



The Campaign for Mentoring at the Center for Youth Development of the United Way of Southeastern PA would like to announce it will be highlighting quality mentoring work in the region in its' new quarterly feature: Mentoring Spotlight! Congratulations to our first winner: the Bartram Mentoring Program run by EducationWorks out of Bartram High School. Check out our interview with Mandisa John, the program coordinator, and for more information, or to volunteer, email MJohn@educationworks.org or call 267-992-1232.

1. Tell us about your program. Where are you located? What population are you providing services to?

Our mentoring program is funded by the Department of Labor and sponsored by EducationWorks. We are based at Bartram High School serving 9th and 10th grade student mentees, 11th and 12th grade peer mentors, and adult school staff and community mentors. We provide them with mentors to ensure high school success.

2. What is something a mentor/mentee has learned from their experience with mentoring?

“I have learned that a Mentor can help you in many ways. You can learn new things everyday that you didn’t know before. Mentoring also taught me that education is more important than I thought it was.” – Darius Allen, 10th grade mentee

“It has made me a better person and has prepared me for lifelong experiences.”
–Edward Pollard, 10th grade mentee

“It is a good way to communicate with adults.” – Lamont McFarland, 10th grade mentee

“I’ve learned that mentoring has a huge impact on both the mentee and the mentor. Also that consistency is very important. A student depends on the guidance and is not to be taken for granted. Our job as mentors is to provide a trust and confidence in our students. Our first hand life lessons and advice can shape the mind of a youth helping them to make better choices when challenged with difficult situations to come...and have fun!” – Joseph Brand, Education Works Community Mentor (Lamont McFarland’s mentor)

3. Is there a special story about a mentoring pair you would like to share? A Mentor or Mentee who’s life you have seen improve since joining the program? Tell us about them.

There are two students who before joining the program would cut school frequently. Since joining the program and being assigned adult and peer mentors, they come to school every day. They stay after school even when mentoring is not occurring to talk and help us with small tasks in the office. They feel a strong connection to the program and even hosted our closing ceremony in June. Now that school has started again, they are present and ready to get started again.

4. What activity do your mentoring pairs like doing most?

Mentor vs. Mentee games/races and group activities for example, Stranded on a Desert Island. Mentors and Mentees are put into small groups and have to list items they would use to help them survive on or escape a deserted island.

5. Have you reached a benchmark or significant mile stone recently? Are you employing any new and innovative techniques?

From the start of our program in February to the end of June 2010 we had about 25 students who actively participated. Now only three weeks into this school year we have 40 new freshman students who have eagerly signed up to be matched with a mentor and look forward to the activities we have in store for them.

6. In your opinion, what makes mentoring such an asset to the community?

We believe mentoring helps to develop young people into leaders in the community. They are provided with adults who they may not have necessarily interacted with who can share experiences with them that they are able to learn from. This also gives students a way to feel connected to adults who are not in positions of authority and can teach ways to positively interact which will in the long run hopefully help with relations in the community.



BARTRAM MENTORING PROGRAM

If your mentoring program would like to be highlighted, please email Kwilson@uwsepa.org .