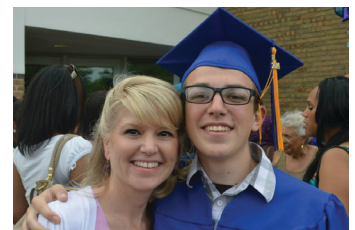
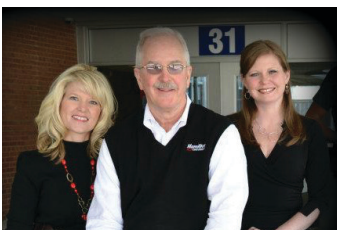




THE VISION

The Official Newsletter of Winning Futures



FAREWELL FROM LAURIE TARTER

My time with Winning Futures has come to a close. My retirement began on July 1, and I am looking forward to spending time with my beautiful family in Portland, Oregon. When I look back on my 19 years with this remarkable program, I am so proud of what we have achieved together. Being part of Winning Futures has truly been the honor of my life. The relationships and friendships I have made through the years will be remembered in my heart forever!

I would like to give a special acknowledgement to each and every student that I had the blessing to meet. From you I learned the most valuable lessons over the years. You taught me about resilience and perseverance. I have been inspired by your hard work while facing struggles like finding rides when the gas budget ran out, coping with

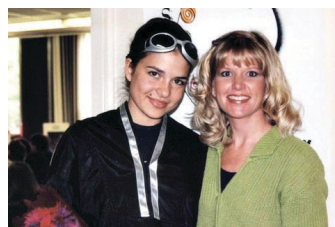
bullying and depression, overcoming language barriers and academic struggles, juggling teen parenthood, dealing with life decisions like continuing education and what you wanted to be when you grow up and still persevering to graduate to pursue your dreams. I hope that in some small way I have enriched your lives as much as you have enriched mine.

When *Sam Cupp* was ready to turn Winning Futures over to *Kris Marshall* and myself, he told us he was confident that he built a great team and was assured that he was leaving his legacy in good hands. I too am feeling confident that Kris and I have built an incredible team, and as I leave, I know that they too will make Sam's legacy proud. There is much to be grateful for and proud of as Winning Futures approaches its 22nd anniversary. Thank you Winning Futures team, board

members, sponsors and mentors for your passion and support for what I think is the most amazing mentorship program of all time. It has been wonderful working with all of you over the years and I will miss your enthusiasm, perseverance and the 'never say die' spirit and, of course, the talent and time that you brought to the organization.

Winning Futures has its best days ahead. Know you are part of the best team in the mentoring field and I am excited to see what the future holds. I look forward to staying in touch with many of you, and I can't wait to hear your stories of the lives transformed and your continuing commitment to mentorship so that every student we serve has a winning future.

Laurie Tarter



Keys to College Expansion in the City of Detroit

Education is the key that will open the door to a better future, but many of our students are unsure where to start. They are intimidated by the college admissions process and many do not have a role model. Thanks to a grant from the **Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan** we are expanding our Keys to College Program which will help approximately 1,000 students in the city of Detroit prepare for life after high school. Our



program helps students explore careers and continuing education options, guides them toward schools that are a good fit for them and walks them

through the application process. Sessions covering financial aid and scholarships help them to overcome another obstacle that is holding many of these students back: paying for college. In achieving each of these objectives, the student and the community as a whole will benefit. As the students gain the tools and confidence to follow a path for a more productive future, the impact will be remarkable. They will positively impact not only their own lives, but the lives of those around them.

\$35,000 in Scholarships Awarded to Students

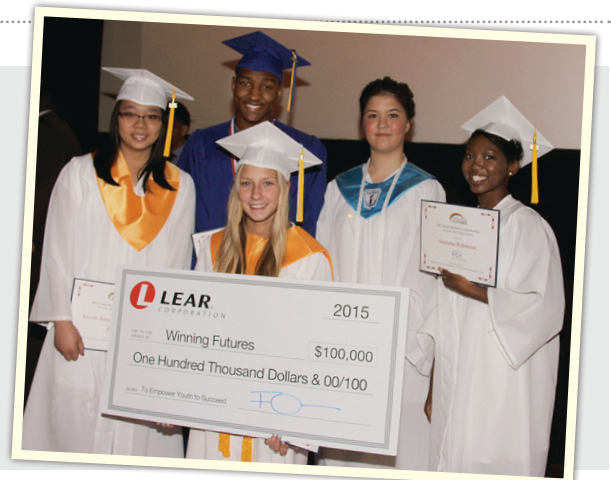
Helping young people pay for continuing education is vital to their success and the growth of our communities. The **FCA Foundation** funded educational scholarships for 20 students through the Winning Futures Scholarship Program

and the RARE Everyday Hero Scholarship competition. Our programming is designed to help them meet some of the challenges they will face and the scholarships will help ease their financial burden.



Lear Donates \$100,000

Thanks to Lear Corporation for their generous donation of \$100,000 to support life skills and mentoring programs that will impact and change the lives of young people throughout metro Detroit. **Frank Orsini**, Senior VP and President, Electrical Division **Lear Corporation** states "At Lear, we believe in supporting the communities where we do business. We especially like supporting student education programs, because they represent how we all can win in the future."



