

# Mentoring *Matters*

An e-newsletter for the mentors of Chester County Futures, Inc.

February 2007

Welcome to the fifth edition of Chester County Futures' monthly electronic mentor newsletter- Mentoring Matters. The purpose of this monthly newsletter is to provide a forum for communication and information.

## Mentor Roundtable Recap

On February 7th, a group of mentors gathered for the second quarterly Mentor Roundtable. One focus of this session was a list of resources, including information about what Chester County Futures provides to its students at each grade level, lists of free and low-cost things that mentors can do with their students, and an example of a hands on lesson that Futures does with its 9th and 10th grade students (the ropes exercise). The second part of the session was an explanation of the basic roles and responsibilities of a Futures mentor.

Also included in the Roundtable was a time for mentors to share their joys and concerns, ask questions of the staff and commiserate with one another.

The handouts given at this Roundtable session are available upon request. Please contact Holly Parker at [mentoroffice@ccfutures.org](mailto:mentoroffice@ccfutures.org) or 610-247-4961 if you would like a copy of the handouts.

Our next quarterly Mentor Roundtable session will be held in the late Spring and will be a panel discussion staffed by a Chester County Futures graduate, as well as experts in pertinent areas, like teen psychology.



Mentors participate in the "ropes" exercise at the February Mentor Roundtable.



Program Director Arlette Wright presents Futures' grade level curriculum to the mentors attending the February Mentor Roundtable.

## New Resource for Mentors!

Chester County Futures has just started a MENTOR BLOG. The Blog can be accessed at <http://futuresmentoring.blogspot.com/> This blog will be used as a real time forum for mentors to connect with each other, as well as to communicate with Chester County Futures' staff. It is easy to use. Go to <http://futuresmentoring.blogspot.com/> and you will be able to read all of the comments and information. If you would like to post a comment, question or response, just press the "new post" button on the top right of the page. We are hoping the blog will be another way for you to communicate with your fellow mentors. The most beneficial part of our mentor roundtables is the ability for our mentors to connect and share information, joys and concerns. The blog will be a way to relate in real time, and will also be a great way for our staff to pass along important information and discussion topics.

## Grade level list of the curriculum/ academic services for Futures' students

March 2007

9th Grade  
Career Research  
Future Planning

10th Grade  
Team Building

11th Grade  
Researching College/College  
Applications

12th Grade  
College Preparations

## Contact Information

**We want to hear from you!! Your feedback is crucial to the success of the Chester County Futures program.**

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### SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!

Chester County Futures'  
"Passport to College" Expo  
Friday, August 17, 2007  
Inn at Chester Springs, Exton

This event is required for all Chester County Futures students. Mentors are invited to attend the keynote luncheon at noon.

## The Roles and Responsibilities of a Chester County Futures Mentor

The four basic mentor role categories are:

- Provide academic support, through encouragement or guidance
- Provide career exploration guidance
- Provide emotional support
- Provide social experiences

### Basic expectations of a Futures Mentor:

- Meet with your student at least once per month and call or e-mail in between meetings (weekly)
- Commit yourself to giving the relationship time to grow and mature
- Encourage your student to make his or her own decisions and to be responsible for the possible consequences
- Help your student deal with both successes and failures
- Assist your student in developing and refining the skills needed in every day life
- Be an ear to listen without judgment
- Participate with your student in cultural and recreational activities
- Help your student explore various career paths
- Discuss any questions or concerns you might have with the program staff or mentor coordinator

## Events of Note

Mentors and their students can take advantage of a few upcoming events.

From the Underground Railroad to the Civil Rights Movement, it was people of compassion and principles from every ethnic group who advanced the cause of African Americans in our nation's history. Hear the stories of these "Unsung Heroes" on Tuesday, February 27 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. when the AMETEK Foundation, Inc. and the Diversity Action Council at Penn State Great Valley present an evening with author, teacher, and social activist Lorene Cary.

This event, to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day and National Black History Month, is free and open to the community. For more information, go to [http://gv.psu.edu/PSGV\\_News\\_Events/PSGV\\_Programs/2007\\_MLK\\_Black\\_History\\_Month\\_Celebration/](http://gv.psu.edu/PSGV_News_Events/PSGV_Programs/2007_MLK_Black_History_Month_Celebration/).

To register for the event, call or e-mail Elayna McReynolds at 610-648-3294 or [exm148@psu.edu](mailto:exm148@psu.edu).

Harlem Globetrotters at the Wachovia Center

**Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 1:00pm**

**Cost \$45.00 per person**

**Cash or Checks paid out to PBRD**

**Price Includes:**

**Transportation & Ticket for the Show**

## Important Links

Click on the links below to find things to do with your student.

### Coatesville Area School District:

<http://www.coatesville.k12.pa.us/>

### Kennett Consolidated School District:

<http://www.kcsd.org/>

### Phoenixville Area School District:

<http://www.pasd.com/pasd>

### Oxford Area School District:

<http://www.oxford.k12.pa.us/>

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### Things to do in Chester County

<http://www.historickennettsquare.com/>

<http://dsf.chesco.org/ccparks/cwp/view.asp?a=1551&Q=613525>

<http://www.brandywinevalley.com/>

<http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=CCL>

<http://www.coatesville.org/>

<http://www.cometooxford.com/index.htm>

<http://www.phoenixville.org/>

County events, organizations and points of interest:

<http://dsf.chesco.org/chesco/cwp/view.asp?a=1492&Q=575368#1>

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Chester County Futures' Year End Celebration is tentatively scheduled for May 16, 2007** at 6 pm at Coatesville Intermediate High School. This annual event celebrates the high school graduation of Futures' senior class and also the academic achievements of Futures' students. The event is attended by students, parents/family, mentors, Futures' board members/staff/supporters. You will receive an invitation via mail, but if you would like more information about this event, please contact Holly Parker at 610-247-4961 or Arlette Wright at 610-486-1020.

## A Mentor's Perspective

-Jeremy Allen

I took Dan (my mentee) to see "Tuesdays with Morrie" (at The People's Light & Theatre Company) last night. It was Dan's first ever trip to a theatre. He was the only kid in the theatre and the only (African American) guy. Taking him back to Coatesville afterwards, he couldn't stop talking about all the life's lessons that the dialogue showed. He saw his own great relationship with his grandfather, he saw a mentor at work, he regretted how his own father has always let him down. He saw the wisdom of opening up and revealing his heart. He vowed not to be macho, and keep his feelings inside. I was both exhausted and exhilarated after I dropped him off.

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**Q: I am having trouble getting together with my student. Our schedules aren't cooperating. What can I do?**

**A:** Ask your mentee for their schedule for the week that you would like to get together. Look at the schedule and see if there is anything that you can attend to be supportive to your mentee (i.e. is there a sporting event or other activity the mentee is participating in?) Plan to attend an event in which your mentee is participating or visit your mentee while they are taking part in a community activity. You might not be able to spend a lot of time talking to your mentee during this, but a little support and face time goes a long way in building trust and sharing in something that is important to your mentee.

## HAVE QUESTIONS??

We would like to feature your mentoring related questions in our monthly newsletter. It is important that we address your concerns. Please submit your questions to Holly Parker at [mentoroffice@ccfutures.org](mailto:mentoroffice@ccfutures.org)