

MENTOR MONITOR

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FROM THE COORDINATOR MARGARET "PEGGY" BASKIN, MSW, LCSW

As we usher in a new administration for change and hope in America, we face a weakened economy and an employment outlook that seems to become more dismal every day. Each of us must do our part to sustain and improve upon the resources that we have.

Missouri Mentoring Partnership is no different. What impacts you, ultimately impacts us. We must make adjustments like everyone else to help bring back stability and make sure we remain connected and relevant. I have no doubt that our partners will embrace us as never before, but we must bring our "A" game. That's where we have to make the difference in order for our young people to survive and succeed in the coming year. We cannot be complacent nor allow the youth to be. Competition is fierce which means we must prepare our young people better than ever.

We ask for your help and support by hiring and mentoring the MMP youth referred to you. Our mission is the same and our vision is clear. You are an essential piece of the MMP program.

We have stepped up our employment preparation efforts with our young people. Incorporated into the job readiness classes are elements of customer service training. Occasional field visits have been arranged for youth to learn more and get a realistic picture of what the working environment of a company will be like. The addition of a youth conference that introduces ways youth can be empowered through education and training, entrepreneurship, public service and money management has exposed more youths to the MMP program.

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Mentoring Today's Youth for
Tomorrow's Workforce.

MMP CELEBRATED ITS' 15TH ANNIVERSARY WITH MENTOR APPRECIATION

Missouri Mentoring Partnership celebrated 15 years of work site mentoring with a social networking event on January 28, 2009 at Culpeppers. The weather outside was frightful, however, inside everyone was warm, while enjoying good food and great conversation. A DVD was shown that chronicled several MMP events and activities over the years.

The MMP Advisory Committee is

credited with the idea of hosting this special event in conjunction with an appreciation to the corporate partners and mentors who have shared these many years with the program. The Advisory Committee members were ambassadors for the evening, sporting especially made "Ask me about MMP" buttons courtesy of Paula Burdge. A special gift, that embodied the theme of the event, An Essential Piece, lapel

pin was presented to those in attendance.

Invited guests representing new companies were given information about MMP in the hopes they would become corporate partners. Selena Vaughn, one of our MMP grads, stopped by to lend her support of the event and visit with her former work site mentor, Dezzie Houston. (continue on page 2)

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There are a few lapel pins available on a first come, first serve basis. If you have not received your pin, please contact Peggy Baskin at 314-877-2013. A month this summer will be designate to wear your lapel pin. Get them while supplies last.

Missouri Mentoring Partnership continues to search for companies to partner with us to assist our young people with part time mentored employment opportunities. We need your help and want to hear from you. Please contact us at 314-877-2013 or via email mmp@stlouis.missouri.org, if you know a company that may be interested. ♦

MMP POLICY— A REVIEW

Missouri Mentoring Partnership will review its' policies and standards during 2009. As you may recall, statewide policies and procedures were put in place for the staff and volunteers that work within the Missouri Mentoring Partnership program.

The work site program policies and minimum standards relevant to work site mentors are as follows:

Policy Code: 3.12— Overnight Policy

Missouri Mentoring Partnership Work Site program youth participant clients shall not participate in overnight visits with either work site mentors or any staff member of the Missouri Mentoring Partnership.

Policy Code: 3.13—Transportation Policy

Missouri Mentoring Partnership forbids, prohibits, and otherwise bans work site mentors from transporting youth client participants.

Policy Code: 3.14— Out of Town Travel Policy

Missouri Mentoring Partnership forbids, prohibits and otherwise bans out of town travel by youth participant clients with a work site mentor.



POLICY REVIEW
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CORPORATE POINT OF VIEW

Plans are on the way for the 3rd Life after High School conference. MMP wants our young people to get the most useful information for these tough economic times.

There will breakout sessions to address how to be more effective in their job searches, on where to get the best training available for the good paying jobs of the future, how to manage their money, assistance for choosing the type of college to attend and fashions dress your best on a tight budget for any occasion.

This year's event will be held at the historic Harris-Stowe State University with presentations by our own members of the Internal Advisory Committee, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Harris-Stowe State University, members and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, Junior Achievement and more.

This conference will show the youth a broad cross section of opportunities awaiting them once they complete high school and branch out on a career path. Most will come to understand there is a need for continued education and training beyond high school. Many will have their own ideas and passions to pursue as entrepreneurs.

The MMP Internal Advisory Committee encourages all corporate partners to support any MMP youth that is employed with them if they wish to take time off to attend this conference, if possible. Also, we are asking for donations in order to provide attendance prizes for the youth attendees. If your company makes a donation they will be prominently listed as a sponsor of this event in our printed program and any media coverage we should receive. If any mentor or

corporate partner would like to attend this conference as our guest, do not hesitate to contact Peggy Baskin at 314-877-2013.

Missouri Mentoring Partnership presents these Life after High School conferences to introduce current and potential youth participants to the possibility of a successful and productive future. Too many of our young people feel they cannot set goals and achieve them because of their situation in life or choices they've made. We say to them—OH, YES YOU CAN!!



Life After High School Conference
Friday, July 17, 2009— 9:00 a.m.
Harris-Stowe State University

Being a teenager is difficult. It's that time of life when a million emotions pass through an individual on a daily basis, each one just as confusing as the last. New and unfamiliar responsibilities crop up everywhere. The future bangs on the door, asking where the next stop in life will be and leaving many teens unsure of an answer.

So how do teens cope with the doubt and confusion? They find ways to be themselves. They find friends (and mentors). They find allies and eventually, they become adults.

"I feel like I'm an adult already," said high school senior Crystal.

