

MONTHLY MENTORING NEWSLETTER

November 2008

Our Star of the Month



Melissa Bramble & Imani Morgan

We would like to highlight a special Mentor/Mentee relationship each month and I am excited to be able to share a very special success story of a long time mentor with STAMP.

I would like to introduce you to Melissa Bramble (**Congratulations to Melissa who recently got married and was formerly Melissa Baxendale**), who is not only a mentor, but is also our *Site Coordinator* at the after school program at *Chester Addison*. She was one of the founding members of this program and has been hugely successful in attracting and keeping her mentor/mentee relationships. Melissa has 11 mentors that have been with her since the beginning of the STAMP and we want to give her a huge hand in her great job in being the model to work from for all of our programs going forward. We cannot thank Melissa enough for her ongoing work and support in success of the STAMP Mentoring Program.

Here is a little something from Melissa herself talking about her experience with mentoring:

I have been with Domus/Chester Addison for just over 2 years as the director here. Previously I was the Program Director at the Boys and Girls Club in Stamford which is where I first became involved with STAMP. I have always believed in the importance of mentoring and that belief was only strengthened by my (cont. on page 2)

Important Dates in November:

SCHOOL CLOSINGS:

11/4 - Election day
11/11 - Veterans Day
11/27 & 11/28 - Thanksgiving

EARLY RELEASE DAYS:

11/19 - Elementary/Middle
11/20 - High School
11/26 - All Schools for Thanksgiving

STAMP

Stamford Mentoring Partnership

Michelle Lappas

Program Coordinator

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203-977-5515 (fax)



Welcome back to all of our returning Mentors and congratulations to the new Mentors that have joined us this year.

We are extremely excited here at Youth Services for the continued success and growth of the STAMP Mentoring Program.

This year we have six Site Locations, 4 schools and 3 after school programs. The criteria to participate in 2008 are that we have a confirmed Site Coordinator in each location that is a direct liaison to the Youth Services Bureau and the Mentor/Mentees.

The STAMP Mentoring Site Locations are as follows:

Westover Magnet Elementary ::

Site Coordinator -

Mitch West (Social Worker)

412 Stillwater Avenue

Stamford, CT 06902

977-5874

mwest@ci.stamford.ct.us

Stillmeadow Elementary

Site Coordinator -

Lisa Cammarota

800 Stillwater Road

Stamford, CT 06902

977-4507

lcammarota@ci.stamford.ct.us

Cloonan Middle School:

Site Coordinator -

Laura Marino (Social Worker)

11 West North Street

Stamford, CT 06902

203-977-4776

203-977-4867 (fax)

lmario@ci.stamford.ct.us

Trailblazers Academy

Middle School:

Site Coordinator -

Julie Foy (Dir. Family Resources)

Scrazi Park/or PO Box 15588

Stamford, CT 06901

203-977-5690x26

jfoy@trailblazersacademy.org

Boys & Girls Club of Stamford

Site Coordinator -

Mark R. Ferrer (Dir. Of Operations)

347 Stillwater Ave.

Stamford, CT 06902

203-324-0594

mrf@bgcastamford.org

Chester Addison Community Center

Site Coordinator -

Melissa Bramble (Director)

245 Selleck Street

Stamford, CT 06902

203-348-6491 x201

203-351-0601 (fax)

203-219-1617 (cell)

mbaxendale@domuskids.org

CTE Community Center

Site Coordinator -

Rasheem Coleman

34 Woodland Ave.

Stamford, CT 06902

203-977-4880

rcoleman@ctecap.org

interactions with Dr. Susan Weinberger (Dr. Mentor) who has been an inspiration to this program from the start. Her countless hours of support have enabled me to maintain a successful program even after transitioning to a new job. I have been very fortunate to have amazing mentors throughout my time as site coordinator in this program. However I am especially fond of the group that I currently have who are so dedicated and wonderful to work with. They are truly making a difference in the lives of the mentees they work with and are some of the best people that I have ever met. I decided pretty much immediately after becoming a part of STAMP that if I was ever to ask people to mentor or understand the successes and frustrations they had, I had to be willing to do it myself. It was a natural role for me as I have been mentoring kids formally and informally since college. Well one mentee turned into several mentees and now I try to take on whoever I can so that they have the wonderful experience of being a part of this program. My very special mentee who has been with me for 2 years is pictured here, she is a phenomenal young girl who amazes me every time I spend time with her. Coming from an administrative position, it is invaluable to me to be able to spend at least one hour a week with a youth who inspires me consistently to continue what I am doing.

Melissa Bramble

WHAT DO STUDIES SHOW

A 2003 study of close to 500 mentoring pairs conducted by the Connecticut Mentoring Partnership shows:

Youth with mentors say they:

- have a better attitude at school
- are getting better grades
- are behaving better in class
- are well-prepared for school every day

Employees who mentor say:

- 98% are satisfied with the experience
- 99% believe their company should invest in youth (their future workforce)
- 89% said the mentoring program made them proud to work for their company
- 63% said they feel more productive at work after mentoring

A Public/Private Ventures study of Big Brothers/Big Sisters found that youth who were in a mentored relationship for a year were:

- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol
- 52% less likely to skip school
- 37% less likely to skip class

Thank you to everyone for all that you do to help us make this program better every day. Please spread the word – let people know about the STAMP Mentoring program and that not only will they make a difference in the life of a child but in their own lives as well.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead