

*If You Want To Connect With A Child,
Connect With Us First.*



An Update for Friends, Donors and the Community

FY2002 - 2003

KESLER MENTORING CONNECTION

9700 Phillips Highway, Suite 101
Jacksonville, FL 32256
Tel (904) 224-2400
Fax (904) 224-2401
www.mentoringconnection.org

OUR MISSION

To increase the quantity and enhance the quality of mentoring relationships in Northeast Florida

OUR VISION

To provide safe and effective one-to-one mentoring relationships for young people through advocacy, recruitment, training, and support of mentoring initiatives throughout Northeast Florida.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deborah S. Pass, Chairman
Elaine Brown
Charles Cromer
Guy Cuddihee
John Falconetti
Tony Jenkins
Delores Kesler
James Price
Laurie Price
Thomas E. Quinlan, Secretary

OUR STAFF

Cathy J. Chadeayne-Goldman
Executive Director

Sheree Kiger
Director of Business Operations

Deborah Hansen
Director of Training and Program Development

Lucretia D. Simmons
Director of Community Outreach

Lillian Carver
Project Manager

Pejay Jackson
Administrative Specialist/Trainer

Cathy M. Wade
Financial Manager

SERVING AS A LEADER IN MENTORING

CATHY J. CHADEAYNE-GOLDMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mentoring works! March 2003 marks my first year as Executive Director of Kesler Mentoring Connection and what a year it has been. This is our first update report and we are proud of our efforts and results. It is with great pride and pleasure that we share this information with you.

Our staff is unsurpassed in their dedication, compassion, knowledge, and expertise in the mentoring arena. They make it easy to become a quality mentor or to start a new mentoring program in Northeast Florida. We jokingly refer to ourselves as the "bricks" but in reality that is exactly what we are. Building the strength of our community by building the strength of our children one brick at a time, we are providing them a strong, safe, and healthy environment.

Figures for July 2002 - January 2003

	<u>12 Month Goal</u>	<u>7 month Actual</u>
Inquiries.....	1600	1040
We have already achieved 65% of our goal. (number of individuals who requested information about mentoring)		
Trained Mentors.....	800	690
We have already achieved 86% of our goal. (number of adults who attended Mentor Training and were referred to mentoring programs)		
Mentor Trainings.....	60	77
We have already exceeded 28% of our goal. (number of trainings held in one year)		
New Mentoring Programs.....	6	15
We have already exceeded 150% of our goal. (number of organizations/groups who attended Discover the Power of Two: How to Start A Mentoring Program workshop and began providing mentoring services to youth)		

Our performance and growth has been outstanding. We are proud also to report we have formed a partnership with Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce. They have become great champions of the mentoring movement. This relationship was started in March 2002 with our press conference at the Chamber, where we unveiled the new U.S. Postal Stamp promoting mentoring. We have collaborated on several grants with the Chamber and the Duval County Public Schools to bring more mentoring resources into our schools. We expect both of these new partnerships to exist for a long time.

Through the generous contributions of Jacksonville Children's Commission and the MPS Group, we were able to purchase the live-scan fingerprinting machine that will result in a much faster turn around time for fingerprinting and completing background screenings on the volunteer mentors. This device will allow us to deliver the most thorough background screening possible in order to protect our children who are in mentoring relationships.

You will be hearing a lot more about our efforts as more caring individuals get involved with mentoring. Watch us grow!

Business Partners In Mentoring

The following companies have established policies that allow their employees paid administrative leave to mentor a child one hour a week.

Adam's Mark
ATS Services
Bank of America
Bay Center Security
Capernaum, Inc.
CSX Transportation
Department of Children and Families
Department of Environmental Protection
Department of Health
Department of Revenue
Department of Transportation
Department of Vital Statistics
Educational Community Credit Union
Florida Rock, Inc.
Greater North Florida Financial Services/MetLife
Harden & Associates
Holland & Knight
Logistic Services, Inc.
LOGS Financial Services
New York Life Insurance
Reynolds, Smith & Hills
SouthTrust Bank
SPRINT PCS
State Farm Insurance
The St. Joe Company
The Vestcor Companies
United States Army
United States Navy
Wachovia

Additional companies that also support mentoring include:

Blacksonville.com
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida
Chevys Fresh Mex
Duval County Public Schools
Jacksonville Suns Baseball
Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce

Statements of Success

Statements from mentors:

"Everything has been fine, all segments of the process have gone smoothly and my mentee and I have "connected." There is very good "chemistry" so far!! Thank you."

