needed which combines education, cultural, civic and social development, work and service.

3) Intensive resources should be targeted at those most at risk as they enter high school when it is still not too late to make a difference. While comprehensive multi-year treatments are expensive, they are less expensive than intervening later with a remedial way with Job Corps, and or in a rehabilitative way with boot camps or prisons.

4) Convenient locations, accommodating settings and sympathetic staff are especially critical for youth programs. Most teens, but disadvantaged teens in particular, have limited mobility, antipathy to institutions and distrust of clinical professionals. Youth programs work best in convenient community settings providing a home away from home, where adults are understanding and understandable.

5) Stability in the program design, funding and staffing are vital when dealing with youth whose lives are in constant turmoil. What disadvantaged youth need most is a place where they can always go and a person they can always talk to. Youth programs are too often hit-or-miss affairs, living from hand-to-mouth, with frequent staff turnover—just what participants do not need given frequent chaos in their lives.

6) Participants, staff and delivery organizations need clear and measurable objectives, with accountability for both quantity and quality of activities. The bane of youth programs is getting kids to show up and to apply themselves when they do. Incentives must be structured so everyone takes responsibility for themselves, each other and the program. Attendance and achievement must be emphasized and rewarded.

7) It is better to supplement and sequence existing programs and resources than to substitute for them. "High-tech" education, enriched development opportunities, and one-on-one attention are more effective than traditional approaches, but they have the greatest impact when they are "net new". For instance, learning center instruction after school hours and during the summer will do more for skills than simply rearranging the school day to include compensatory education or computer labs.

8) Programs for poor youth must recognize the critical need for and potential of financial support. Poor youth lack the normal options to earn and accumulate, so programs need to establish parallel "opportunity systems." These should offer performance-based payments rather than automatic income transfers.

9) A long-term investment approach is needed when dealing with young teens whose careers and lives lie far ahead. Central to this is a belief that skills and credentials will pay off for the disadvantaged as they do for everyone else. Short-term outcomes like teen employment rates are far less important than enrollment and graduation rates which assure longer term success. Stable multi-year funding for programs, cumulating accounts for participants, staff payments based on retention and completion, all tend to shift the focus to the longer term.

10) Effective programs harness delivery level initiative and creativity within a standardized program framework including the best tools, systems and technologies. "Reinventing the wheel" in each local context, with limited resources and information, wastes resources that could be better spent finding ways to put the wheel to work. Sharing tools and methods, practitioners can learn from each other, and their performance can be compared. You cannot "franchise" hugs and understanding, but you can provide the infrastructure so that "high-tech" and "high-touch" are combined.

The TIMC thanks Robert Taggart and The Quantum Opportunities Program for sharing these lessons with us. QOP is a program of OIC of America. For more information, call 215-236-4500.

The TIMC vision is that every neighborhood of Chicago, or America—where kids live with poverty, high violence and poorly performing schools—will ultimately have a variety of programs that look like QOP, filling the school day, and the non-school hours with quality learning opportunities anchored by volunteer tutors and mentors.

We hope that the QOP "lessons" will become "must have" fundamentals for every business, community and non-profit, and foundation that gets into the business of helping youth move from schools to careers.

This is a shared vision. One none of us can achieve by ourselves. But it is one we can achieve by working together. This newsletter is an invitation. What can we do to help each other reach these goals?
WHO REMEMBERS?

Just over five years ago Chicago and America became mobilized by race riots in Los Angeles and the death of a small boy in Chicago. Among the follow-up commentary were the following headlines:

7-Year-Old’s Death at Cabrini Requires Action

"Demand it now! This isn't something you can let the other guy be indignant over. It's past time for you to take responsibility for solving the problems of Chicago."

Chicago Sun Times, Page 1, Oct. 1992

"Many Americans hoped that, somehow, the stubborn dilemmas of crime and poverty that so dehumanize urban life would be tacked with a renewed public will. Yet except for a flurry of local efforts, nothing much has happened."

(From 1992 Los Angeles Times article written by Jonathan Peterson.)

"Best precaution: Just don’t forget. If the story of the murder of 7-year-old Dantrell Davis...sounded vaguely familiar, it might have been because it had strong parallels to the story ...of the murder of 9-year-old Laketa Crosby in 1985."

Chicago Tribune, October 20, 1992, Column written by Eric Zorn

In a country with so many causes and so much to worry about, it's difficult to stay focused on a single issue long enough for any potential solution to take root and succeed. The T/MC was created to counter this trend. For four years it has created events designed to help tutor/mentor programs in every neighborhood of Chicago grow, while building greater public awareness of the needs of children and the opportunities to help—at any program.

As Chicago enters 1998, these headlines are a reminder of the promises we've made, and we must keep, not in just one neighborhood, or at just one tutor/mentor program, but in every neighborhood to every program.

None of us can serve every child or reach every donor or volunteer. But ALL of us together, can reach more children, donors and volunteers with more quality services.