Other teens agree that they have had to face challenges beyond their years. "Being a teenager is stressful because of the transition from being a child to an adult, but the worst part is knowing that you're going to be leaving the people you've grown up with," said senior Emily.

Senior Wesley notes that in his life, challenges come from outside influences as well, "My teenage life is marked by peer pressure and a lot of expectations from adults. It's stressful." In addition to all of the stress and confusion, some teenagers tend to make not

—so- smart decisions. "The stupidest thing I've ever done is probably gone home drunk," admitted one student, who acknowledged turning to better alternatives for coping with stress after that incident.

Despite mishaps of varying degrees, many teenagers have found positive outlets for their stress. Some teens rely on religion to get through their daily routine. "Being a teenager is a combination of peer pressure and anxiety," according to Chris. "Through my experiences with church and with God, I have found happiness and a sense of purpose in my life. It is important that all teenagers find a way to express themselves and find activities to spend time productively." Church is an easy way to meet people and get involved while finding direction in life, which is vital for teenagers, Chris said.

Andre, also a senior, uses work to cope. "I work five days a week, everyday except for Friday and Sunday," Andre said. "After school I go straight to work. I make a lot of money, which lets me do the things that I like to do." Andre says his lifestyle also provides him valuable experience for later in life. "I've learned a lot of things like how to prepare and cook chili," he said.

Working provides a steady income and is a way to meet new people, and it provides experience that looks good on a resume.



"I don't have a lot of time during the week to do stuff."

However, working also has downsides. "I don't have a lot of time during the week to do stuff," Andre said.

Being a teenager is tricky. Little things in life can play out in a major way. Teens develop friendships with many people around them. They get frustrated over ACT scores and college applications. Pretty soon their lives will change dramatically when they exit the doors of high school for good. Until then, some teens struggle to get by and others know just how to live.

We anticipate the MMP teen, having experienced employment and having a work site mentor, will be in the category of knowing just how to live after high school graduation.

(excerpts reprinted from Suburban Journals, November 20, 2008 edition, by Geoffrey Skonicki)

MMP MENTOR AND MENTEE UPDATES

We are very pleased to announce the addition of five new mentors to Missouri Mentoring Partnership from Dierbergs Markets, Inc. Welcome aboard **Lisa Kaelber, Abby Bouzek, Karen Huddleston, Jen Brindell, and Christine Peacock.** Special thanks to **Carol Baum** for helping us recruit mentors at Dierbergs and thank you to Dierbergs Markets for 14 years as a MMP corporate partner. We look forward to matching our new mentors as mentees are

hired. MMP welcomes **Lowe's** in Maplewood who joins our distinguished body of corporate partners. **Kelly Green**, HR Manager, will serve as the work site mentor.

MMP wants to congratulate **Jennifer Phelps**, mentor from Schnucks Market on her engagement and pending nuptials. We wish you the very best, Jen!

MMP did not have quite the turnout of prospective corporate partners it

would have liked during our January event due to the inclement weather. However, we have not forgotten about you and look forward to the opportunity to introduce MMP to you in the near future. Several of you who missed the event should have received a MMP corporate packet. We will make a follow-up appointment with you soon.

Congratulations to the MMP youth participants selected as *(cont. Page 4)*

NEWSLETTER FOR MMP CORPORATE
PARTNERS & MENTORS

MENTOR MONITOR

Missouri Mentoring Partnership

Work Site Program

Prince Hall Family Support Center

4411 N. Newstead Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63115

Phone: 314-877-2013

Fax: 314-877-2344

E-mail: mmp@stlouis.missouri.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB

CHECK OUT FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER'S
WEB PAGE UNDER MENTORING

WWW.FRCMO.ORG

**YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT THIS
NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME. WRITE OR
CALL AND TELL US WHAT YOU THINK.**

HELP WANTED

The Missouri Mentoring Partnership Work Site mentoring program seeks corporate partners who can fill their part-time employment opportunities with job ready MMP youth candidates, age 16-21, who are pursuing a high school diploma and/or post-secondary education.

If you know of a business or company that may be interested, please contact Peggy Baskin @ 314-877-2013.

Worksite mentors with existing MMP corporate partners are also wanted.

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Policy Code: 3.16-Volunteer Update Policy

Missouri Mentoring Partnership shall update Child Abuse and Neglect and Missouri Highway patrol Criminal Background screenings of active Work Site mentors, at minimum, once every two years.

This means that the MMP Program Coordinator or designee will be in contact with work site mentors to update our current information and request new CA/N and criminal background screenings.

The screenings will also be requested on mentors who become active by virtue of a mentee match, if they have not already had an update completed within the last two years.

Please carefully consider these policy codes. If you have a question or concern regarding any policy code, we want to hear it. Contact Peggy Baskin at 314-877-2013 or email us at mmp@stlouis.missouri.org.

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Mentees of the Month; Mekailea B. (The Magic House), Crystal W. (McDonald's), and Audrey W. (Schnuck's Market).

MMP extends an invitation to corporate partners to nominate MMP youths and/or mentors for a Mentee or Mentor of the Month honors. We are always happy to recognize those who are doing well in the companies.

Corporate partners and Human Resource personnel: To help keep us updated, do not forget to notify us of any part-time positions you currently need to fill. We are seeking to match our candidates with your company. Don't hesitate call, email or fax your job openings to us any time.

Missouri Mentoring Partnership Trivia

In what year did former President George W. Bush, during one of his visits to St. Louis, recognize Dezzie Houston for serving 10 years as a MMP work site mentor from Schnuck's Markets?

Answer: 2003

