

the Vision

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**Winning
Futures**
Operated by
Mentoring Solutions



Mentor Johnny Jackson from Olympia Entertainment and his third grade mentee at Henry Ford Academy.

JOHNNY JACKSON - 2008 MENTOR OF THE YEAR

As Director of Security and Safety for Olympia Entertainment, I am definitely a busy man. I work at Joe Louis Arena and am responsible for the security and safety of the Detroit Red Wings and Olympia Entertainment concerts and events. However, I still find time to be with my family and friends, and to mentor three third grade students in Highland Park.

I took on the challenge of being a mentor because I was approached by a board member and asked if I would be interested. Initially I was apprehensive; I did not know if I could find the time or if I would be any good at it. After thinking about it, I realized it was perfect timing. I had reached a point in my life where I felt the need to give back to the community. I grew up in inner-city Chicago and Detroit, and have seen first hand how children can take the wrong path without guidance. Although I had a strong family, there were three mentors

that played a significant role in my life, and I wanted to repay that debt by mentoring someone else.

As I started the third grade program in Highland Park, I was still apprehensive. I do not have children of my own and was concerned that I would not be able to connect with the kids. However, the kids were great and I enjoyed every moment of each session. The look on their faces when they walked into the class was priceless. I especially enjoyed reading the letters they sent and observing their improvements in spelling and math. The absolute best part of the program was at the end when we reviewed the year's sessions. The kids actually remembered most of what we discussed and were able to articulate the core values. It was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had and I look forward to being a mentor next year.

By Johnny Jackson
Highland Park Mentor

PROGRAM UPDATES



2008 SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD RECIPIENTS

A total of 18 students from schools in Highland Park, Pontiac, and Warren have been honored this year for outstanding achievements in the program. Twelve of those students have received scholarships for creating a vision for their futures. The high school seniors are asked to articulate what their five year plans are and the specific goals they have set to help achieve their educational and professional visions.

“Writing a detailed five-year goal has given me a realistic view of where I want to be and what I have to do to get there. If it wasn’t for the five-year goal, I would not have as good of an understanding of the steps I will take and obstacles I will have to overcome in order to reach my goals,” said scholarship recipient Dessi Terzieva.

Winning Futures has awarded \$20,000 in scholarships this year to assist students in continuing their goals..

STUDENT FINDS A CAREER PATH THROUGH MENTORING

Cousino High School senior, Lindsey Kubik, has a pretty good idea of where her life is going after high school. “I’ve always loved animals,” said Lindsey. “I was telling my mentor about how I someday want to become a zoologist. Before I knew it, my mentor and the Winning Futures staff had researched volunteer opportunities for me at the Detroit Zoo.”

Mentoring and career exploration provides students with community contacts, job shadowing opportunities, and goal setting skills. Lindsey



said, “Using the Winning Futures goal setting lessons and my mentor’s encouragement, I set up a plan to become a volunteer. The first step was to attend a volunteer orientation. There, I learned about the many different volunteer options and there were three that caught my eye. The hard part now is choosing because I really want to do all of the jobs! Volunteering at the zoo will really help me in starting off my career.” Lindsey has completed her zoo training and will begin her volunteer service this summer.



2008 MENTOR OF THE YEAR HIGHLIGHT

“The greatest joy I have received from this experience is knowing that I have made a positive impact on the future of a young adult. Seeing the students succeed and follow through on their goals provides a sense of personal satisfaction and joy,” said Rocco Mistretta, Cousino High School Mentor of the Year. This statement is one of the many common threads that link the “Mentors of the Year” from each of our schools.

Each year, one overall “Mentor of the Year” is selected from all of the schools, and the 2007-2008 winner is Johnny Jackson from Henry Ford Academy in Highland Park. Other winners include Kanette Worlds - Pontiac Central High School, Shannon Ward - Community High School, Chris Rayes - Warren Mott High School, and Rocco Mistretta - Cousino High School.

MENTORING IMPACTS EVERYONE INVOLVED

Mentors are needed for the 2008-2009 school year. Please consider becoming a mentor or recruiting someone else. To learn more, call (586) 294-8449 or email info@winningfutures.org. Please pass this page to a potential mentor!

“My attitude and understanding of young people today is more tolerant now that I have mentored. I realize that behind many a young man’s veneer of arrogance is an apprehensive teen struggling to transition to adulthood.” ~ *Mike Fitzpatrick, 10 Year Mentor*

“Myrle is like the brother I never had. He came into my life at the right time. I was going down the wrong path and he helped turn me around. What I think Myrle has learned from me is that second chances are important in life.” ~ *Student, age 18*



**100% of our
mentors
recommend
mentoring to
others.**



“My mentor has taught me to be nice to others even if you don’t like them!” ~ *Student, age 10*

“My mentor has taught me to be trustworthy and to tell the truth no matter what.” ~ *Student, age 9*

**“When I
grow up, I
want to be a
mentor.”**

~ *Highland Park Student, age 9*

“It’s hard to explain how my mentor has motivated me. It’s like a car engine; all the parts are there, but it can’t run without oil, right? My mentor is my oil!” ~ *Student, age 17*

“I came into this program with the worst attitude towards college. But with the help of my mentor and this program, I have changed my entire outlook on life after high school.” ~ *Student, age 17*

“The special bond that many of our students form with their mentor helps to encourage positive choices and behaviors.” ~ *Sarah Azar, Counselor*

**“When I have a
stressful day at work,
mentoring makes it
all go away.”**

~ *Dale Barr, Mentor*



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QEK - Integrated Fleet Services

QEK has been a loyal Silver Sponsor since 1995, supporting Winning Futures both financially as well as with mentor recruitment. QEK is a multi-national integrated fleet service company, specializing in the automotive market. QEK's services address a wide range of needs and can be categorized as follows: Core Services, Specialty Services, Consulting Services, and Integrated Quality Solutions. Visit their website at www.qek.com.



Stand Tall With Sheed Foundation

The Stand Tall With Sheed Foundation's mission is to promote the interests of its founder by making charitable contributions in communities where Rasheed Wallace has a presence. Funding recreation centers, youth programs, athletic teams, and camps are central to the foundation's purpose. Each program promotes social, cultural, and academic development for youth. The foundation has been a Winning Futures' Silver Sponsor for one year.

As stated by the foundation, "The Stand Tall With Sheed Foundation is proud to work with Winning Futures to make a positive impact on the youth of Metro Detroit. Like Winning Futures, we are very committed to fostering hope and opportunity in the community."

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