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

An Update for Friends, Donors and the Community
FY2002 - 2003
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figures for July 2002 - January 2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>12 Month Goal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inquiries</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(number of individuals who requested information about mentoring)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trained Mentors</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(number of adults who attended Mentor Training and were referred to mentoring programs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mentor Trainings</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(number of trainings held in one year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Mentoring Programs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(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)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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."
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 potential 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

© Kesler Mentoring Connection January 2003