Therefore, let us refocus and rededicate ourselves, and our friends, to the needs of our children and the dream that one day all children might be equal in hope, opportunity and motivation, along with equal access to quality in-school and after-school learning systems.

We look forward to working with you in 1998 to bring that dream a little closer.

T/MC’s 1997 Results — Thanks for Helping.

While the T/MC was launched less than four years ago, it has grown to the point that last April it was invited to have a "teaching example" display at the Presidents’ Summit for America’s Future, and Dan Bassill, President of Cabrini Connections, was selected to serve as one of ten Chicago delegates at the Summit. The enthusiasm and sense of commitment to our nation’s young people was tremendous. The challenge now is converting that energy into effective efforts that will meet the real needs of young people over the long term.

That is precisely what Cabrini Connections has been doing for the past five years. It launched an afterschool tutor/mentor program in 1993 with just seven volunteers and five students. Now the Kids’ Connection is serving nearly 100 Cabrini-Green area teens and has nearly 120 volunteers enrolled. Eight students are already in college or working at corporate partner organizations. We have now have five seniors enrolled whom we expect to graduate this year.

While we work to continually improve our Kids’ Connection, we developed the Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC) to help programs like this grow and expand in every neighborhood of Chicago. It now is serving as a model that other cities might follow as they also seek to develop a full distribution network of tutoring, mentoring and school-to-work programs.

Public Communications, Inc. has led a public communications that has reached over 3.4 million people per quarter with a "be a tutor/mentor" message.

While others look for ways to build local visibility and a plan to achieve the goals of the Presidents’ Summit, the T/MC looks for ways to expand the quarterly events it has already established, and to generate more visibility, volunteers and dollars for EVERY tutor/mentor program in Chicago.

After the Presidents’ Summit, Chicago was probably the only city in the country to have a Leadership Conference (May 2nd and 3rd) intended to help tutor/mentor programs grow and attract more volunteers. Mayor Daley was our keynote speaker. In June, Dan Bassill was a speaker at the Illinois Summit at the Governor’s Mansion in Springfield where representatives of more than a dozen Illinois cities met to develop strategies to bring more resources to their children.

Then on September 5th, 6th and 7th, the T/MC hosted 12 volunteer recruitment fairs, in, and around Chicago with 56 different organizations recruiting volunteers. While these efforts were to recruit volunteers, the T/MC hosted an 8th Leadership Conference at Loyola University on November 14th and 15th to help programs keep those volunteers and convert them into effective mentors and tutors (see page 4). During the week of the conference the T/MC and Chicago Bar Foundation presented a 4th Tutor/Mentor Week Campaign, intended to bring more visibility and dollars to every tutor/mentor program in Chicago. Since 1995, more than $150,000 has been raised for the CBF’s Lead a Hand Fund, which makes small operating grants to one-on-one programs, refers volunteers to programs and operates a Law Bridges program to connect teams of lawyers and judges with programs. In 1998 we hope this model is copied by suburban bar associations to fund programs in those areas, and that other professional associations serving Chicago will join in the CBF’s effort.

During the summer the The Associated Colleges of Illinois and Human Capital Research Corporation joined with the T/MC to conduct a new survey of Chicago’s tutor/mentor programs. The results of that study, the 1997 Collaborative Study, was released in November at the T/MC Conference.

In addition to these accomplishments the T/MC provided referrals and one-on-one consultations to over 700 individuals and groups looking to connect with a tutor/mentor program or to start or improve a tutor/mentor program. To make it easier to find a program, the T/MC recruited a business partner (The Revere Group) and launched a web site to advocate, teach and network. By June 1998 we hope to have the T/MC Directory on this web site so that more people can find existing tutor/mentor programs. Additional business partners and volunteers are now being recruited to develop the web site further.

The T/MC has also developed a February Film Festival (first launched March 4, 1997) which will tell the tutor/mentor story through videos produced by students in our program and now publishes this newsletter four times a year to share best practices. Our distribution reaches 10,000 people.

In July 1998 the Junior League of Chicago will host a Taste of Reading event at the Taste of Chicago to build visibility and bring volunteers to EVERY program.

Finally, the T/MC has developed a partnership with the Junior League of Chicago who will create a July 1998 Taste of Reading to be held at Chicago’s July Taste-of-Chicago to build awareness of tutor/mentor programs and to kick-off the T/MC’s 1998 volunteer recruitment campaign.

While we feel good about these results, there is much to do. Where we work together, we can create a more powerful voice, helping all tutor/mentor programs improve and reach more children. This invitation is not limited to Chicago. Any city can recruit, recognize and train using this same schedule of events, creating a national momentum that the media must cover, drawing more resource to every city, and every program.

P-3
Loyola University Chicago’s downtown campus was the site as more than 200 leaders of tutor/mentor programs from throughout the midwest gathered to borrow and share ideas. Networking began immediately as conference “veterans” renewed old ties and “first-timers” browsed table displays as they were being set up for lunch-time networking.

