Happy Holidays. Dan Bassill and Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC. Dec. 2016

Dear Friend and Supporter of Tutor/Mentor Connection and Institute, LLC

I’ve sent this letter out to a small group of supporters, and posted it on-line, every year since 2011. It shows work I started in the early 1990s under a non-profit 501-c-3 status, but now continue without that tax designation.

If you’re concerned about the well-being of economically disadvantaged young people, especially as we move through the next few years, I encourage you to find a way to support my work, or borrow my ideas. I think it will be more difficult than ever to attract consistent support for youth serving organizations that need to provide a wide range of on-going aid to young people and families. Intermediaries who support multiple programs will be needed.

If you were able to make a donation to me while I was a 501-c-3 charity, I’m doing the same work. You just don’t get a tax write off if you make a contribution.

At the left is the Chicago SunTimes front page from Oct. 1992. I’ve used it often as a reminder of a commitment people who don’t live in poverty need to make and keep.

If you occasionally visit my http://tutormentor.blogspot.com site to you’ll see this story posted two or three times a year. You’ll also see copies from other past news articles, like this 1993 Chicago SunTimes article, which says “poverty in Chicago hasn’t changed in 20 years because we don’t have a master plan”. I wrote this on April 27, 2015. I hope you’ll look it up, and read it.

On my blog you’ll see images like the one above that includes three related ideas.

- what will it take to help all kids born in poverty to be in jobs by their mid 20’s?
- how do we support the constant experimentation and innovation that helps great youth serving organizations become good at connecting youth and volunteers?
- how do we get from where we are now to a future that has greater equality, hope and opportunity for those who live in distressed areas?

Last year. Dr. Robert Putnam, of Harvard University, published a book titled “Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis”. I created this graphic and shared it in blog articles and newsletters, showing the need to create a “blueprint” showing support kids need from birth to work, and showing all the places where this type of support is needed. While my maps focus on Chicago and big cities, similar maps showing rural areas and reservations would show the same need. Search for “Putnam” on the http://tutormentor.blogspot.com blog to find these articles. Read them. Share them with your friends, faith group, co-workers.

While I created the Tutor/Mentor Connection in 1993, I never was able to gain significant attention and support of the Mayor, major philanthropists or other civic leaders. Furthermore I was cursed with bad luck, loosing Montgomery Ward as a sponsor in 2000 and
HSBC as a major donor in 2009. The 9/11 tragedy, wars in the Middle East and the financial meltdown since 2008 all conspired to keep my efforts from having the impact and reach they need.

In 2011 the Board at Cabrini Connections voted to discontinue support for the Tutor/Mentor Connection. I created Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC to keep it going. Since 2011 I've had even fewer resources to do this work, yet, with the help of a few who make annual donations, I've managed to keep these ideas circulating via the Internet and social media. With your help in the next few weeks, I'll still be doing this in 2017.

For CHANGE to occur (or outcomes be achieved): All four parts of this strategy must happen concurrently and for many years.

We all want a world where all kids grow up safely and reach their full potential. However, unless people like myself continue to aggregate information and ideas that other people can use to create this world, it's not likely to happen.

You can find this graphic in a PDF at http://tinyurl.com/TMI-Problem-solving. I hope you'll take a look.

I've been putting ideas on Scribd.com since Oct. 2011 and have recorded more than 87,000 reads. I've been writing blog articles on the Tutor/Mentor blog and three other sites four to five times a month.

I connect daily with people from around the world on Facebook, Twitter @tutormentorteam and LinkedIN, just to name a few places. I'm constantly adding to the web library at http://tinyurl.com/TMC-Library and continue to maintain a list of Chicago area non-school tutor/mentor programs at http://tinyurl.com/TMI-ChiProgramLinks

I continue to offer free advice to any who request it, while also looking for ways to earn income from sharing what I know. Thus far, I've not figured how to make that work, thus, I continue to support this work from my own shrinking savings. I continue to seek an investor and/or partner who will re-energize the web sites and library over the next few years and take ownership into the future. I've never found that super hero. I'm still looking.

Thus, I appeal to you to dip into your holiday budget and send a contribution to help me pay the bills and help me continue this work in 2017.

I'll be 70 on December 19th and invite you to make a contribution using the PayPal button at http://www.tutormentorconference.org/danbassill70th.htm

Or visit this page and support me because I'm filling a void that others have not yet filled: http://www.tutormentorconference.org/20-year-effort.htm.

If you'd like to talk to me, email me at tutormentor2@earthlink.net to arrange a time to talk by phone, Skype or in person.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Bassill, D.H.L.
Tutor/Mentor Connection,
Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC

Mail contributions to Merchandise Mart PO Box 3303, Chicago, IL 60654

Visit my web sites at: