TUTOR/MENTOR CONNECTION

Founded October, 1992 by a team of concerned volunteers. Re-established at Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC in July 2011.

MISSION: The mission of the Tutor/Mentor Institute (T/MI) is to gather and organize all that is known about successful non-school tutoring/mentoring programs and apply that knowledge to expand the availability and enhance the effectiveness of these services to children throughout the Chicago region and in other big cities of the US and the world.

Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC)  Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC (TMI)
Cabrini Connections and the T/MC were created in 1992 in the weeks following the killing of Dantrell Davis in Cabrini Green.

This is the front page of the *Chicago SunTimes*, from Oct. 15, 1992, responding to the death of Dantrell Davis. The editorial said “this is everyone’s problem. Don’t wait for the other person to act.”

We acted. Cabrini Connections started with 7 teens in 1993 and grew each year. More than 500 have participated for 1 to 7 years since then.

The Tutor/Mentor Connection started as an idea in 1993. Now it is viewed by people throughout the world.
In July 2011 the Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC was created to continue the work done by the Tutor/Mentor Connection since 1993.

TWO ORGANIZATIONS. ONE GOAL

Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC
www.tutormentorexchange.net
http://tutormentor.blogspot.com
Knowledge Library
Program Locator/Maps*
Documentation System*
Consulting role.
Member group.
Bus. Incubation
Organize Conferences*
Manage email news service
Awards, Contests, PR focus
Support collective actions, such as mentoring partnerships

Tutor/Mentor
Connection - NPO
www.tutormentorconnection.org
Support Tutor/Mentor Program Growth in the Chicago Region
Market Research focused on t/m programs in region.
Conferences, Networking of programs
Social Network Analysis
Support Mentoring Partnerships in Illinois and other states
Tutor/Mentor Exchange paid to manage T/MC.

Sign up for email news: http://tinyurl.com/TMCemail-signup

Read about 2011 change of organizational structure:
In a letter sent to a donor in March 1994, we wrote....

“T/MC is a network that will inventory every community in Chicago to identify tutoring/mentoring programs. Then we will continuously promote the need for tutoring and mentoring and volunteer involvement so that more programs become available in each coming year. We will provide a means of sharing successful strategies among new and existing programs and will identify and focus public attention -- on a continuing basis-- on the areas where tutoring services are most needed.”
In the years since 1994, the T/MC created a four-part strategy to achieve this vision:

This mission is accomplished through a four-part strategy.

1) Collect knowledge from key stakeholders about volunteer-based tutor/mentor programs: how programs succeed, where programs are located, and where more programs and resources are needed.

2) Aggressively share this knowledge through marketing and public awareness campaigns, capitalizing on the Internet as a chief vehicle of communication.

3) Strengthen involvement of community and industry leaders to increase essential resources to tutor/mentor programs.

4) Facilitate understanding and collaboration among stakeholders to develop the long-term, integrated actions needed to help youths move from birth in poverty to a job or career by age 25.
Research: Collect “all that is known” about tutoring/mentoring

RESEARCH

The Tutor/Mentor Connection will be the most valuable resource for any stakeholder interested in mentoring youth to careers.

- Program Locator database of lists more than 200 Chicago area organizations offering various forms of volunteer-based tutoring and/or mentoring. Available at http://www.tutormentorconnection.org

- T/MC web site library contains more than 1900 links to research, fund raising resources, homework help, etc. T/MC sites recorded more than 120,000 visits and 1.5 million page views in 2010

- T/MC uses maps to show location of programs and potential resource providers. Now available at http://mappingforjustice.blogspot.com

- T/MC participates in networking and learning with information sites throughout the world

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As we collected information about tutoring/mentoring, we began to create maps that illustrate where tutor/mentor programs are needed, and how different groups need to combine their activities to help youth in every neighborhood move from 1st grade to employment.

Ideas for Tutor/Mentor Institute came from operating single program...

Chicago

Cabrini Connections 1993-2011
serves teens in the Cabrini-Green area of Chicago

Tutor/Mentor Connection helps programs like Cabrini Connections grow in every poverty area of the city and suburbs

Light gray areas have poverty concentrations of 20% or higher. Dark gray areas have poverty levels of 40% and above. Black dots are organizations that offer various forms of volunteer-based tutoring or mentoring

We use maps to focus attention on places where violence, or poor schools, indicates a need for tutor/mentor programs.

See more maps like this at http://mappingforjustice.blogspot.com

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Using visual aids, we began to assert that the goal of Chicago should be to help a youth go through school and enter a job/career by age 25. A tutor/mentor program is a place to expand the network of adults and businesses working to achieve this goal.

To Succeed
We must recruit business leaders who will use their resources in PULLING Youth to Careers

School-Time Programs
3-5 PM Non-School Programs
Pre-K → K - 5th → 5th - 6th → 6th - 8th → High School → Career Track

After 5 PM and Weekend Programs

T/MC Goal: Support Growth of Volunteer Based Tutoring and Mentoring Programs That Help Inner City Youth from Every Poverty Area Reach Careers

To Succeed
We must help tutor/mentor program leaders, volunteers, schools and parents be more effective in PUSHING Youth to Careers
As we collected information about tutoring/mentoring, we have created a knowledge library, with information anyone in Chicago or in other big cities, can use to build strategies that lead young people to jobs and careers. This information provides information related to arts, public health, learning, tutoring, mentoring, volunteerism, workforce development and more.

