



## The Mentor Monitor

Furthering the mentoring movement in Chittenden County.

June 2008

### Dear Members of the Mentoring Community,

We have a lot of exciting news to report on this month! The 2nd Annual State Wide Mentoring Conference went very well and we thank the attendees for providing us with wonderful suggestions for next year's conference. We will be using these to structure informative topics and workshops for next year.

In other news, Mobius will be hosting the first quarterly meeting for mentoring program coordinators in Chittenden County this August 13 at the VSAC building in Winooski.

With the start of the two mentoring programs in the Old North End we would like to highlight the seemingly ever present need for male mentors in the community. This is not to say that female mentors aren't needed as well!. If you know of a group of men or an individual man that could possibly be interested in mentoring please contact us and we will set up a presentation or conversation time with them. We are always looking to spread the culture of mentoring throughout the community and are open to new presentation locations. Contact Katy at [katy@mobiusmentors.org](mailto:katy@mobiusmentors.org) with any suggestions you may have. Thank you and we hope to hear from you soon!

### State Wide Mentoring Conference Success!

**The second annual Statewide Mentoring Conference was very successful in that it provided much collaboration and new ideas for attendees. For those of you who didn't attend the conference the day began with Dan Smith, our Board President, introducing Governor Jim Douglas. The governor's speech praised the mentoring programs in the state and the amazing opportunities that mentoring provides the children of Vermont. The governor has been**

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an avid supporter of mentoring in Vermont for the past 3 years and the mentoring community thanks him for his continued endorsement.

Renée Spencer, the first presenter of the day, provided the audience with many stories and examples from some of her recent studies on *Why Mentoring Relationships Fail (and Last)*. The feedback was very positive from this presentation. Overall, the audience gained valuable insights from the numerous conversations she has had over the years with mentees, mentors, and program coordinators. One attendee stated, "The information was very practical, I will use the information tomorrow and still a year from now!"

Among the other highlights for the day was an impressive keynote address given by Mark Redmond, Spectrum Executive Director and Mobius Board Member. He provided several powerful stories of his personal experiences working with youth which still resonate in the minds of attendee's. Timothy Scott's presentation on effective fundraising was a great opportunity for programs to ask a professional in the field questions they have about fundraising as non-profits.

Above all, Mobius would like to thank the attendees who made this day so successful. As we all work to collaborate more effectively these conferences have shown how many people are invested in creating positive opportunities for Vermont's children. The number of people attending this year's conference doubled from last year. This year the diversity of people expanded to include board members, mentors, program coordinators, and other various community partners.

### 13 Years and Going Strong

Sarah Soule, a King Street Junior Senior Buddy mentor wrote an amazing article about her 13 year relationship with her mentee. Below are a couple excerpts from it.

"Thirteen and a half years ago, my life was forever changed when I fist met Emma, a five year old

New Mobius Board Member C. Mint Dole collaborating with program coordinator at Mentoring Conference.

"I think the conference was great. It provided the opportunity to discuss important topics in mentoring with coordinators from a number of different programs. I feel like I can apply the information learned from this conference to my own program.

- From Anonymous Attendee's Conference Evaluation



kindergarten student at Champlain Elementary School. Last Friday, I saw her, as an 18 year old woman, march across the stage and collect her diploma as a graduate of Burlington High School."

"Friends have continually asked me how do I, as a busy professional, find time in my full life to serve as a mentor? In reflection I ask how could I not?"

"But truly, for me, when it comes right down to it, mentoring is solely about sharing time with a young woman who has so much to offer, and that is what makes it all so satisfying and worthwhile."

"Now that Emma has graduated and is moving on to the next phase of her life, she assures me that she will always need me as her mentor. But in reality, the funny thing is, I will always need her, too."

If you have any stories or articles to share with the mentoring community please let us know! Also the more the greater community reads about mentoring the more likely they are to become a mentor. Send in your stories to Burlington Free Press's "My Turn" section to be published (and send us a copy as well). It truly is the stories and real life experiences that get people excited about mentoring, so share your experiences and help further the mentoring movement in Chittenden County!

### **Mobius To Host Quarterly Meetings for Mentoring Professionals in Chittenden County**

Beginning this August, Mobius will sponsor quarterly meetings for mentoring professionals. Mobius is very pleased to extend an invitation to all program coordinators to come together with other members of the mentoring community. The meetings are designed to offer folks in the field an opportunity to meet, network, share, and engage in professional development.

As part of the exchange, Mobius will share our initiatives and ask for suggestions and feedback. Mobius' efforts focus on increasing public awareness, recruiting mentors, supporting programs and helping to fund programs. We'd like to hear programs' ideas on how to best accomplish those goals. In addition, we think it's important for programs to hear from each other - what are your challenges, what solutions are working, and how can collaboration help us to reach our collective goal of a fully mentored community? Anyone interested in these meetings can contact Mobius for more information.

The first meeting will be on August 13th, 2008 from 3:30 to 5:30 at the VSAC building in Winooski.

Governor Jim Douglas speaking at the 2nd Annual State Wide Mentoring Conference

#### **Message**



The captivated audience during Ms. Spencer's presentation on what causes matches to end early.

#### **Quick Links**

[Newsletter Archive](#)  
[www.mentoring.org](http://www.mentoring.org)

If you are a program coordinator and do not receive both an email and an invitation to the first meeting please contact Kris at [Kris@mobiusmentors.org](mailto:Kris@mobiusmentors.org) or 658-1888 so we can add your contact information onto our list.

To view a Winooski map click [here](#), if directions are needed please contact Mobius at 658-1888.

## Mobius Welcomes 5 New Board Members

Please help us welcome our newest members to the mentoring community!

C. Mint Dole, Strategic Marketing and Product Design(Retired)

Scott Jaunich, Downs Rachlin Martin Director, Co-Chair Real Estate

Randy Kimball, Vermont Mechanical Owner/President

Toby Knox, Toby Knox & Associates Owner/President

Joe Speidel, UVM Director, Local Government & Community Relations

### Mobius, The Mentoring Movement

[www.mobiusmentors.org](http://www.mobiusmentors.org)

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