Said Billie Block of Peoria’s Adopt a School Program, “This is the best hands-on conference I attend. I always look forward to it.” This time she brought the leader of Peoria’s America’s Promise team with her. For many this was the third or fourth conference they have attended, including seasoned committee members Tim Henry of Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, and Chuck Schoerek, of Chicago Public Schools, who again served as conference co-chairs, and Lattice Wallace and Bernice White of the YMCA LEED Council.

For the first time Literacy Volunteers of America-Illinois (LVA-IL) joined in conference planning, recognizing that the steps in training leaders and volunteers in literacy programs is the same for adult programs as for youth programs and that the T/MC spring and fall conferences offer two more times during the year for busy program leaders to fit such a conference into their schedules.

Highlights of this conference were a kick off “song and science” presentation by nearly 20 students from CYCLE’s science is fun program, led by Tony Small from Science Linkages in the Community. At the end of Friday’s session, First Book, a Washington, DC-based organization that provides books to children, used the T/MC Conference to announce their expansion plans into Chicago. Ronald McDonald and Congressman Danny Davis participated.

Between this opening and conclusion, attendees were able to attend a variety of workshops ranging from how to start a program and how to market a program to Gary Goldman’s How to Involve Students workshop.

During the extended lunch hour more than 20 organizations set up display tables to share “best practices” and encourage networking. In addition, the T/MC hosted a table with handouts from programs that were not able to attend, expanding the range of good ideas available.

As with previous conferences, two organizations were recognized for their outstanding displays by a vote of the conference participants.

This year Chicago MOST won the first place $250 award and Teacher’s Academy for Math & Science won the $100 second place award. We thank them and the many other groups who took time from their day to display.

On Saturday the conference workshops were aimed at helping volunteers build skills, while showing program leaders “train the trainer” techniques. Among the workshops offered was one by the Associated Colleges of Illinois aimed at helping volunteers mentor students in college choices and college preparation. While a Chicago storm dampened attendance, it did not douse the enthusiasm of the many volunteers, presenters and leaders who attended.

The next conference is already in planning. Those who would be speakers or want to do displays should contact the T/MC (312) 467-2889 as soon as possible.

T/MC CONFERENCE UPDATE ON THE INTERNET
While this REPORT does not allow space to list every speaker and describe each workshop, we have begun to use our web site to list speakers, describe workshops and provide contact information. This way, groups who could not attend a conference, or who want to follow up with a speaker, can make those connections. As we have greater resources (money) the T/MC will provide more comprehensive updates.
Are you willing to share knowledge that could help other programs improve? Are you looking to work with tutor/mentor programs, and want to talk to 100 programs, rather than one at a time.

If you answered yes to either question, you should become a regular presenter and/or display group at the spring and fall T/MC conferences. All it takes is a phone call or email to the T/MC.

In his introductory remarks for the Fall 1997 Prevention Forum magazine issue devoted to mentoring, Howard Peters, Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services, said “A mentoring strategy often overlooked is the emulsion of best practices of agencies or programs.” That is exactly the purpose of the May and November T/MC Conferences.

While recruitment and volunteer training are important, T/MC conferences focus on “the business of running an afterschool tutor/mentor program.” Fundamentals such as recruitment and recognition tactics, volunteer training and student motivation are included, but so are marketing, fund raising, evaluation and research. By setting the conference up as a trade fair, programs can showcase many different “best practices” and provide choices others can copy.

Finally, by offering volunteer training workshops on Saturday, the conference supplements the training any program can offer its own volunteers, and models training programs that leaders can take back into their own programs.

“These conferences don’t try to go far beyond these fundamentals,” says Dan Bassill, the T/MC’s leader. “We know we always have new people coming to the conferences who need the basics, and we know that the veterans are constantly looking to improve. We try to meet those needs at every conference.”

To be a conference presenter or to set up a display at a conference, call the T/MC at (312) 467-2889.

Fall Conference Planning Committee
- Lizzie Caston - Family Resource Center
- Tim Henry* - Mercy Home for Boys & Girls
- Dorothy Mioso* - Literacy Volunteers of America, IL
- Cathy Harper - Say YES!
- Chuck Schroeck* - Chicago Public Schools
- Gena Schoen* - Cabrini Connections
- Tony Small - Science Linkages in the Community
- Lattice Wallace - New City YMCA LEED Council
- Bernice White - New City YMCA LEED Council
* Conference Co-Chairpersons
Thank you ALL!

NIKETOWN gives Chicago Bulls Tickets for Raffle

What is it that makes conference participants not want to turn in evaluations? What is it that conference organizers need most to improve following conferences? Yes. Evaluations.

NIKETOWN came to the rescue and donated two sets of tickets to a January Chicago Bulls basketball game for drawings held from those who turned in conference evaluations on Friday, and again on Saturday. It worked! Lots of great feedback, and two very happy conference participants. Winners were: Theresa Reese, Southwest YMCA and Arlene Haynes, Enlightenment Social Services.

MISSION PRESS OFFERS ANNUAL $5,000 MARKETING AND PRINTING SCHOLARSHIP TO SMALL TUTOR/MENTOR GROUPS!

