

# Mentoring *Matters*

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

March 2007

Welcome to the sixth 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.

## ***We Need You To... Pass It On***

### Chester County Futures' need for mentors remains high

**Chester County Futures has served over 300 youth** during the past eleven years. The program could not have accomplished this feat without the support of mentors like you. Our ability to expand and offer more students the chance to fulfill the dream of making better lives for themselves through education rests on our ability to recruit mentors and funding. Each year, the program accepts 40-50 students into its ninth grade class. This means that Futures needs to recruit dozens of new mentors each year. Without you, your student might not have been able to enter the program due to a limited pool of mentors. Because you stepped up to the plate and offered yourself as a role model and friend, your student has a greater chance to succeed due to his or her involvement in the Futures program.

We've already asked you to donate your time and talents as a mentor for our program. May we ask you to help us once again by "Passing It On?" You, better than anyone, know the power of mentoring. You know the Futures program. We ask that you let your friends, family, business associates and personal acquaintances know about the Futures program and the impact that our unique mentoring program is making on the youth in Chester County. It is critical that we continue the momentum we've gained over the last eleven years.

If you know someone who might be interested in mentoring, please pass their name along by contacting your mentor coordinator, Holly Parker, at 610-247-4961 or via email at [mentoroffice@ccfutures.org](mailto:mentoroffice@ccfutures.org). Holly will contact the interested parties and provide them with information and schedule an interview.

## **SAVE THESE DATES!!!**

**Chester County Futures'  
YEAR END CELEBRATION BANQUET  
May 16, 2007  
6:30 pm  
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.

**Chester County Futures'  
"Passport to College" Expo  
August 17, 2007  
9 am - 3 pm  
Inn at Chester Springs, Exton**

This **fun and informative** event is required for all Chester County Futures students. The EXPO will feature **booths** designed to provide students with **information on colleges, careers, financial aid and many other topics**. Four to six **break-out sessions will be held**, in addition to a **keynote luncheon** featuring **nationally syndicated cartoonist and creator of "Jump Start," Robb Armstrong**. Mentors are invited for the day or may attend the keynote luncheon at noon.

# 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](mailto:mentoroffice@ccfutures.org)

Program Director &  
Coordinator for Coatesville  
Arlette Wright  
610-486-0120  
[awright@ccfutures.org](mailto:awright@ccfutures.org)

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

Main Office  
Catherine Mesaros, Executive Director  
704 Haywood Drive  
Exton, PA 19341  
610-458-9926  
[cmesaros@ccfutures.org](mailto:cmesaros@ccfutures.org)

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

---

## Program News You Can Use

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

**April 2007**

**9th Grade  
Mentor Talent Bank  
PSAT Prep**

**10th Grade  
SAT Prep**

**11th Grade  
College Essay**

**12th Grade  
Scholarship Funding and College Details**

## 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

**Help your student register to vote!!**

Chester County Futures encourages all of its students who are eligible (citizens 18 years or older) to register to vote. Voter registration forms can be obtained from Holly Parker, Mentor Coordinator, by calling 610-247-4961 or email at [mentoroffice@ccfutures.org](mailto:mentoroffice@ccfutures.org).

### Does your student need health insurance?

CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Plan) brochures are available for students in need of health insurance. If your mentee needs insurance, please contact Holly Parker at 610-247-4961 or [mentoroffice@ccfutures.org](mailto:mentoroffice@ccfutures.org) to obtain a brochure.

## Questions.... and Answers

---

**Q: I am unsure of the relationship I am supposed to have with my student's parent. Please advise.**

A: During your initial match meeting you will be introduced to your student's parent or guardian. After that initial meeting you can communicate on an as needed basis. Some mentors have more of a relationship with the student's family than others might. You should feel free to establish a relationship with your student's family if you feel that is necessary. If you have questions or concerns regarding your relationship with your student's family or guardian, please speak to your mentor coordinator or your program coordinator.

**Q: My student is not returning my phone calls, is making unreasonable requests and/or seems to reject my presence. What can I do?**

A: Some mentor matches may be difficult. When the above occurs you are being "tested" by your student. The issue is not whether or not your student likes you, but rather it is a form of protection. A student may be protecting his or herself from disappointment. Remember, predictability fosters trust. The mentor must be consistent and accountable. If you have remained consistent and are still concerned, please contact your mentor coordinator or program coordinator as soon as possible. The staff will do their best to immediately resolve issues and help foster better communication.

## 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)

## Student Perspectives

This month, all Chester County Futures students were surveyed to evaluate the success of the program, as well as to determine the student's ever changing needs. The questions that were asked included:

**The best thing about high school is?**

**The hardest thing about high school is?**

**How has CCF made a difference in your life?**

**What advice would you give eighth graders who are thinking about joining CCF?**

**What is the biggest difference you've noticed in your life since being a part of CCF?**

**What would you expect to gain from having a mentor?**

**Describe someone you look up to.**

**How do you feel about going off to college?**

**What are some things that CCF can do to help you?**

The mentor office will be compiling the results of that survey and will distribute them to all Futures mentors. In addition, each mentor will receive a copy of his or her student's evaluation form. It is the program's hope that the information provided in the forms will give you a good idea of your student's needs and wants in regard to the program, and also allow you insight as to where they might be struggling. The staff hopes that you will use it as a resource to help your student.