

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- One-on-one mentoring programs can enhance positive youth development.
- Mentored youth have exhibited significantly fewer school absences; higher college participation; better school attitudes and behavior; less drug and alcohol use, especially minority youth; less likelihood of hitting others; less likelihood of committing crimes; and more positive attitudes toward their elders toward helping and improved parental relationships and support from peers
- 96% of volunteers engaged in mentoring would recommend mentoring to others.

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

John Marshall U.S. Dream Academy	2
Faith, Soul, Rock & Roll	2
National Thank Your Mentor Day	2
Celebrate the Power of Mentoring	3
Trusted Partners	3
The ReelPeople Project	3
2008 Governor's Conference	4

Give. Receive. Mentor

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National Mentoring Month

President George W. Bush, along with Governor Mitch Daniels, issued proclamations in recognition of National Mentor Month in January 2008. The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI) is Indiana's lead partner for the month long designation. National Mentoring Month, a collaborative, public-private initiative spearheaded nationally by the Harvard School of Public Health, MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

General Colin L. Powell will lead the 7th Annual National Mentoring Month campaign, "Share What You Know. Mentor a Child." According to statistics compiled by the Corporation for National and Community Service and MENTOR, approximately 3 million adult volunteers are involved in formal, one-on-one mentoring relationships with young people; an increase of 19% (500,000 mentors) since 2002. However, while a growing number of youth have mentors, an additional 14.6 million young people could benefit from having a mentoring relationship. National Mentoring Month goals are to: raise awareness of mentoring; recruit individuals to mentor, and by recruiting organizations to engage their constituents in mentoring.

Serving in its second consecutive year as a lead partner for the campaign, Paula Parker-Sawyers, OFBCI's Executive Director, sees this role as a natural extension of the office's mission. "Volunteering is something Hoosiers have always done, and we enhance this culture and do so in a way that's supportive within a government structure." The Office of Faith-Based and

Community Initiatives promotes service and volunteerism in the state of Indiana, and collaborates with organizations to identify issues, motivate volunteers and to provide innovative and high quality programs which meet the needs of Indiana communities. While the office does not offer direct services for mentoring, it does support and promote local organizations and initiatives that do.



In celebration of National Mentoring Month, the OFBCI website's mentor theme is "Give, Receive, Mentor" and provides links to Governor's Daniels proclamation and "31 Days of Mentoring"; an informative calendar that features mentoring agencies throughout the state and a wealth of mentoring activities. The website, (www.in.gov/ofbci/2402.htm) will be launched on January 4, 2008, also allows visitors to submit "thank-you" stories about mentors.

Martin Luther King, Jr Day: "A Day On, Not a Day Off"



The 2008 King Holiday comes 40 years after Dr. King's assassination and is expected to bring added attention to his life and teachings. To help turn this attention into positive change for communities, the Corporation for National and Community Service

is pleased to join with other organizations in supporting a new initiative: "40 Days of Nonviolence: Building the Beloved Community."

Under this initiative, the King Day of Service will kick off 40 days during which families, schools, faith communities, and other organizations will plan service projects and educational activities promoting

Dr. King's message of nonviolence and social justice. These concepts reflect the work national service does every day – mentoring at-risk youth, making neighborhoods safer, expanding health services, teaching children to read, and helping people out of poverty. Visit www.mlkday.org for more information.

John Marshall US Dream Academy



*"a child with a dream...
is a child with a future."*

The U.S. Dream Academy at John Marshall Middle School will provide online academic support and mentoring to at-risk students. The program was announced Nov. 6 by U.S. Dream Academy founder Wintley Phipps and Superintendent Eugene G. White during the White House Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Paula Parker-Sawyers of the Indiana Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives brokered the collaboration. The program was introduced by Jay Hein, director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

Eastern Star Church will serve as the school's faith-based partner, providing mentors to the effort.

"IPS can't make revolutionary changes in a vacuum," said White. "These kinds of collaborations are critical to stemming the dropout crisis and ensuring all of our young people have the ability to be successful adults."

Along with receiving tutoring to increase their academic success, students will participate in character-building, skill-building and dream-building activities.

Phipps, a Grammy Award-nominated gospel singer, founded the U.S. Dream Academy in 1998 to support programs that help break the cycle of inter-generational incarceration and school failure among children. According to research, children of prisoners have a higher incidence of underachievement in school and are six times more likely than their peers to end up incarcerated themselves.

The U.S. Dream Academy at John Marshall will be the first academy to open in the Midwest;

Faith, Soul, Rock & Roll



Are you ready for some **Faith, Soul, and Rock and Roll...an evening of mocha, music, and MENTORING!** Please join us on Friday January 18th from 7-10pm at Second Baptist Church (located at 3705 Kessler Blvd. North Drive) for a fun evening of music, mentoring and mocha. We will be featuring various choral ensembles and stories about the power of mentoring. We will also be serving fine desserts and coffee.

This will be a wonderful way for members of our local congregations and community to learn how to become a Big Brother or Big Sister. Audience members will be able to apply for this great volunteering opportunity. This awesome event is completely **FREE**, so please mark your calendars for an evening you won't soon forget. For more information contact Ida Zavala, Big Brothers Big Sisters at 317.921.2201.

