Role of Volunteer-Based Tutor/Mentor Programs in Expanding the network of adults working to help inner-city youth enter careers by age 25.

"Willie was recently informed that he was accepted at Morgan State in Baltimore. He is also receiving a very generous scholarship. "
I honestly believe none of this would have been possible without you providing such a great environment for us to meet each week.

2008 Cabrini Connections graduate with 8 year volunteer.
TUTORING/MENTORING: SAME WORDS-DIFFERENT MEANINGS

America needs to understand the different intensity of tutoring/mentoring support needed for different economic areas.

If a youth lives near good schools and in non-poverty areas, his need for tutoring and after-school programs is far different.

If a youth lives in an area with chronic poverty and consistently poor schools, he/she needs support from a full range of tutors and mentors.
The goal of the Tutor/Mentor Connection is to support the growth of organized programs, that connect inner city youth with adults who will act as tutors, mentors, coaches, advocates and friends in long-term, structured programs.

Such actions can help more teens finish high school with a network of adult supporters willing to help open doors to advanced learning, jobs and careers.

Visit www.cabriniconnections.net to learn about the program we operated in Chicago from 1993 to June 2011.
The goal is not a few good programs in a few places. Chicago, and every other city, needs comprehensive, volunteer-based programs in every high poverty neighborhood.

At this time there are not enough well-organized programs, and the distribution of programs is poor in many areas.*

Leadership needs to emerge in every industry, in churches, and in universities, to mobilize volunteers, leaders and donors to support programs throughout the region.

* [http://www.tutormentorexchange.net](http://www.tutormentorexchange.net)
* [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.
Leaders, volunteers and donors are needed from every sector: business, professions, civic, education, religion and social sectors.

Business must take the lead in **PULLING** youth to careers.
The goal should be to help a youth go through school and enter a job/career by age 25. It takes a village to make this a reality. Comprehensive Tutor/Mentor Programs are such villages.

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

LEADERS NEEDED WHO SUPPORT THE GROWTH OF TOTAL QUALITY MENTORING PROGRAMS THAT HELP MORE INNER CITY YOUTH REACH CAREERS

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Role of leaders, volunteers, youth.

This city needs leaders in every sector who take this role, not one or two high profile people.

Use leadership, web site and communications to connect members of your network to T/M programs in all parts of Chicago on a consistent, on-going basis, using Internet directories such as [www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net](http://www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net) as resource for finding programs.
It Takes a Multi-Year Strategy

Without the proper guidance or motivation, a child’s life can come to a standstill. But if people come together to lend a hand... as tutors, mentors and friends, we can teach them to soar to their fullest potential. That's what Cabrini Connections is all about. Written by Cabrini Connections teens and volunteers in 1995.

Success Steps - strategy of Cabrini Connections. These must repeat each year. Read more at www.cabriniconnections.net

Steps 1 & 2 - Build regular participation of youth and volunteers in weekly tutor/mentor activity.
Our first priority, and most difficult challenge, is to motivate our teens and volunteers to participate in regular weekly tutor/mentor sessions that continue for many years. Most of our teens start with Cabrini Connection in 7th and 8th grade. More than 36% stay for 3 to 7 years. More than 20% of volunteers have been involved for 3 to 10 years.

Steps 3 - 6 - Provide a variety of enrichment and learning activities that build aspirations and skills that lead youth through school and into careers. Cabrini Connections provides a variety of arts, technology, travel and college and career readiness activities.

Step 7 – By age 25, youth are starting careers and have a commitment to help others. Youth who were in 7th and 8th grade when they joined Cabrini Connections are now beginning to graduate from college.
Tipping Points … Strategies

- Help existing programs get consistent resources needed to stay in business and grow.
- Help business, church, university, community groups form new programs to fill voids.
- Innovate ways to increase sources of consistent, flexible, funding stream to support the growth of constantly improving tutor/mentor programs. Without continuous, flexible operating dollars, programs cannot attract and retain key staff, which is the most important part of a long-term tutor/mentor program's success.
- Create common vision of mentoring as a strategy to expand network of adults focused on helping youth through school and into jobs and careers.
- Create a source of trained leadership who can work with volunteers, youth, donors and the various roles involved with leading a tutor/mentor program. While the Tutor/Mentor Connection provides a mentoring-to-career vision, and hosts more than a thousand web links that anyone can use to learn more ways to help a youth connect with a volunteer, or a learning experience, or a job, there is no university teaching people to learn from this information on a consistent basis. Thus, we can hire good people to lead our programs, but they don't have a built-in map that guides them in what they do.
- Encourage leadership/advertising from multiple sources of ownership. Faith communities have spent more than 2000 years encouraging members to read scripture, reflect on it in groups, then put it to work in their lives. Advertisers spend millions to draw customers to their stores. Until there are leaders in business, politics, media, religion, who advocate for mentoring to career strategies every day, we'll never have enough people looking at the information we offer, or growing in their own leadership roles.
- Use the Internet for Collaboration, networking and Learning. To grow the number of people involved in this movement and to support the learning and growth of everyone involved, including youth, the Internet's potential needs to be incorporated into this strategy.
- Discuss these ideas at http://tutormentorconnection.ning.com.
- Encourage volunteers and donors to shop for where to contribute time, talent and dollars, using the Program Locator at http://www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net
The world only changes one day at a time for any of us. Children and youth living in poverty face greater challenges than most. Volunteer based mentoring and tutoring are ways to expand the network of adults who become personally involved in helping more youth navigate these challenges.

Learn more about the information on these pages.

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