After leading workshops at the May and November 1997 conferences, Rob Gaskill says “I always come away in awe of the people who are laboring in the fields. They are committed and dedicated to their cause but know little of how to promote their organizations. I propose to donate time and services valued at $5,000 to one T/MC program which meets specific criteria and is selected by a committee of peers, Mission Press and T/MC Staff.”

The services would include:
- Four quarterly marketing consultations,
- Development of a 4 page quarterly newsletter, including Design, typesetting and printing (up to one color plus black) of 2,500 copies (recipient pays postage)
- One annual fund raising Direct Mail appeal to donors
- Design of a logo for the organization and printing of 1,000 sheets of letterhead, 500 #10 envelopes and 500 business cards for three staff members
- Design, typesetting and printing of one 8 1/2 x 11 inch tri-fold pamphlet for the recipient organization (2,500 copies maximum).

To receive the scholarship, the program must have attended at least two T/MC conferences, must have taken Marketing 101 and Fundraising 101 workshops at the conferences. Applicants must have a board of directors and have a marketing committee and must have a written mission statement. Applicants must provide a written request for the scholarship (which can be obtained by attending any future T/MC Conferences). Finally, applicants must agree to report back at future T/MC conference on results of the grant.

Rob’s scholarship will be applied at the T/MC in 1998 to double participation in the T/MC Conferences and to obtain funding for future conferences. The first scholarship will be awarded for the year 1999.

OTHER SOURCES OF TRAINING

VisionChicago is another resource where program leaders can participate in regularly scheduled leadership training at an affordable cost. Many of you have already participated in leadership workshops presented by Cheryl Cornelius at T/MC Conferences. A full range of management support services are available from VisionChicago. Call Cheryl at (312) 322-3000.

The Institute on Disability and Human Development (IDHD) at The University of Illinois at Chicago also offers a regular schedule of workshops teaching successful strategies for working with children and young adults. Call Kathryn Moery at (312) 413-3027 for a list of Spring workshops.

AVA (Association of Volunteer Administrators) also offers monthly networking and an annual AVA Conference to help non-profit leaders network and share successful practices. Call (312) 906-2494.

On the Road to Literacy Conference, March 1998, will provide “idea” and “energy” reinforcements for volunteer tutors and leaders

While this conference is designed for adult literacy volunteers, the skills and structure of teaching reading, writing, spelling and math are the same for volunteers working with youth. Furthermore, good training workshops are hard to find. We recommend you make time for this conference and that tutor/mentor program leaders look at these workshops as “train the trainer” sessions, with an opportunity to pick up valuable handouts to use in the on-going training of your own volunteers. For information, call Bonnie at (312) 857-1582.

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AN INTRODUCTION TO FIRST BOOK, A LITERACY RESOURCE FOR YOUR PROGRAM

First Book is a national non-profit organization committed to giving children the opportunity to read and own their first new book. From its beginning in 1992, First Book's primary goal has been to distribute books to children who are at risk of failing in school or not developing adequate literacy skills. We all know the profound effect reading has on our lives and the simple act of giving a child a book creates a wonderful ripple effect of joy, self esteem, family bonding and learning.

First Book operates on the premise that national strength equals community success by implementing a simple and powerful program that effectively reaches from the national to the community level, targeting the hardest-to-reach children. No one is better aware of a certain community than those people living within the town, city or county and it is this local level that is so important to the success of First Book. Working through a network of Local Advisory Boards (LABs) to support and strengthen existing community-based mentoring, tutoring and literacy programs, First Book can offer more children the opportunity to feel the magic of their first new book.

Through the creation of a series of critical national partnerships, First Book has built a strong network of support. Some of these partnerships are: Barnes & Noble, Inc.; Scholastic Inc.; The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Association of Library Services to Children, a Division of the American Library Association; Share Our Strength and the Association of Junior Leagues International.

While First Book's national offices are in Washington, D.C., they have also recently, through the AmerCorps Vista program, been able to recruit volunteers to be Regional Coordinators. For Illinois and much of the midwest, the Regional Coordinator is based in Chicago, hosted by the Literacy Volunteers of America-II. The responsibilities of the coordinator are to recruit and train volunteers from communities to serve on Local Advisory Boards.

A Boston University study found that "for the poorest children it may be that the most significant barrier to literacy is the lack of books." First Book's mission is to overcome that barrier by making books attainable to the children who need them most. If you would like more information on First Book and how you can get involved, call Liz Lrmiter at (312) 857-1582, or email: Lrmiter@aol.com.

HEALTH FOR HUMANITY launches Health Center Reading Program.

In 1996 we reported on the innovative Reach Out and Read program operating at the Boston City Hospital where volunteers model reading to pre-school children as moms bring them in for regular check-ups. In the program doctors and nurse practitioners are trained to explore with parents strategies for integrating books and stories into a child's daily activities. Providers turn these strategies into prescriptions for reading that parents can use with their children, and even make a gift of a FREE book at each visit from 6 months to 5 years. The program has been spreading to hospitals across the country and in Chicago, Health For Humanity has been approved as an affiliate.