National Thank Your Mentor Day

Mark your calendar to Thank Your Mentor on January 24, 2008! Take a moment to thank a mentor in your life! National Thank Your Mentor Day celebrates "Four Ways to Honor Your Mentor:"

- ◆ contact your mentor and say thank you,
- ◆ pass it on by becoming a mentor,
- ◆ make a financial gift in honor of your mentor to a local organization, &
- ◆ share your story. Visit www.IN.gov/ofbci/2402.htm or www.whomentoredyou.org for links to send your mentor an e-card or share a tribute to your mentor.

Jalen &
Eric, Big
Brothers
Big
Sisters
Central
Indiana



Celebrate the Power of Mentoring



To celebrate National Mentoring Month in January 2008, the Alliance of Youth Mentoring Agencies will

host a Mentor Expo and Luncheon. The Mentor Expo will offer many local mentoring organizations and opportunities to get involved. The Luncheon encourages everyone to *celebrate the power of mentoring* and will feature guest speaker Tarik Glen, former pro-bowl offensive line for the Indianapolis Colts.

Glen, who will speak about the power of mentoring at the luncheon,

founded D.R.E.A.M. Alive, Inc. with his wife, Maya, in 2001. The goal of the foundation is to serve students of Shortridge Middle School and the youth and families in the Mapleton Fall Creek Area.

The Alliance of Youth Mentoring Agencies brings together over 30 leadership staff from various local organizations that promote and/or deliver youth mentoring services. The alliance plans to coordinate efforts amongst youth mentoring organizations to promote the mission of youth mentoring in Central Indiana, share best practices, celebrate National Mentoring Month in January, and work cooperatively to achieve goals.

In addition to the Mentor Expo and

Luncheon, partner agencies will celebrate National Mentoring Month with their own scheduled events.

Mentor Expo 10:30am—1:30pm; FREE & open to public

Luncheon & Speaker
1:30am – 1:00pm, \$20 per person; \$160 per table of eight, Public welcome; RSVP for lunch

Location—Omni Severin Hotel, 40 West Jackson Place, Indianapolis, IN 46225

Contact Ida Zavala at:
izavala@bbbsci.org or
317.472.3705 to RSVP for the luncheon or for more information

Trusted Partners

Trusted Partners is one of the few programs in Indiana that provide mentoring to at-risk adults. We began in 2003, as a result of the Indianapolis Blueprint to End Homelessness. We have grown to work with 51 mentoring relationships in 2007. However, there is great need for mentors in this role. Recent inquiries resulted in nine additional agencies expressing a desire to access mentors for their programs serving persons at risk of becoming homeless. Mentors with Trusted Partners come from all walks of life to commit six hours per month for approximately a

year. This time is used to build a trusting, supportive, and respectful relationship. Our program works on the belief that mentees have strengths upon which mentoring can build. Homelessness can appear overwhelming, but mentoring provides a way to prevent it using individuals who make a difference in another's life.

Candice Brisson Monteith,
Volunteer Coordinator
Candice@trustedpartnersindy.org



“...mentees have strengths upon which mentoring can build.”

The ReelPeople Project

The Harvard Mentoring Project invited real-life mentor/mentee pairs to share their stories for the chance to be featured in National Mentoring Month 2008 PSAs. The two pairs selected were nominated by: Bay Area Mentoring (San Francisco) on behalf of Friends for Youth; and, the Governor's Commission on Community Service in Denver, Colorado on behalf of Denver Kids, Inc., a member program of the Youth Mentoring Collaborative.

A collection of submissions for the ReelPeople Project is available on the National Mentoring Month page on You Tube at www.youtube.com/mentoringmonth2008.



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Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives



Thank you for viewing the first monthly issue of the *Give.Receive.Mentor.* Newsletter. If you have questions, mentor/mentee stories, or events to be added contact:

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MENTORING SUGGESTION

There are no sure-fire methods for successful mentoring, but generally it is useful for mentors to meet with their mentees regularly to:

Be supportive. Engage in ongoing conversation: make sure the student knows that somebody cares and is willing to take the time to talk about a variety of topics. Both professional and (should the case arise) personal topics may be discussed, but avoid asking direct personal questions. Be available, listen patiently, try to provide emotional and intellectual support. Share your own experiences as an academic, but encourage the student's self-sufficiency: the goal is not to clone yourself but to encourage confidence and independent thinking in the student by being honest. <www.indiana.edu/~grdschl/mentoring.php>



2008 GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER- Save the Dates!

On **March 25-26, 2008**, the Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives, in partnership with Indiana Campus Compact, will host the 2008 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism at the Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel and Suites!

This year's conference program features the celebration of Indiana Campus Compact's 15th Anniversary, the Governor's Awards for Volunteer Service, nearly 70 breakout sessions, service projects, and excellent networking opportunities with your peers from all across the state!

So mark your calendars now for an event that is not to be missed! Online registration opens in January 2008 and Early Bird registration starts at just \$129 for adults, \$79 for students. For more information, visit our website:

<http://www.in.gov/ofbci/2472.htm>.

THE 2008 GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE IS PRESENTED

BY:



Indiana | **Campus Compact**
15 Years of Partnering Campuses with Communities