"I feel very lucky with the child I have been assigned. We were perfectly matched. We learn as well as play together."

"I am amazed at the time and effort that goes into your program and am glad to be a part of your organization."

"...I am enjoying the experience and the relationship I have with my mentee."

"Thank you for making the training fun and informative. I was especially impressed by your knowledge of area mentoring programs. Excellent course!"

Statements from mentees:

"I know I will grow up and be a good man because my mentor has been there to show me what a good man is suppose to be."

"I was a little shy in kindergarten. In first and second grade I was not shy anymore because of my mentor."

"My mentor is helping me reach my goals and I thank her for that."

"My mentor has impacted my life.... She is one of my best friends, an adult as a best friend - who knew."

"It is a great feeling to have someone be there for you when you need someone to talk to."

"My mentor always encourages me to do my best and he gives advice on how to do my assignments and projects or how to decrease stressful situations. This builds my self-esteem and confidence."

Mentoring Program Partners

Kesler Mentoring provides all or partial recruitment, training, screening, consultation services to the following mentoring programs and agencies in Northeast Florida.

Baptist Health/St. Vincent
"Tipping the Scale"
Adolescent Mentoring

Bank of America/YMCA
John E. Ford Elementary

Big Brothers Big Sisters
of North Florida

Boys' Hope

Children's Home Society

Cross Walk

Career Academies
School Partner

Take Stock in Children Clay/Duval

Emergency Pregnancy Services

First Coast Friends Clay/Duval

Hicks Scholars

Hold Out the Life Line

Inside/Outside Inc.

Impact House

Jailed Juvenile
Mentoring Program

Kesler Scholars

Lutheran Social Services

Scholars In School

S.A.V.E. Program

St. Johns River
Community College

Scheidel Scholars

About Kesler Mentoring Connection

In 1997 a group of mentoring programs and agencies formed the Northeast Florida Mentoring Coalition to provide a forum for mentoring program coordinators. The monthly meetings were an opportunity to exchange ideas, improve existing programs, act as a support group, offer participation in each other's activities and services, and assist in program referrals.

After several months of meeting the members of the coalition realized the need for a mentoring resource center to recruit, train and screen, and refer mentors to mentoring programs and agencies. This resource center would allow the programs to do what they do best, which is managing the relationship between mentors and mentees. Therefore, a subcommittee formed with representatives from Communities In School, Big Brothers Big Sisters, State's Attorney Office, First Coast Family Center (formerly Children's Haven) and the Mayor's Neighborhood Intensive Care Unit to write a grant for a mentoring resource center. At the same time, Delores Pass Kesler was researching mentoring programs in the community to start a mentoring program. When Mrs. Kesler heard the concept of a mentoring resource center, she realized the poten-

tial impact and importance it could have in the arena of mentoring so she made the first contribution that made Kesler Mentoring Connection a reality in 1998. Initially Kesler Mentoring Connection operated as a program under the supervision of Big Brothers Big Sisters. After rapid growth, Kesler Mentoring Connection separated from Big Brothers Big Sisters to become its own 501C (3) organization in July 2000.

Today, Kesler Mentoring Connection continues to serve as a "mentoring resource center" for more than 20 mentoring programs in Northeast Florida. The mission of Kesler Mentoring Connection is to increase the quantity and enhance the quality of adult/child mentoring relationships in Northeast Florida. Kesler Mentoring Connection was created to support mentoring in the community by:

1. Raising public awareness about mentoring
2. Recruiting new volunteer mentors
3. Training and screening new mentors
4. Helping existing mentoring programs maintain best practices
5. Facilitating new mentoring programs

A special thank you to the following for continued support of
Kesler Mentoring Connection

Board of Directors
Delores Pass Kesler Foundation
Jacksonville Children's Commission
Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation
United Way
Corporate Donors
Private Donors



Delores Pass Kesler Foundation



The Best Friends
Our Kids Could Ever Have



United Way of
Northeast Florida

Update Editors:

Lucretia D. Simmons and Sheree M. Kiger

© Kesler Mentoring Connection January 2003