

# the Vision

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Mentor Amy Stowe from POH Medical (left) and 2007 Winning Futures scholarship winner, Ashley Moss (right)

## DREAMS IN THE MAKING

When I was nine years old, my entire world turned upside down. My parents separated, and we moved 2,000 miles away from my dad. Not only did it feel horrible to be away from him, but my mom also had to work long hours to provide for us. I lost her as the person who had always helped me and encouraged me with my homework. School then became a struggle. It was not until the Winning Futures Program at Pontiac Central High School that I felt I had a support team for my academics. My mentor, Amy Stowe, became my cheerleader, friend, and role model. I actually followed through with projects and

completed them on time—including the Winning Futures Scholarship Application. Because of her constant support, I applied for and won a \$2,000 scholarship!

Amy Stowe has been my mentor for two years through Winning Futures, and because of her, I developed confidence in myself and got serious about my future. I learned that I must commit myself to my goals and continuously work on them. I am proud to say that I am currently a freshman at Wayne State University pursuing a degree in music. Winning Futures changed my life and allowed me to start living my dreams.

~By Ashley Moss  
2007 Graduate from  
Pontiac Central High School

## TRADITION LIVES ON

In 1994, Sam Cupp began Winning Futures in honor of the three people in his life who helped to pave his road to success: a teacher, a counselor, and a businessman. This tradition lives on today with students from Detroit, Highland Park, Howell, Monroe, Oak Park, Pontiac, Sterling Heights, and Warren.



### TEACHER

As a teacher, nothing is more satisfying than knowing I have led my students in the right direction. I am pleased that my students have the opportunity to participate in Winning Futures. Throughout the course of the program, they learn things that are not usually taught in the classroom

and are provided with beneficial lessons needed to succeed after graduation. With the help of the program and everyone involved, I am pleased to know my students will leave high school with all the right steps to succeed. ~ *Linda Kay, Business Externship Instructor, Warren Mott High School*

### COUNSELOR

Students at Community High School benefit immensely from Winning Futures. Most students who form a connection with their mentor improve their academics, attendance, and behavior. The program provides students with opportunities for credit recovery through the mentoring class and the job shadow program. Moreover, many CHS students have found employment through networking

with mentors and volunteers. Lastly, the program helps our students form positive connections in the community through “Friendship Through Reading” and the annual coat and mitten drive. Winning Futures means a great deal to Community High School...we are grateful for all of the wonderful things they do! ~ *Sarah Azar, Guidance Counselor, Community High School*



### BUSINESSMAN

As a business owner my most valuable employees are hard working, reliable, cooperative, and self-starters. Winning Futures is outstanding in communicating these values to their mentees. Important class topics include being responsible, having a positive attitude, interviewing techniques, resume writing, punctuality,

and setting and achieving goals. It is great to see the program impact kids as young as third grade from Highland Park to the seniors in high school in Warren and Pontiac. In short, Winning Futures teaches what I, as an employer, value. ~ *Mike Fitzpatrick, CEO, Fitzpatrick Manufacturing and Program Sponsor*

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### NEW BOARD CHAIR ELECTED

We are pleased to announce that Joni Nelson, vice president of Human Resources for Ilitch Holdings, Inc, has been elected chair of Winning Futures' Board of Directors. Nelson will lead the organization into its 14th year of matching business people as mentors with youth throughout southeast Michigan.

"Mentoring is one of the greatest gifts adults can give to students and

Winning Futures has created an avenue for business personnel to easily participate while giving back to their community. Both the students and the mentors benefit from this type of mentoring relationship. I know this because I have personally participated by being a mentor in this program for the past two years." ~ Joni Nelson, V.P. of HR, Ilitch Holdings, Inc



*"As board chair, it is my goal to continue to expand the recognition of Winning Futures within the business community."*

### PROGRAM EXPANSION

Winning Futures has been aggressively expanding so its positive impact can be felt by a greater student body. It has been designed to be implemented by any school district or non-profit organization. The program has recently expanded to TEAM Youth, a mentoring program at Lincoln Elementary in the Van Dyke Public School District. It has taken its evening mentoring and enrichment program to a new level, thanks to the recent partnership with Winning Futures. "We're using a proven program that has been carefully developed,

**"BETWEEN THE PARENTS OF TEAM YOUTH STUDENTS, OUR VOLUNTEERS, AND LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF, I DON'T KNOW WHO IS MORE THRILLED TO HAVE THIS AWESOME PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO OUR STUDENTS." ~ TIM DOPPEL, PRESIDENT, TEAM YOUTH**

allowing TEAM Youth volunteers more time to focus on the kids versus creating curriculum from week to week. Winning Futures is easy for the mentors to implement and students have a lot of fun in the process. Everyone wins," stated Kristin Brender, TEAM Youth's Executive Director. Since 1994, more than 15,000 students throughout Michigan have benefited from the highly-acclaimed Winning Futures Program.



### MENTOR HONORED WITH WORLDWIDE AWARD

When Yvette Bonner walks into the library at Ford Academy in Highland Park, her third grade mentees light up. "When we're feeling down, she tries to cheer us up," Ray'Nell Jones said. Because of Yvette's commitment and impact as a mentor, Ford Motor Company recently named her as their Volunteer of the Month through the Ford Volunteer Corps Program. This unique program recognizes extraordinary employees and retirees around the world for their volunteer efforts.

Yvette received her recognition at a surprise ceremony at the Ford Sterling Plant where she was greeted by a team of Ford executives, Plant Manager Patricia Reid, UAW representatives, and Winning Futures' CEO. "This is really nice, but I didn't get into the program to get awards. I did it because I wanted to help kids," stated Bonner. Yvette, a second-year mentor, will be formally honored as Winning Futures' *Mentor of the Year* at the 2008 Mentor Celebration Gala.



# CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

## Guardian Automotive

Guardian Automotive has supported Winning Futures since 2002 with employees mentoring students, serving on the Board of Directors, supporting local families with giving programs, and being a Bronze Sponsor. The company also welcomes students into their facilities to job shadow employees, and they participate in the annual career fair. Guardian Automotive is a Tier 1 supplier of glass and exterior trim components. Visit their website at [www.guardian.com](http://www.guardian.com).



*Guardian Automotive mentor, Tracii Haynes, with her mentees from Butcher Community High School*

## Entrepreneurial Operating Systems (EOS)

Gino Wickman, CEO of EOS, has been involved in Winning Futures since it began in 1994. He is a long-time board member, Bronze Sponsor, classroom motivational speaker, and facilitator for the organization's strategic planning sessions. Gino, author of the book *Traction: Get a grip on your business*, is implementing EOS all over the country. EOS works with small to mid-size entrepreneurial organizations helping them crystallize their vision, gain more traction, and become healthier. Visit their website at [www.eosprocess.com](http://www.eosprocess.com).

**“Winning Futures is an amazing program that gives our youth a jump start on their futures, and helps them understand what it takes to be successful in today’s world.” ~ Gino Wickman, CEO, Entrepreneurial Operating Systems**

### Board of Directors

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- Please contact me so I can become involved with Winning Futures.
- Please add my email address to your monthly e-newsletter.  I am interested in giving a “Planned Gift.”
- I want to support the young people in the mentoring programs sponsored by Winning Futures.

Enclosed is my contribution payable to WINNING FUTURES (nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax I.D. #20-2263860).

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