

The Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Lend-A-Hand Program

When you lift a spirit, you lift a child!



www.lend-a-hand.net

BARRIERS YOUTH IN CHICAGO FACE



- Inner-city children and youth living in areas of high poverty face greater obstacles in pursuing higher education and reaching careers.
- **134,399** of CPS kids ages 5-17 are living below poverty level.
- **84,598** number of Chicago families with kids live in poverty.
- **28,203** students in the CPS Class of 2002 dropped out of high school.
- Only 39% of African American CPS male students are graduating high school in 4 yrs.

OVER VIEW OF THE PROBLEM

- It takes 25 yrs. for a child to move from birth into a career and economic self-sufficiency.
- Too few public/private funding policies provide consistent support for 25 yrs.
- Too few comprehensive volunteer-based tutor/mentor programs in Chicago, and not enough in any neighborhoods.
- Too few dollars support the growth of effective tutor/mentor programs.

WHY MENTORING YOUTH IS SO IMPORTANT?

- Teaching and parenting alone do not provide all the help most at risk kids need to reach their full potential.
- If caring, concerned adults are available to young people, youth will be more likely to become successful adults themselves.

(Child Trends Research Brief).

MENTORING YOUTH IS IMPORTANT *continued*

- One-on-one mentoring programs allow caring adults to act as important role models.
- Mentors model a wider diversity of career possibilities for youth.
- A mentor can help with homework, pick up a basketball, take a youth to the symphony orchestra and expand a child's experience base, which helps boost self-confidence and self-worth.

MENTORING WORKS!

- **Mentoring helps keep kids in school.** Students who meet regularly with a mentor are 52% less likely than peers to skip a day of school and 37% less likely to skip a class (*National Mentoring Partnership – www.mentoring.org -- Public/Private Ventures Study of Big Brothers Big Sisters*).

MENTORING WORKS!

- Mentoring helps kids stay away from drugs.
 - Youth who meet regularly with mentors are 46% less likely than peers to start using illegal drugs and 27% less likely to start drinking
(*National Mentoring Partnership – www.mentoring.org -- Public/Private Ventures Study of Big Brothers Big Sisters*).
 - Minority youth is 70% less likely to initiate drug use than similar minority youth not in program (*Child Trends Research Brief*).

MENTORING WORKS!

- Mentoring helps kids succeed. Mentors help their mentees see the connection between school and future aspirations and encourage them to create their own pathways

(Harvard Graduate School of Education Project IF Community) Wall Street Journal, March 21, 1996.

MENTORING WORKS!

Mentoring programs are cost effective.

- Estimated median annual cost of quality mentoring program per youth \$1,000
(Child Trends Research Brief – cited from The Cost of Mentoring by D.L. Fountain and A. Arbretton).
- High-risk youths who are kept out of trouble through intervention programs could save society as much as \$2 million a youth per lifetime.

MENTORING RESULTS IN POSITIVE TRENDS

- Mentors help young people meet industry professionals, **find internships or locate job possibilities** or expose them to new career ideas.
- Mentors help with homework and can improve academic skills.
- Mentors help improve youth self-esteem.
- Mentors provide students with outlet for free time and teach how to communicate with a variety of people.
- Mentors help young people set career goals and start taking steps to realize them. *(Trends are according to the National Mentoring Partnership).*

MENTORING HELPS YOUTH OVERALL

- Improve the young person's **attitudes about school.**
- Increase **higher college enrollment** & higher educational aspirations.
- **Improve behavior** at home and at school.
- Improve relationships with teachers, parents, and peers.
- Enhance decision making skills social, communication, relationship and www.nwrel.org/mentoring
Cori Brewster & Jennifer Fager September 1998).

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Benefits for Mentors

- Satisfaction with connection to the community and making a **positive contribution** to the lives of **high-risk youth** (www.nwrel.org/mentoring Cori Brewster & Jennifer Fager September 1998).
- Opportunities to **enhance own personal strengths and develop new communication skills** (www.nwrel.org/mentoring Cori Brewster & Jennifer Fager September 1998).

WHY THE LEGAL PROFESSION SHOULD GET INVOLVED?

- The legal profession should support mentoring as a way to reduce the number of youths ending up in the criminal justice system.
- As attorneys, we have a profession that includes duty to invest in the community but also the know-how that is needed to really guide a child.
Carolyn Amadon, YLS Chair.

WHAT LEND-A-HAND IS DOING:

- LAH wants to connect every member of the legal profession interested in mentoring a disadvantaged child with a tutor/mentor agency so that more kids have a better chance at reaching their full potential.

WHAT LEND-A-HAND IS DOING

- LAH is raising awareness of the importance that just one person can make in the life of a child.
- LAH encourages people to communicate a message of support that energizes the office/law firm to help tutor/mentor agencies.

CALL TO ACTION:

- Not enough tutor/mentor programs available in poverty areas of Chicago.
- Not enough flexible operating dollars to support the daily operations of volunteer based tutor/mentor programs.
- **Too few leaders and organizations** with a strategy that increases visibility and the number of volunteers and donors supporting tutor/mentor programs.
- Not enough of a consistent flow of resources for existing programs.
- We need innovative funds to help groups form new programs where there are gaps.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Sign on as an official Friend of LAH stating you support LAH and our mission.
- **Communicate this message of support** to the entire office by promoting it in your marketing materials and on your website.
- **Add a link** on your website to the LAH (www.lend-a-hand.net) and the Tutor/Mentor Connections (www.tutormentorconnections.org)
- Attend the My Hero Award Luncheon on July 28, 2005.
- Nomination deadline June 20, 2005.

WHAT YOU CAN DO *continued*

- Organize a year-round communication and volunteer recognition program in your association or program.
- Encourage your attorneys and legal staff to serve as mentors and or Board members at tutor/mentor agencies.
- Help LAH identify those who get involved as volunteer in tutor/mentor.
- Lend your marketing resources to help LAH spread awareness of tutor/mentor programs.
- Lend your technical assistance to a tutor/mentor program.

WHAT YOU CAN DO *continued*

- Donate tickets that would otherwise go unused to the **Ticket 4 Kids Program** and give a kid the opportunity of a lifetime to attend a sporting, cultural or music event that might otherwise never experience.
- Adopt a tutor/mentor program that has a well-established history of excellence.
- Make a donation in Judge Abe's honor to further his legacy to promote youth mentoring.

BECOME A LEADER IN THE LEGAL COMMUNITY *continued*

- Help get a start up tutor/mentor program off its feet.
- Fund a grant to be named in your honor.
- Make a donation in honor of your mentor.
- Make a donation to support the Tutor/Mentor Connection's work as a partner of the LAH program.
- Make a multi year commitment to support the LAH program in any of the ways listed above.

The Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Lend-A-Hand Program

- *When you lift a spirit, you lift a child and improve their odds of reaching their full potential.*



THANK YOU!

- Corboy & Demetrio
- Daniel Kirschner, Leader for LAH member
- Rita Planera, LAH Exec. Board Member
- Jim Morsch, Chair LAH Exec. Board
- Jessica O'Brien, Leader for LAH member

BENEFITS FOR BUSINESSES

- Expand markets and create new opportunities.
- Access to broader, more diverse labor pool.
- Enhance employee skills and development.
- Increase competitive advantage.
- Enhance brand image.
- Develop trust at the local level.
- Improve risk management.
- Better manage physical and financial assets.

Add this strategy to your industry leadership efforts

- Visit the Tutor/Mentor Connection at <http://www.tutormentorconnection.org> to learn more of tutoring/mentoring and the ways business can become involved.
- Call 312-492-9614, or email tutormentor2@earthlink.net to discuss ways your business can take a lead on tutor/mentor support strategy