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Visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/markcommhelp to answer a few quick questions that will help us with our communication efforts.

2015 Mentors of the Year

Our Mentor of the Year Award is presented to one outstanding volunteer from each of our program sites to honor their commitment to mentoring and applaud the impact they make in the lives of those they mentor. The 2015 Winning Futures Mentors of the Year are:

- *Andrea Spade, Kelly Services* ~ Cass Technical High School
- *Scott Hilling, BNP Media* ~ Community High School
- *Lisa Thomas, Valenti Trobec Chandler* ~ Harper Woods High School
- *Mike Kozan, GM* ~ Madison High School
- *Danette Duron-Willner, Kelly Services* ~ Pontiac Academy for Excellence
- *Matt Michayluk, Complete Prototype Services* ~ Warren Mott High School
- *Corinne Duluk, Karmanos Cancer Institute* ~ Cornerstone Health + Technology High School



RARE Everyday Heroes

This year we honored seven everyday people who are changing lives and inspiring others around them. They regularly display inspiring characteristics of commitment, courage, compassion, and integrity. The 2015 RARE Everyday Heroes are:

- *Alma Guajardo-Crossley*, Corporate Director of Diversity & Inclusion, **GM**
- *Ronald Goodnoe*, Owner, **Rapids Tool and Engineering**
- *Dina Rabaa*, Relationship Coordinator, **Metropolitan Capital**
- *Amanda Rymiszewski*, Marketing Manager, **O'Keefe**
- *Kevin Sutton*, Partner and Attorney, **Lusk & Albertson**
- *Daniel Wesner*, Owner, **Wesner Tuxedo**
- *Judith Zimpfer*, Retired Teacher, **Alba Public Schools**



RARE Hero Alma Guajardo-Crossley and Ken Barrett, GM Chief Diversity Officer

Congratulations!

Winning Futures is proud to announce the promotion of *Ken Elkins* to the position of Chief Operating Officer and *Lindsey Gardner* to the position of Program Manager. Please join us in congratulating both Ken and Lindsey on their well-deserved promotions!



Prepared for Success

Josh, one of my past mentees from Madison High School, told me that he was applying to the GM Student Corps Program which is a paid internship for high school students over the summer.

I surprised him with a letter of recommendation to submit with his application and also found out who the **GM** leads were for the program and made sure they were given a copy. When I asked Josh about the interview process and if he was nervous, he said, "Not at all"... thanks to all the prep work we did last year both in class and outside of



class while preparing for his Winning Futures Scholarship interview.

After the interview process, Josh contacted me and was extremely excited to tell me that he was selected for the internship. I have to say that it was a great feeling for me (I was probably just as excited as Josh) as it was an example of how what we do at Winning Futures can really make an impact on the students. For me, it also confirms the importance of maintaining the mentor/mentee relationship even after the program.

Mike Kozan – GM

Celebrating 40,000 Students Served Since 1994

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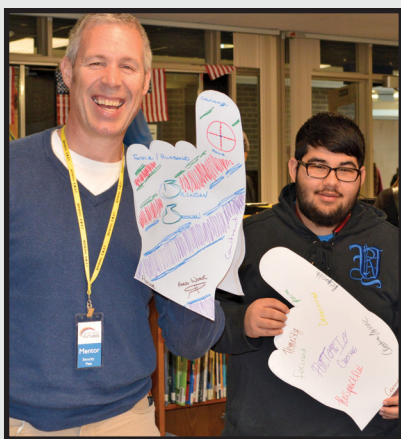
Co-creators

Kristina Marshall
Laurie Tarter

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Change in Attitude - A Teacher's Observation

When I first met Antonio C. last year, he had little motivation to attend school regularly, let alone the inclination to complete work assignments. Although I regularly spoke with him about the

destructive power of his own apathy, he did not increase his efforts. This year, Antonio is committed to walking the walk toward graduation as well as to a genuine intellectual understanding of class content. He has tried harder this year than his previous three years of high school combined. I couldn't contain my curiosity, so I asked Antonio what sparked his epiphany and his answer was, "Winning Futures". Antonio shared with me that his relationship with his mentor

inspired him and enlightened him. In particular, his mentor called him every morning to make sure Antonio was awake for school. Without this support, Antonio would have failed first hour. The Winning Futures' curriculum also helped Antonio tremendously with goal setting and career preparation skills. Antonio told me, "When I first came here, I still had that immature mindset that I would do nothing and just get by, but Winning Futures matured me and taught me that I have to work for what I need to do better for myself. I love Winning Futures. It's such a positive place." Antonio's long-term goal is to eventually become a mentor himself and remain in the Winning Futures' family. Antonio's transformation is inspiring me as an educator, and I know he changed because of Winning Futures. Although he is but one student, he represents countless other Community High School students who have learned to actualize their potential because of the unparalleled Winning Futures Program.

Regan Sowinski, Teacher - Warren Community HS

If you would like to volunteer as a mentor contact: Lindsey@winningfutures.org or visit www.winningfutures.org

Planned Gift

Remember Winning Futures in your planned giving. Planned gifts to Winning Futures are bequests or gifts made through a will or trust. A gift may be small or large in amount, but all are important to our organization.