

# Mentoring *Matters*

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

January 2007

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

## **Futures Celebrates National Mentor Month**

Growing up, were there people in your life who encouraged you, showed you the ropes, and helped you become the person you are today? Think about family members, a teacher or coach, a neighbor, a boss, or family friend; those people were mentors to you. You are now having that same impact as a mentor with Chester County Futures. In a survey given to Chester County Futures graduating seniors, the student cited the mentoring relationship they had through Chester County Futures as the number one reason they've succeeded in graduating from high school and moving on to higher education. Your student may not always express their gratitude, but you should know you are making a huge impact on who they are and where they will go in the future.

Most successful people say they had mentors along the way who guided and encouraged them. Chester County Futures students are succeeding far beyond their own expectations thanks, in part, to your guidance and encouragement.

We ask that during this National Mentoring Month you pass the word about the good work that Chester County Futures is doing in the Chester County community. We have come a long way but our work is not yet done. There are many Chester County Futures students who are in need of a mentor. Each year Futures accepts 40-50 new students into the program. We thank you for your service to Chester County Futures and ask that you let your friends, co-workers, family, business associates and acquaintances know about the Futures program and the importance of supporting a young person through mentoring. If you know of anyone who might be interested in mentoring with Chester County Futures, please contact Mentor Coordinator, Holly Parker at 610-247-4961 or [mentoroffice@ccfutures.org](mailto:mentoroffice@ccfutures.org).

## **List of Mentor Related Movies and Books**

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/chc/wmy2007/pass/media.htm>

A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself. A mentor is someone who allows you to know that no matter how dark the night, in the morning joy will come. A mentor is someone who allows you to see the higher part of yourself when sometimes it becomes hidden to your own view.

I think mentors are important and I don't think anybody makes it in the world without some form of mentorship. Nobody makes it alone. Nobody has made it alone. And we are all mentors to people even when we don't know it.

- Oprah Winfrey

My high school band director, Virgil Spurlin, had a huge impact on my life. Not because he was a particularly great band director. He was quite good, but he was a world-class human being. He took a personal interest in kids, and seemed to instinctively know when they were having trouble at home or having trouble in school, and always to know what to say to them and more importantly maybe what questions to ask to find out what was really going on in their lives.

- President Bill Clinton

## Contact Information

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

Mentor Coordinator  
Holly Parker  
610-247-4961  
mentoroffice@ccfutures.org

Program Director & Coordinator for Coatesville  
Arlette Wright  
610-486-0120  
awright@ccfutures.org

Program Coordinator for Kennett (10th, 11th and 12th grade) and Oxford  
Rebecca Matos  
610-869-3096  
rmatos@ccfutures.org

Program Coordinator for Kennett (9th grade) and Phoenixville  
Josie Ramos  
610-450-4856  
jramos@ccfutures.org

Main Office  
Catherine Mesaros, Executive Director  
704 Haywood Drive  
Exton, PA 19341  
610-458-9926  
cmesaros@ccfutures.org

"My mentor means a lot to me. She is always encouraging me to do my best. Whenever I doubt that I can make it, I remember the support she has given me."

-Chester County Futures graduate

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"I appreciate all of the new experiences that my mentor has given me. There are many things I would not have done if it weren't for my mentor."

- Chester County Futures Student

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"Someday I hope to give back all that has been given to me."

-Chester County Futures student

**Chester County Futures' Mentor Office has a New E-Mail Address!!!**

**Please note that Chester County Futures Mentor Coordinator, Holly Parker, has a new email address. Please email Holly at [mentoroffice@ccfutures.org](mailto:mentoroffice@ccfutures.org).**

## Upcoming Mentor Roundtable to Feature Breakout Sessions

On February 7, 2007, Chester County Futures will hold its quarterly roundtable session for all mentors. The event will be held at the West Goshen Municipal Building (West Chester, PA) from 6:30-9:00 pm. Mentor roundtables are held to provide our mentors with a forum for discussion and commiseration, and also as a vehicle for information that will help support the mentoring experience. A boxed dinner will be served.

The February roundtable will feature two breakout sessions that will address mentor roles, responsibilities and boundaries as well as resources for mentors and students. The mentor roles and responsibilities session will address questions posed in our recent mentor survey, as well as other topics designed to support an effective mentoring relationship. The resource session will provide mentors with a grade level by grade level resource guide, including information about Futures' core curriculum and the services we provide our students at each grade level.

As always, mentors will be afforded time for group discussion and sharing of joys and concerns. If you would like to attend the upcoming roundtable, please contact Holly Parker at 610-247-4961 or [mentoroffice@ccfutures.org](mailto:mentoroffice@ccfutures.org).

## 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)

## Mentor Profile

Leigh Ann Zangaro  
Phoenixville Mentor



**Occupation:**  
Concierge/Event Planner for SEI Investments, Inc.

**How long have you mentored?**  
Two years

**Education/Experience:**  
BA Finance and Marketing- Lehigh University

**Interests:**  
Sports  
Health/Fitness  
Cooking  
Traveling

**My mentee's interests:**  
Broadcasting/Journalism, Traveling/Adventure, Theater, Having fun with her friends.

**Last activity with mentee:**  
Dinner with my extended family in Pittsburgh. Veronica has family in the Pittsburgh area and was visiting them the same weekend I was visiting my family. It was great to show her where I grew up and to have my family meet her.

**What has worked with your mentee?**  
Trying a variety of activities - cooking, touring a college campus, going to a sporting event, chatting at a local coffee shop, going out for a nice dinner. I think the most important thing is supporting Veronica in the activities she's involved with like going to see her read at Church and watching her in the school play.

**What hasn't worked?**  
Trying to rush the friendship. I thought we would be friends right from the beginning, but I realized a friendship takes time to develop.

**Last Book I read:**  
The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

**Last movie I watched:**  
The Departed

**Favorite thing about mentoring:**  
Sharing what I have and seeing a young person blossom.

**Most challenging part of the mentoring experience?**  
Working around our busy schedules.