In the West Town neighborhood of Chicago, Health for Humanity in collaboration with the Department of Health is initiating a preschool literacy promotion project, "Rx ABC, Prescribe a Book for Children," which seeks to encourage parents to read daily to their preschool children. The program was kicked off with an open house at the Neighborhood Health Center at the end of August and has received the official endorsement of the Reach Out and Read program which is funded by the Annie Casey Foundation.

For more information call 847-835-5088

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BUSINESS NEWSLETTERS TELL TUTOR/MENTOR STORY!

Old Kent Bank, Continental Air Express, The Chicago Bar Association, The Tooling & Manufacturing Association, and Kiwanis International all included stories about tutor/mentor opportunities in their newsletters during 1997! While it's great to get a story in a major paper, quarterly stories in church, business, trade and professional publications create a multiple exposure to potential volunteers and donors, building a more likely response. This is a must, if we are to draw more volunteers and donors to our side. If your group would like help writing a T/MC story, call the T/MC. If your group would like recognition for stories it wrote, send a copy to the T/MC for our library.

SCIENCE LINKAGES IN THE COMMUNITY (SLIC)

SLIC is dedicated to increasing the number of minorities and women who enter science and math careers. This means these children must be exposed to science and math at early ages and have life-long mentors who model and encourage these interests.

From January through August, 1998, SLIC HUB Clubs Participants will take part in weekly, creative hands-on sessions cycles called "Under the Sea" (Ichthyology), "What's Buggin You" (Entomology), "Building Tomorrow" (Art & Architecture) and "Shining Through" (Psychology & Behavioral Science). A special collaborative excursion and SLIC day at the University of Illinois in Champaign will afford students the opportunity to spend a day with the Illinois National History Survey senators.

For more information about SLIC programs, call Tony Small at 312-915-8605.

The WIZ Kids shared their energy and passion for learning at the November, 1997 Leadership Conference

WIZ KIDS PERFORM AT NOVEMBER T/MC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The WIZ Kids performed excerpts from their new CD at to kick off the November tutor/mentor conference at Loyola University Chicago. Under the leadership of Connie Van Brunt (Executive Director) the project features over 200 children from the C.Y.C.L.E. program which provides daily math, science and technological creative learning labs for the youth of Cabrini-Green in Chicago. The CD will be released in early spring and will also feature local artists and actors. For information about the WIZ Kids CD, call 312-664-0895.
THE FORCE BE WITH YOU! LEARN & LIVE; A new documentary inspired by filmmaker George Lucas

This one-hour documentary film, hosted by Robin Williams, and a companion resource book are now available. The documentary film shows innovative schools around the country that are integrating technology with teaching and learning and involving parents, business, and the community. Building on the outstanding programs depicted in the documentary film, the 300-page resource book describes how education is changing nationwide and helps connect readers to experts and information. See http://glef.org or call 1-888-4R-KIDS 1 to order.

For information, call (415) 662-1660 or email: edutopia@glef.org

DO SOMETHING FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

The BRICK Award will honor ten outstanding leaders under the age of 30 who use their talents to take action that measurably strengthens their local communities. This is the third year the awards have been offered.

Each of the ten winners is awarded a grant to support his or her community work: the national grand prize winner receives a grant of $100,000 and nine other winners each receive a grant of $10,000. All committed community leaders under the age of 30 as of 5/1/98 are encouraged to apply.

To request an application, call (212) 523-1175. Applications are due 5/1/98.

COMPUTERS IN THE SCHOOLS

The Wall Street Journal and The Wall Street Journal Interactive Edition have produced a comprehensive debate on why computers should be in our schools and why they shouldn't be. Titled "Hard Lessons: After a Decade of Having Computers in the School, We've Learned A Lot About What Does--And Doesn't--Work", it is a must-read for leaders of tutor/mentor programs and business partners.

Reprints are available by sending $4 for one copy and $2 for each additional copy to Technology, Dow Jones & Company, Inc., 200 Burnett Road, Chicopee, Mass. 01020-4615.


PREVENTION FORUM MAGAZINE devotes its Fall 1997 issue to mentoring program strategies. Starting with an editorial by Howard A. Peters III, Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services, this issue is a "must read" for tutor/mentor program leaders and communities or business groups looking to involve themselves in mentoring as a strategy of prevention. Through a variety of articles the Prevention Forum has shown the positive effect of mentoring on the lives of young people, and the need to "do it right". For subscription information or copies of this publication, contact: Prevention First, Inc., 2800 Montvale Drive, Springfield, Illinois, 62704. Call 217-793-7333.

CHARLES HAYDEN FOUNDATION MAKES $3.3 million IN GRANTS OVER THREE YEARS TO 19 YOUTH SERVING AGENCIES IN THE NEW YORK AND BOSTON AREA

We all know how hard it is to get general operating dollars. Yet as the Quantum Opportunities Program shows, it is these dollars for staff and stability in program design which are vital when dealing with youth whose lives are in constant turmoil. That's why its great to see the Charles Hayden Foundation break the mold and commit funds to "stabilize the groups financially and strengthen them programatically." Now, who will make this commitment in Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Dallas and every other urban area? Could General Powell include this type of pledge in his national mobilization?

