

the Vision

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www.winningfutures.org


**Winning
Futures**
Operated by
Mentoring Solutions



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO... 15 YEARS OF IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

In May 1994, Sam Cupp, a local entrepreneur, made an announcement that he was starting a foundation to provide students with scholarships and opportunities to be mentored by business people. The program was in honor of his mentors: Gene Hamilton, Dominic LaRosa, and Austin Hartshorn.

Winning Futures is built on the principles that Sam's mentors taught him: vision, goal, plan, commitment, success. Everyday we strive to fulfill Sam's vision and to teach youth the concepts and skills his mentors taught him.

As Sam's protege, I am proud to say that we are reaching that vision. We are inspiring students from Detroit, Highland Park, Oak Park, Pontiac, Warren, Kalamazoo, and other communities. With their mentors and program staff, each year 1,700 students learn the tools they need to become successful, contributing adults.

We pride ourselves in being a beacon of hope in the community. Even though challenging times are upon all of us, our donors are still donating, mentors are still mentoring, and our youth are more determined to succeed than ever. Our schools welcome us with open arms and teachers embrace our lessons.

We have just launched our new website where we have special resources for mentors, online giving options, and for the first time ever, the opportunity to purchase our middle school and high school workbooks based upon life skills, goal setting, and strategic planning! Our three-year goal is to impact at least 15,000 youth annually through our workbooks and programs.

As we celebrate our 15-Year Anniversary, this newsletter is a tribute to all of you for making our students' dreams a reality!

*Kristina Marshall, President & CEO
1995 Winning Futures Scholarship Recipient*

MENTORING IMPACT



I LOVE THURSDAYS!

It's Thursday morning, and it is time for school. Instead of my normal "just rolled out of bed sweatpants" attire, I am looking in the mirror and am pleased that I actually took the time to look professional. But it wasn't for a project, or for a boy; it is because it's Thursday – Winning Futures Day! I love Winning Futures because our groups, which represent small businesses, are so unique. We all may not be or have been great friends outside the classroom, but we all work together as if we have been

friends for years, sharing our goals, dreams, and even our fears. We are blessed because we all have great mentors. At this point in my life, a great program like this is exactly what I need; someone to help guide me, a plan to set and reach my goals, and a commitment to find out more about who I am. Each week when I leave, I leave not only knowing more about who I am, but with a greater perspective on life and a smile on my face.

~Sarah, Warren Mott High School Student

ANNOUNCING A NEW PARTNERSHIP

We are excited to announce a new partnership with Positive Male Role-models (PMR). PMR is a Pontiac-based community support agency specializing in urban youth. "Working with the young people from Highland Park is an awesome experience. I thank Winning Futures for allowing me to be part of this wonderful program," stated Derek Wynns, President of PMR. Together

with Joan Mantini, Mr. Wynns is facilitating and mentoring at Ford Academy in Highland Park.

"Derek has been an incredible addition to our Highland Park program. It is rejuvenating to see the positive impact he has on the kids' behavior and attitudes. He brings a much needed male presence to the program," stated Joan Mantini.



GETTING WHAT YOU WANT OUT OF LIFE – IT'S A GOOD THING!

As a high school senior, I feel honored that I am able to be part of Winning Futures. The thing I love most about Winning Futures is they go out of their way for you. They help you create a realistic vision for your future. A year ago, I was headed down the wrong path and was lacking enough credits to graduate on time. I didn't even know if I wanted to go to college. The program showed me that I had what it takes, gave me guidance on finding the right college, and showed me how to map out a career

path for myself. When I first started in the program I was afraid to speak in class, let alone at a job interview. My mentor, Paul Cinco, the service manager at Hamilton Chevrolet, helped me to develop those skills rather quickly, raising my confidence level. I want to thank my mentor and the program for helping me find out what's important to me and for teaching me how to get what I want out of life.

~ Agadeer, Community High School Student

PROGRAM UPDATES

WINNING FUTURES ALUMNA PAYS IT FORWARD

I am a Winning Futures mentor who was fortunate enough to be involved in Winning Futures when I was in high school. I now have a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Oakland University and I am currently applying to enter a master's program. The program's mission and its impact on students are absolutely incredible. When I was in high school, I knew I wanted to pursue higher education, but lacked the confidence and direction that Winning Futures provided. In addition to moral support, I received a generous scholarship. I became a mentor

because the program had such a positive impact on me and I want to guide my mentees through an unforgettable experience. Furthermore, I want to share some educational and professional experiences that might help them as they enter a new phase in their lives. I still incorporate what I learned through Winning Futures in my day-to-day life. The history and goals of the program have continued to motivate and inspire me as I continue to learn through being a mentor.

~Sally Khemmoro, Winning Futures Alumna



CEO HONORED BY CRAIN'S BUSINESS MAGAZINE

One of the most prestigious recognitions a young businessperson can receive is to be named as a "40 under 40" by Crain's business magazine. We are proud to boast that Kristina Marshall, CEO of Winning Futures, has been included on the list of Crain's Detroit's "40 under 40" for 2008. As a high school senior in 1994, Marshall was among the first group of high school seniors to go through Winning Futures, and shortly after her college graduation was named as CEO of the program.

From her roots in the Warren Consolidated Schools, Kristina has led the expansion of the Winning Futures program to districts in Highland Park, Oak Park, Pontiac, and Warren. She has also expanded the mentoring curriculum into 17 schools from Monroe to Flint, and as far west as Grand Rapids. Kristina is viewed as an innovator in the non-profit world and is currently expanding the program's curriculum outside of Michigan through an online store.

CHARTER ONE AND WXYZ-TV 7 HONOR WINNING FUTURES

In a surprise visit from Charter One and WXYZ-TV 7, Winning Futures was announced as the 2008 *Champions in Action* winner in Michigan in the area of youth programming.

Over 300 organizations competed for this award. As the recipient, we received a \$25,000 grant, public relations opportunities with WXYZ-TV 7 and Charter One, and volunteer support from their employees.

"Winning Futures recognizes that our region's future success begins with the success of our young adults," said Sandra Pierce, President, Charter One, Michigan. "Together with mentors, parents, schools, and businesses, they empower young people to make positive choices and create plans for the future."



ONLINE NEWS



WINNING FUTURES WORKBOOKS NOW ON SALE

After many months of hard work and fine tuning, our new website is launched. Along with the new look, this user-friendly site has many new features for our visitors and mentors. For the first time ever, our middle school and high school workbooks

are available on the website to use with teens. These books assist parents, teachers, and youth serving organization in helping students plan for their futures. Take a look at www.winningfutures.org.

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SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

As a Platinum Sponsor, the foundation is helping to change the lives of Pontiac students. Their mission is to enhance the quality of life in southeast Michigan through facilitating community philanthropy and by assisting donors in investing in organizations they care about.

“The program has demonstrated its ability to deliver innovative mentoring services. Its role as a partner with Mentor Michigan and a convener of mentoring programs in the region will likely increase its visibility as an organization and bring attention to the need for more mentors.” *Randall S. Ross, Sr. Program Officer*

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