



# The Mentor Monitor

*Developing a Culture of Mentoring in Our Community*

November 2009

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## Expand Your Universe. Mentor a Child.

January 2010 is the 9th annual National Mentoring Month. Mobius is partnering with MENTOR, the Harvard School for Public Health, and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to best utilize National Mentoring Month to increase public awareness of mentoring and to recruit new mentors. The annual Thank Your Mentor Day Breakfast will be held on January 21. The theme for this year's National Mentoring Month is "Expand Your Universe. Mentor a Child."

Please contact [tracy@mobiusmentors.org](mailto:tracy@mobiusmentors.org) if you have questions or want to know how you can participate in National Mentoring Month.



## Join the Vermont Mentoring Partnership Website

There are 103 mentoring programs in Vermont. Of those 103 mentoring programs, 29 are currently members of the Vermont Mentoring Partnership (VMP) network. That's



28% participation. It is our goal to have 100% of the mentoring community become members of the VMP network.

Please join VMP and become a member of the growing mentoring community in Vermont.

#### Here are some benefits to joining VMP today:

1. Be Found
2. Keep up with the latest News and Blogs
3. Find Resources
4. Post Your Own Events
5. Create Your Own Group Page
6. Collaborate with Other Mentoring Programs
7. Participate in Forum Discussions
8. Do all this without driving Vermont roads in winter

#### To join VMP follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Go to [www.vtmentoring.org](http://www.vtmentoring.org)
2. Click on 'Program Coordinator Log-in' in the upper right corner
3. Click 'Sign-Up' to complete the VMP network registration form

Visit [Vermont Mentoring Network](http://VermontMentoringNetwork.org) or contact [jenny@mobiusmentors.org](mailto:jenny@mobiusmentors.org) with any questions or if you need technical assistance.



#### First Northeast Regional Mentoring Conference

Over 200 participants from 13 states and Canada gathered on November 15 and 16 in Providence, Rhode Island for the first ever Northeast Regional Mentoring Conference. The conference was a long time dream of nationally known expert on mentoring, Dr. Susan Weinberger, and became a reality when Dr Weinberger gathered leaders from five New England states and New York to help her make it happen. The committee began their work in February of 2008 and collaborated by phone and email for months, never actually meeting until the day before the conference.

The conference offered fifteen workshops in five different tracks ranging from mentor retention and evaluating your mentoring program to marketing, media and fundraising strategies. Workshops were presented by practitioners, national experts and business leaders. Dr Susan Weinberger, President of Mentor Consulting Group and Charlie Applestein, President Applestein Training Resources offered inspirational keynote addresses. Big Brother Big Sister of Canada, National Mentoring Partnership, U.S. Mentor Resource Center, and Webster Bank all had a presence at the conference.

Attendees were clearly engaged in learning and grateful for the rare networking opportunity the conference offered them. "THANK YOU for a wonderful conference! Sessions were informative and keynote speakers phenomenal! There was great energy and personally, I walked away with both an affirmation of

the work that we are doing to promote mentoring in our region and increased knowledge! Thank you for all your efforts in making this first Northeastern Regional Conference on Mentoring a huge success!" one conference attendee said.

Vermont was represented by eighteen participants, who met informally throughout the day and a half conference. Each participant received a binder of materials from all presenters. If you would like copies of any of the conference materials, they can be requested from the Mobius website at [www.mobiusmentors.org](http://www.mobiusmentors.org).

Watch for your invitation to the 2nd Northeast Regional Mentoring Conference scheduled to take place in Boston in October 2011.

### **Mobius Secures Third Year of Federal Funding**

Mobius has secured the third year of a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for mentoring children who have an incarcerated parent. Over the coming year the grant will allow Mobius to distribute \$78,000 in federal funding to eleven mentoring programs across the state to support part of the expense of finding mentors and matching these vulnerable children.



Children who have an incarcerated parent must cope with feelings of shame, guilt, loss, and sadness even as they adjust to new living arrangements that may include moving in with relatives or into foster care. So deep is their trauma that many exhibit signs of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Without support, many fall into behavioral problems, academic failure, and substance abuse. It is estimated that on any given day more than 3,000 Vermont children have one or both parents in prison.

Find out more about this initiative and mentor a child of an incarcerated parent by contacting [Meredith@mobiusmentors.org](mailto:Meredith@mobiusmentors.org).



### **Mobius Thanks Donors**

On the evening of September 29th, Mobius thanked donors and volunteers as they gathered at Shelburne Farms with an evening of heart-warming stories from long-time mentor Don Vickers, President of the Vermont Student Assistance Corp., and his first mentee, Jessica Bolduc. They both spoke about their mentoring experiences and all that mentoring has brought to their lives. Today, Jessica is herself a mentor and recently finished graduate school. Don is matched with his 3rd mentee in his 15th year of mentoring.

To find out how you can support Mobius, contact [mike@mobiusmentors.org](mailto:mike@mobiusmentors.org)

or call 802-658-1888.

## Incarcerated Mothers Art Exhibit: Guided Tour and Discussion for Mentors

Please join us at the UVM Davis Center for an evening showing of this compelling art exhibit focused on the reality of life for incarcerated mothers and their families on Monday, November 16, from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Join us on Monday, November 16, from 6:30-8:30 pm for a guided tour and discussion of the exhibit. Contact [amcshiras@howardcenter.org](mailto:amcshiras@howardcenter.org) for more information and to RSVP.

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