SAVE THE CHILDREN to Reach Out to America's Poor Kids

The October 30, 1997 issue of The Chronicle of Philanthropy reports that Save the Children Federation, which raises $81 million a year for antipoverty programs overseas, has announced a new $26-million effort to help poor kids in America. Save the Children plans to provide money and resources to small, community-based charities that will provide educational enrichment in afterschool and weekend programs.

Write Catherine Milton, Executive Director, Save the Children US, 54 Wilson Road, Westport, Conn. 06881. (203) 221-4006. Tell her the T/MC sent you!
MORE EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

A GRASSROOTS ASPEN EXPERIENCE

As I stood buckled into my harness, helmet on my head, I thought to myself, “what am I doing?” But it was too late. The only thing left to do was repel down the mountain, and I did. Crying the whole way down and leaving all my fears at the top, my goal was finally accomplished.

Hi, my name is Marquita Hall. I am a sixteen year old junior at Lane Technical High School. I was one of the two students from Cabrini Connections chosen to go to “A Grassroots Aspen Experience,” in Aspen, Colorado.

When we first arrived in Aspen, we had to sit through a long day full of rap sessions, which are when all the kids get together with Derek Canty, who conducts the meetings, and talk about things ranging from how our day was to our personal problems. We played games and were divided into groups. Each group had a host family, which we lived with during the trip. The next two days we had rap sessions and played games designed to help us get to know each other.

On the third day we left for our camping trip at the Marble Campsite. Camping was a new experience for me. I hate walking in grass because it has poop in it, I hate bugs, I hate not being able to take a bath, and I hate not being able to use a real bathroom. You can just say I’m a very picky person. I thought I was going to be completely bored, but I wasn’t. Hiking up mountains that were thousands of feet high was a killer, but the activities we did were incredible.

The first event I did was the zip line course. We had to pull ourselves on a rope across a river to the other side of the mountain. I was so scared, I don’t know where I got the courage to do it. After that I went mountain climbing, which was a challenge for me. To me, it’s more of a mental challenge than a physical challenge. You had to try different techniques to get to the top. You had to find the right spots to put your feet and hands so you won’t fall. After about ten minutes I made it to the top and I felt like I could do anything.

The rap sessions were the most emotional part of the trip. During the rap sessions people talked about things they were going through at home. The things individuals shared were very serious and private problems they had at home, at school or out on the streets. To make people feel more comfortable about sharing their stories we had a special code meaning that whatever was said must not leave the room. I think that the one thing everyone learned was that even though we all came from different parts of the country, we all have the same problems. We learned to love one another and respect each other. After four days I felt like I had known these people all of my life.

Being at AGAE made me forget all of my problems back at home. It made me feel like I didn’t have a trouble in the world. Derek Canty is a very special man because he knows how to make you see your faults and he helps you change things for the better.

The next event was the trustfall. On this event you had to stand on a tall rock with your back towards your group members. They all have their arms out and are standing in two straight lines to catch you. This event is designed to help you learn to trust others. This was more difficult for me than any other event because I sometimes have trouble trusting people. Everyone could see that and gave me their word that they would catch me. My whole body was shaking and I was scared, but I did it. Everyone held me and rocked me side to side. Afterwards we had a group hug. I was not the only person who was frightened. My friend Carla was scared, too. It was hard for some and easy for others.

After we returned from camping, we went white water rafting. On the last day we had a big banquet at a hotel with a slide show of pictures from the trip and guest speakers. This had to be the most exciting out of town trip I’ve ever had. I encourage anyone who has any fears or just wants to learn good values and how to be a better person to go to AGAE. It truly is a life changing experience.

A Grassroots Aspen Experience draws teens from nearly a dozen cities to come to Aspen each summer and winter for experiences such as Marquita had. Students are chosen from programs like Cabrini Connections, for whom the AGAE program is part of a range of programs and activities offered along with a one-on-one mentoring experience.

For more information on AGAE, call (970) 925-6671 or write, AGAE, P.O. Box 10394, Aspen, Colorado 81612

SEND PROGRAM PROFILES TO THE T/MC

We’re constantly looking for examples of “best practices”. Send reports and “news” to the Tutor/Mentor Connection, 535 W. Chicago Ave., 21N, Chicago, IL 60610

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CHICAGO BUILDS PARTNERSHIP WITH T/MC PROGRAMS

During the summer of 1998 a new event will help the T/MC build greater awareness for tutor/mentor programs in Chicago. The Taste of Reading will be held at Chicago’s Taste of Chicago, during July, and will be completely organized by a team of dedicated volunteers from the Junior League of Chicago. The project is still taking shape, so look for updates in the April T/MC REPORT or on the T/MC Web Site. However, this letter shows the vision of the event, and how groups might work with the T/MC to build more and better tutor/mentor programs for all children in Chicago.