We have innovated new solutions, such as using the internet, as a result of the information we are collecting and sharing. This knowledge is now available at [http://www.tutormentorconnection.org](http://www.tutormentorconnection.org)
Public Awareness: Increase “reach and frequency” of tutor/mentor message

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Just collecting information is not enough. We have to create advertising that increases the number of people who find and use this information.

- Working with Chicago Public Communications, Inc. (PCI), between 1993 and 2001, we have increased the frequency of media stories drawing attention to tutor/mentor programs; Search Google for “tutor mentor” and T/MC web sites are in top ten
- T/MC web sites visited by more than 120,000 in 2010. T/MC networking in web sites hosted by others, reaches millions
  * Message focuses on seasonal events, such as back-to-school volunteer recruitment, which makes the T/MC message timely
- business, trade group, faith and social network communications increase reach and frequency
- Many of the media stories have been documented in the T/MC OHATS

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T/MC goal: Decentralized Ownership of T/MC Strategy by Many

The Tutor/ Mentor Connection seeks LEADERS in industry, health, education, and faith communities, to help raise and distribute needed resources to every tutor/mentor program in the city and suburbs of Chicago.

Can you take this role?

Visit [http://www.lawyerslendahand.net](http://www.lawyerslendahand.net) to see the leadership strategy that is growing in the Chicago Legal Community.
Resource Building: Help all programs, not one or two high profile groups.

RESOURCE BUILDING

Every tutor/mentor program must be a best practice. Each must have a consistent flow of dollars, volunteers, training, technology, etc.

- T/MC maps focus on all poverty areas of the region, encouraging leaders to innovate strategies that distribute resources in multiple locations.
- Sequenced events draw programs together, build visibility, generate resources for each program.
  * T/MC strategy enlists organizations, businesses, hospitals, churches, etc. as partners
  * Program Locator On-Line Directory points resource providers to programs.
- Lawyers Lend A Hand has raised $2.5 million since 1994 when T/MC began working with them.
Leaders make things happen. They build resources.

Each year the T/MC helps programs recruit volunteers in Aug/Sept. and helps programs train those volunteers and convert them into leaders as each program moves through the School year. As each program ends the year it has more people helping it build capacity and quality for the following year.

By repeating this call to involvement each year for the past 15 years, we create greater public awareness of tutoring/mentoring, and greater traffic to web sites of the Tutor/Mentor Learning Network.

*If leaders of business, professional and faith groups took this same role, the response of volunteers and donors would be much larger.*
Learning & Training: Using the Internet and events to network and share

LEARNING & TRAINING

We cannot teach everything. However, we can host knowledge that anyone can learn from. Using the Internet, we can make it possible for any youth, volunteer, program leader, business partner or donor to learn ANYTHING.

* Email Newsletter to 4,500 people monthly*
* Web sites visited by 120,000 annually
* On Line Program Locator Directory points resource providers to programs.
* Conferences attract 250 per year
* Internet forums for collaboration & learning

*until 2001 a print newsletter went to 12,000 people 3 times a year

May and November conferences bring stakeholders together to learn from each other, while creating public awareness of the need for tutor/mentor programs.

This map shows Chicago programs that participated in the May 2008 conference. See more maps at http://mappingforjustice.blogspot.com
T/MC seeks to recruit volunteers and leaders from every industry, and from civic, social and faith networks, who will be share knowledge and work to support the growth of tutor/mentor programs in many cities.

As volunteers connect in various programs, we seek to connect them to knowledge, and each other, via the T/MC web strategy. Such connections will lead to information sharing that transfers new ideas into every program, and to collaboration that leads to improved resources for every program. This requires skills in social networking and facilitation. Can you help?
We have developed this Theory of Change

If cities have strategies that look like the steps on this chart, more kids will move through school and be prepared for 21st Century jobs and careers.

Maintaining a database and building a network of programs and leaders is the step that enables everything else to happen. As leaders join the T/MC, this process can be happening in every city of the country.

Visit the T/MC Web Portal and learn more. Encourage your peers to join.

http://www.tutormentorexchange.net
http://www.tutormentorconnection.org

View the T/MC Program Locator Database, and read more essays like this, in the Tutor/Mentor Institute section, LINKS Library and Discussion Board.
Tutor/Mentor Institute Supports Actions of Thousands who want to help kids reach careers.

However, the funds needed to create Cabrini Connections and the Tutor/Mentor Connection, have always been limited, and raised through the efforts of our own volunteers. As a result, the Board of Cabrini Connections voted to no longer support the Tutor/Mentor Connection after June 2011. That led to the formation of the Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC.

We seek volunteers, investors and partners who will take ownership of this vision, and apply your time, talent and dollars to continue this work for the next twenty years of more. [http://www.tutormentorexchange.net/donations](http://www.tutormentorexchange.net/donations)

--Daniel F. Bassill, President of Tutor/Mentor Institute LLC and the Tutor/Mentor Connection