

Mentoring News

For mentors, and those who would like to become one.

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What's New?

- Jackie Abel-Stavropoulos, Program

Fall has flown and it's hard to believe that we are at the end of 2011! The youth and their mentors have been meeting almost every week and have shared some wonderful experiences. During this year they have participated in:

- Many career exploration workshops, hands-on activities and listening to guest speakers
- Worked alongside Ken-the-Handyman and learned how to make some simple home repairs using tools and building materials
- Taken part in field trips such as a PGH Penguins game, visits to the August Wilson Center, and working on a photography project at some of Pittsburgh's historic cathedrals
- Participated in several community service projects including: community garden, organizing a Halloween party at the Boys and Girls Club, and raising money at a bake sale for the Heart House
- Most importantly the

mentors have served as role models for the youth and spent hours listening to the hopes and dreams and been supportive caring adults!

We welcome 2012 and look forward to many more activities as well as some changes. One of the first changes made is that the mentoring program will simply be called the Goodwill Youth Mentoring Program (GWYM). Most of the mentoring groups will continue and several new ones will be forming at the beginning of the year, including several designed to serve Refugees and new comers to the U.S.

Another exciting component to the mentoring program will be the opportunity for the older youth to become active in the Retail Training Youth Mentoring (RTYM) Program where they will be able to attend training in retail through a hands-on approach. They will be working alongside a job coach mentor to reinforce the training and help

the youth achieve success! We want to wish you a Happy New Year and look forward to having your continued dedication and hard-work in 2012!

Cookie Sale

This season, several of our groups baked and sold cookies on Saturday, Dec 3 at the Lawrenceville Community Cookie Mall. Together all of the kids and their cookies raised \$180 which they are donating to Heart House, a program for women and their families coming out of domestic violence situations. The children in the Heart House program will receive holiday gifts from the profits of the cookie sale.



Action is the foundational key to all success.
-Pablo Picasso

Why Be a Mentor?

In a study conducted in 2009, it was found that nearly 1.2 million students in the United States fail to graduate from high school each year.

In an effort to reduce these alarming figures, mentoring programs across the country offer a positive influence in student's lives to motivate them

to succeed.

In the United States, approximately 18 million children need or want mentoring, and only 3 million of them receive the support they require. Mentoring helps to provide a youth not only with supervision, but also with

help in school, focus and a role model to one day aspire to be.

In a Pew Public/Private Ventures study it was found that after 18 months with mentors, students were:

- 46% less likely to use illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to use alcohol

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Why Mentor?

Mentored youth are:

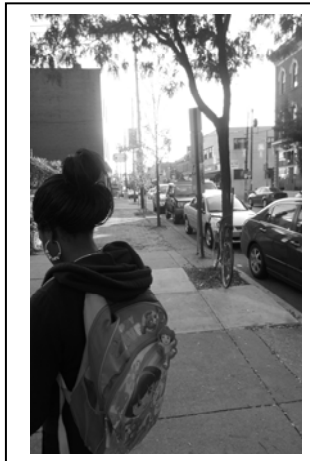
- 53% less likely to skip school
- 33% less likely to hit someone or use violence

Mentoring offers a special relationship to youth that they may not be receiving in their homes or at school. For adults it is an opportunity to help give back to the community and share experiences with youth, providing guidance and support needed and deserved during formative years.

Do you know someone who is interested in being a mentor?

If so, Goodwill Youth Mentoring Program is looking for mentors in your area. Volunteering just two hours a week can have a tremendous impact on local youth. For details, e-mail: Jackie.stavropoulos@goodwillswpa.org

412-632-1752



I have discovered in life that there are ways of getting almost anywhere you want to go, if you really want to go.
- Langston Hughes

Featured Ice Breaker: In the Bag -Erin Downey, Mentor

This activity is performed without rehearsal. The student relies on personal knowledge and experience to give a quick, impromptu speak to the group/class.

Possible topics include:

- Why students should never have homework
- The ideal age should be
- How to be happy
- My idea of a perfect day
- The best bargain
- The best job in the world

- The greatest book ever written
- How I view the future
- The most important invention
- Something I couldn't live without... etc.