TASTE OF READING EVENT

This is a letter written to Junior League volunteers attending an October 10th, 1997, first meeting to kick off the Taste of Reading provisional project.

"Last year, as a member of the Junior League of Chicago’s community research committee, I encountered a group called the Tutor/Mentor Connection. The need for tutors and mentors in our community, not to mention the entire country, is undeniable. But what impressed me most was the spirit and dedication of the gentleman who runs the program. His proven ability to create coalitions and to get things done was at the root of my belief that the Tutor/Mentor Connection would prove a perfect partner of the Junior League.

And thus, my initial proposal for a Taste of Reading provisional project. A crazy idea that started with one woman but had no shape or form until Cindy and Gina (two other Junior League members) began to infuse it with their vision...and now you are here to actually bring it to life. To me, this project is your opportunity to create something that’s never existed before: to give a “gift” to the Junior League and to the Chicago Community. It’s also your challenge to speak up and tell us what works or makes sense and what doesn’t. Inextricably connected to the opportunity and the reward of creating something for the first time is the sometimes painful process of figuring out the best way to do things.

But I know each of you are up to the task. Key to your success will be a clear vision of your objective: to raise awareness of tutor/mentor programs in the Chicago community. If we are successful, our efforts will result in more community volunteers: willing to get involved in tutoring and/or mentoring the children in need in our community.

from Jennifer Garr, Junior League of Chicago
“Fewer than 6% of school-age children participate in total of 272 Chicago youth serving agencies” that responded to 1997 T/MC survey. How many are QOP type programs?

growth. A preliminary report from the 1994 survey indicated that less than 12,000 children and 6,000 mentors were in tutor/mentor programs, but did not break this information down by region or age group served. For a variety of reasons we could not publish that report.

We did use the information to create maps showing where programs were, with overlays showing poverty and schools on probation, which have proven to be tremendously valuable in focusing attention on the neighborhoods where help is most needed, and of potential partners for existing programs.

Finally, this past summer, the T/MC was able to form a partnership with The Associated Colleges of Illinois and the Human Capital Research Corporation to redo the survey, and more importantly, to produce a report of the results which we could publish. That report was issued in November. It tabulates the youth service capacity of 272 programs which responded to the survey and reports that less than 33,000 children, out of a total population of over 300,000, participate in any youth program that offers tutoring and/or mentor as part of a regular schedule of activities. This confirmed our earlier findings, but also shows the poor distribution of programs in neighborhoods where they are most needed, and in time frames where most adult volunteers might be available.

Our goal is to increase the number of children served, using information included in this newsletter. However, we also must repeat and expand this survey each year and seek partners to fund and/or conduct such research. For information, please contact the T/MC.

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For a copy of the 1997 Collaborative Study, send $10.00 to Cabrini Connections, 535 W. Chicago Ave., 21N, Chicago, IL 60671

Thank you to the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce for printing the first 650 copies of this report.

1998 RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN (con't from page 12)

and dollars — all on the same weekend! Stay tuned for details.

In order for the campaign to be as effective as possible, the T/MC seeks support from Chicago's tutor/mentor programs in keeping their listings in the T/MC Directory as current as possible. A 6th Edition of the Directory will be published in July, and corporate sponsors are sought so that the Directory can be placed on the internet, making it simpler for anyone to find a tutor/mentor program.

As the 1998 Campaign takes shape, information updates will be posted on the T/MC web site, www.reveregroup.com/tmc. In addition, "how to start a program" and "how to recruit—and keep—volunteers" workshops will be included in the May 1st and 2nd Tutor/Mentor Leadership Conference.

In the T/MC's continued effort to make the 1998 Volunteer Recruitment Campaign the most successful yet, Campaign Coordinator Reid Schultz is available to discuss how your program, business, church or civic group can get involved NOW on next fall's campaign.

To contact Reid or the T/MC, call 312-467-2889. For updates on the 1998 volunteer recruitment campaign, see the T/MC web site at: www.reveregroup.com/tmc

Help Keep America's Promise:
Host or sponsor a 1998 volunteer recruitment campaign at your organization or office complex.
TUTOR/MENTOR WEEK EVENTS RAISE OVER $35,000 TO FUND TUTOR/MENTOR PROGRAMS

For the past four years Tutor/Mentor Week has grown and this year, the Chicago Bar Association/Foundation added a first annual "For the Kid in Everyone" benefit which was held at the Chicago Children's Museum on Saturday, November 8th. With Mayor Richard Daley serving as Honorary Chair and Father Mike Ivers of St. Agatha's SAFE program and attorney's Rich Prendergast and Beth McMeech Chairing the benefit committee, over 400 people were in attendance. Major sponsors were AON Corporation, Cable Television and Communications Association of Illinois, Walsh Higgins & Company, CPS for the Public Interest, Commonwealth Edison Company, TCI of Illinois and Temple Steel Company.

Proceeds from the event totaled nearly $32,000 and will be part of what is distributed by the Lend A Hand Fund during the spring 1998 round of grant making.

