

the Vision



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www.winningfutures.org



Pictured from left to right: Sam Cupp, Kristina Marshall, Gil Cox



A SHARED VISION...TWO PREMIERE NON-PROFITS MERGE

When Gil Cox, a successful attorney and businessman, founded RARE in 1998, his purpose was to recognize everyday heroes in the workplace, and inspire Michigan's youth to see possibilities through these real-world examples. RARE engages youth by having them write about the Everyday Heroes in their communities, and offers scholarships to deserving recipients through its "Everyday Hero" Essay Scholarship Competition.

Sam Cupp, a successful entrepreneur, established Winning Futures in 1994 with the purpose of bringing local business mentors together with high school students to focus on character education, goal setting, career

exploration, and strategic planning. He wanted to inspire and prepare youth to become successful in life. At the end of the program, students have the opportunity to compete for scholarships based on their five-year plan for the future.

Over the years, these two men have crossed paths because of their passion to give back. In Spring 2009, with the work of current CEO Kristina Marshall, an alumna of both programs, their non-profits joined forces. RARE now operates as a program of Winning Futures. By merging, the agencies have positioned themselves to offer expanded programs to more students providing them with greater support to help realize their dreams through education.

MENTORING IMPACT

CAREER EXPLORATION ARTICLE – MENTOR STORY



When I met my mentees, I quickly found that all three were very sweet girls and had a real drive for, well, something. My job became clear...to find what that something was.

Each girl became empowered as they set and reached their six-week

academic goal. Then, we began exploring careers. All of the mentees were diverse in their careers: law, human services, finance. They asked questions which were very broad: How much money will I make? How long will I have to go to school?

After some exploration, this all changed. I helped them each create a vision, and soon, they narrowed down their careers to criminal law, counselor, and accountant. The questions they asked changed. They were curious about which classes in high school would help them in college, and which classes in college would help them with their career.

They wanted to know what volunteer work or part-time jobs they could obtain today to help them tomorrow.

I was able to introduce them to people I knew who are in their first years in their profession or who are finishing their degree. Combined with goal setting and career exploration, this gave them a real look into what they need to do. Says one mentee, "I sort of had an idea of what I wanted to do as a career, but Winning Futures helped me understand what steps to take in order to get there. It helped me build confidence and believe in myself more than I ever have before."

2009 SCHOLARSHIPS

What do you want to be when you grow up? This is a common question, but not always an easy one for young people to answer. Thanks to the Winning Futures Five-Year Strategic Planning Scholarship Competition, 12 students received a total of \$20,000 at our 15-Year Anniversary Awards Ceremony for creating a vision for their futures. The scholarship competition asks students where they plan to be within five years after graduation and to set detailed goals to achieve that vision. Since 1994, we have impacted 16,000 students and



awarded over \$1.5M in scholarships. The winners will use their scholarships to continue their educational goals, ones that will help move them forward to achieving their five-year career goals. At the event, we also highlighted nine students who were recognized as Students of the Year. These students in third through twelfth grade fully embraced the Winning Futures principles. They display exemplary attitudes, exceptional classroom participation, maintained 100% attendance, and set and achieved their academic goals. .

MENTORS NEEDED FOR 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

Mentors improve learning, lives, and communities!

83% of Winning Futures' mentees achieved their educational goals... behind every successful mentee there is a mentor who encourages them. We are seeking mentors for the fall programs in Warren, Detroit, and Pontiac. This is an on-site, structured,

goal setting mentorship program. Mentors meet with teens one hour per week for 20 weeks during the school day. Mentor applications are accepted through August 15th. If you want to encourage a young person to succeed, join our mentoring team by calling (586) 294-8449 or visit www.winningutures.org



PROGRAM UPDATES

FIVE-YEAR PLAN BECOMES REALITY – STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

In 2005, I was in Winning Futures at Cousino High School. That unique opportunity helped me devise a five-year plan that put me on the road to getting a degree from the University of Michigan and working in space systems. I followed my five-year plan almost exactly. Just over five years later, I have a Bachelors degree from U of M in Aerospace Engineering with a minor in mathematics, and I am responsible for over 20 instruments on four satellites.

I am proud to say that my current job title is Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite Payload Engineer (GOES) at Honeywell



Technology Solutions Inc. We provide contract services for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and NASA. I provide operations support for NOAA's GOES satellites 24/7. I enjoy my profession immensely and have already earned myself a name in the local space science community. I am grateful that Winning Futures encouraged me to create a vision for my future as well as create a specific plan on how to get there ... my dream became a reality through the program's steps to success!!

~ Brennan Nowak – 2004 Winning Futures Scholarship Recipient

PREPARING MICHIGAN'S FUTURE WORKFORCE - A SENATOR'S PERSPECTIVE

As a strong supporter of Winning Futures, I have seen their excellent work firsthand. I have had the pleasure of serving as a judge for the Winning Futures Scholarship program. The students were well prepared and made solid presentations. I could not get out of my mind a young lady, whose difficult home situation left a deep impression on me. This young woman, during her interview, said that she had to change her plan of going to a university because both of her parents were laid off. She had the grades to attend a great university and had a very clear plan of what she wanted to do with

her education. But this young woman, only a few years older than my own son, would instead have to work to support her family and go part-time to a community college. She began to cry softly, but her strength and honesty was powerful.

I strongly believe that Winning Futures trained her to adjust her plan when circumstances changed. Instead of feeling sorry for herself and quitting, her teacher, mentor and training taught her instead to deal with her family crisis as an obstacle to overcome. She now has the hope that she can overcome this and become a

prosperous individual. As Michigan is faced with unprecedented economic turmoil Winning Futures is providing hope and the strategic planning tools necessary to prepare young adults for a successful career in the increasingly competitive global and knowledge-based economy.

~ Michael Switalski, State Senator - 10th District



ADVANCE AMERICA DONATES \$5,000



Advance America recently donated \$5,000 at a breakfast hosted by State Senator Martha G. Scott.

“I am delighted that Advance America has decided to make this investment in mentoring,” Senator Scott said. “Mentoring has proven over and over again to be vital in the positive growth and development of young people, and I am grateful to Advance America for helping

Winning Futures continue its good work.”

Advance American employees Ron Hicks, Director of Michigan Government Affairs (left) and Willie Green, Director of Corporate Development & Community Outreach (right), presented the check to Kristina Marshall, President & CEO of Winning Futures, and Senator Martha G. Scott.



SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

Winning Futures recently honored the Association for Corporate Growth (ACG) on a student scholarship for their contribution as a Silver Sponsor. ACG is a global association for professionals involved in corporate growth, corporate development, and mergers and acquisitions. Today ACG stands at more than

12,000 members from corporations, private equity, finance, and professional service firms representing Fortune 500, Fortune 1000, FTSE 100, and mid-market companies in 53 chapters in North America and Europe. For more information, please visit www.ACGdetroit.org

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WIN A \$2,000 PRIZE PACKAGE

Raffle tickets are now on sale at www.winningfutures.org/raffle.html and will support our youth programs. Prizes includes sports tickets, dinner gift cards, spa amenities, golf passes, gas cards, and hotel packages.

1st Place - over \$2,000 in prizes including a 32" Flat Panel TV

2nd Place - \$1,000 in prizes

3rd Place - three at \$500 in prizes

Tickets are on sale until July 28th!



Contact Information: 27500 Cosgrove, Warren, MI 48092 ~ (586) 294-8449 ~ www.WinningFutures.org

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