Be creative and think of your own topics, or have the youth make a list!



Meet a Mentor! – Jovanna Robinson



Jovanna Robinson has been a mentor with Goodwill for over a year now, as she joined the Homestead group in September of 2010.

A graduate of Taylor Alderdice High School, Jovanna grew up in Hazelwood and became a certified medical assistant with Kaplan, but now works in social services with Allegheny County.

Jovanna's favorite color is teal, and her favorite foods are sausage, pizza with ranch, and sweet and sour chicken. Her favorite parts of mentoring are promoting positivity, engaging with people, and having fun. She describes herself as the "livewire" of the Homestead group.

When asked what she likes to do in her spare time, she responded: "THIS. I don't have a lot of spare time but

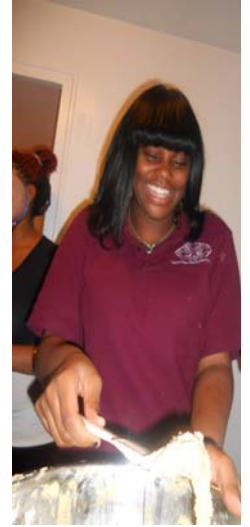
I really enjoy spending time with the kids. I like keeping it I like keeping it funky here, keeping it real. I'm the Fashionista Diva."

Jovanna became a mentor to give back to the community and to build youth for the future, she explained. "My outgoing voicemail says 'we can't always build a future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.'"

Goodwill Youth at the Pen's Game!

On Saturday, September 24th, the Pittsburgh Penguins hosted the annual Kids Day event during their preseason and donated tickets to various mentoring groups in the Pittsburgh area. Goodwill was fortunate enough to be in attendance and get to watch the action right up front. Present at the game were Goodwill Mentoring groups from Lawrenceville, Homestead, Braddock and Garfield. The game was an exciting one;

halfway through the 2nd period the youth were able to watch our Pittsburgh Penguins score three goals within five minutes! The game ended with a Pens' victory and a score of 4-1. The event was incredibly successful, it proved to be a great opportunity to expose the youth to an experience that many of them had never had before that day. We look forward to many more fun events all year long. A good time was had by all!



Goodwill Youth Photography Gallery

On December 15th, the Goodwill Youth Mentoring Program held the first-annual Goodwill Youth Photography Gallery. All photographs were taken and selected by the youth. This has been an on-going project to discuss the different types of photography and related career fields. Everyone in attendance had a great time and enjoyed looking around at the pictures taken by the youth from the Goodwill Youth Mentoring Program.

If you are interested in having your group learn about photography, let us know!





Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities 412-390-2132 or e-mail accommodations.request@goodwillswpa.org

www.goodwillswpa.org

Current sites

- Southside
- Lawrenceville
- Homestead
- Shadyside/Homewood Carnegie
- Northside
- Garfield
- Braddock

Data/Mentoring Specialist

Mark Sepe
412-632-1755

AmeriCorps Mentoring Specialists

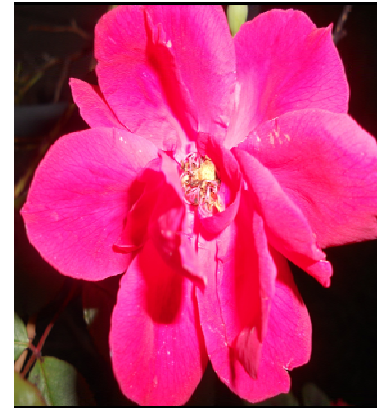
Natalie Suzelis
412-632-1754

Mike Kamison
412-632-1764

Dan Brenner
412-632-1758

Program Manager

Jackie Abel-Stavropoulos
jackie.stavropoulos@goodwillswpa.org
412-390-2308



Success means having the courage, the determination and the will to become the person you believe you were meant to be.

Goodwill Youth Mentoring Program

C/O Goodwill SWPA
Robert S. Foltz Building
118 52nd Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Subscriber Name
Number Street Address
City, State Postal Code