INNOVE! Chicago 2ND ANNUAL TUTOR/ MENTOR WEEK BENEFIT - OVER 200 ATTEND!

In a second example of philanthropy and fun, Involve!Chicago held a fund raiser at Banana Joe's on Friday, November 14th. The event was attended by nearly 200 prospective tutors and mentors and raised $3,012 for the Lend A Hand Fund. Pictured delivering a check to the Fund are (top row) group members Jay Kingsley, Meghan Otis and Kirk Kepley watching Involve!Chicago's treasurer, John Gnospelius, present the check to Lend A Hand Fund Advisory Board Vice Chair, Jim Morsch. Chicago Bar Foundation president, Bruce Becker is seated to the right.

A $10,000 challenge grant given by The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation.
Funds must be directed to T/MC

As part of its $25,000 total 1998 grant to the T/MC, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation has challenged T/MC to add one new $10,000 donor to its roster by the end of September, 1998 in order to receive the final portion of the grant awarded the T/MC in December.

We accept the challenge and use this newsletter as our first invitation for one of our readers to be first in matching this grant, perhaps with a challenge of your own. With such support the T/MC will repeat the aggressive schedule of events and support activities which were provided in 1997 and continue to add new activities aimed at building higher quality tutor/mentor programs for more of Chicago's children.

1997 CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION GIVING

Eighty-five percent of Cabrini Connections revenue came from corporate and foundation grants provided by a small group of different organizations. We thank you for sharing our vision!

$40,000 and above
Montgomery Ward Foundation

$25,000
Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation (including $10,000 1998 match challenge)

$20,000
WGN TV Children's Charities

$15,000
The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust

$10,000
GATX Corporation
Public Communications, Inc.*
The Revere Group

$5,000 and up
Alberto Culver
Chicago Bar Foundation
Chicago Public Schools
IBM Corporation

$1,000 and up
360 Communications
AAAS/Science Linkages in the Community

*donated services

THANK YOU ALL!

GLENVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS HELP OUR WITH A HOLIDAY DONATION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES

For the third consecutive year, students in Debbie Essak's 5th grade class have donated school supplies to Cabrini Connections as part of their holiday gift giving. Last spring this group also raised over $200 which Cabrini Connections used to purchase books for its library. Imagine if every elementary school in the state adopted one inner city tutor/mentor program! The possibilities are unlimited!
1998 Volunteer Recruitment Campaign:
Momentum is building for August/September Citywide Campaign

Following the rousing success of the 1997 Volunteer Recruitment Campaign "What a Difference A Day Makes!" the momentum is building toward and even better 1998 campaign. The effects of the 1997 Campaign are still being measured as programs report back to the T/MC, the impact the city-wide Volunteer Fairs had recruitment committee has been gathered, including representatives from Big Brothers Big Sisters, The Girl Scouts of Illinois, Uhlich Children’s Home, ChildServ, Greater Roseland YMCA, East Village Youth Program, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Lawrence Hall Youth Services, ACES, Pathways to Development Program and Cabrini Connections. The committee has been actively planning the 1998 Campaign and their commitment to its success is brilliantly evident.

Already Fair sites have been confirmed at the DePaul Music Mart and three Borders Books and Music locations, as well as at the Hyde Park and Evergreen Plaza Shopping Centers. The committee is also negotiating locations at a variety of other locations throughout the city.

Following the success of last year’s media Manifesto Letter "Voice of the People: Our Children Need Your Help" a second Manifesto is being planned signed by local celebrities from the worlds of sports, entertainment, journalism and politics. The Committee is very excited about preparing this Manifesto and realize its potential to receive even greater media attention for the Campaign than last year. In addition, we are preparing another Manifesto Letter signed by the Committee members as an additional important media release.

While the Committee continues to seek corporate and organizational partners to host recruitment sites and to place tutor/mentor stories in their own newsletters, it is excited by the July 1998 Taste of Reading which is being organized by the Junior League of Chicago. This first time event will give tremendous summertime visibility to the need for learning and reading while school is not in session, and the need for volunteers to join tutor/mentor programs as readers, tutors and mentors.

In addition, the Literacy Volunteers of America-IL is considering moving its Walk for Literacy fund raiser to Saturday, September 12th, so tutor/mentor and literacy programs can raise visibility, volunteers continued on page 9

Have You Made a New Year’s Pledge To Make 1998 a Better Year for America’s Children?

Read about groups who have made a commitment of time, dollars and ideas. See how you and your organization can also help make tutoring and mentoring programs available to more children in Chicago, its suburbs or the country.

You, your business, your church or your alumni group can get involved, too. Dates for the 1998 Volunteer Recruitment Fairs will be Thursday, September 10 through Saturday, September 12. A strong volunteer recruitment at Borders Books & Music on the weekend of September 5th, 6th and 7th.

Volunteer recruitment at Borders Books & Music on the weekend of September 5th, 6th and 7th.

Thank YOU from the T/MC

www.reveregroup.com/tmc