



# The Mentor Monitor

*Developing a Culture of Mentoring in Our Community*

August 2009

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## Helping Kids Through Tough Times: Mentors Among Record Numbers of Local Volunteers

**Mobius and Chittenden County Mentoring affiliates have reached over 800 mentoring matches for the first time ever!**

As the article on thriving volunteerism in the July 29th *Free Press* indicates, Mobius, The Mentoring Movement, notes that Chittenden County mentoring programs are serving more children than ever before. "My mentor taught me to never give up" sums up just one of the many benefits that mentoring offers children in these difficult times.

Mobius, an umbrella organization for Chittenden County based mentoring programs, is pleased to report that **817** local children now have the attention of another caring adult in their lives. That number of mentor matches sets a new record for the region and represents five years of intensive recruiting efforts on behalf of Mobius and twenty area mentoring programs. The number of matches seems to indicate something beyond effective recruiting, however.

Our community seems to be doing exactly what Vermonters always do when things get tough - they help each other. Local people of all walks are keenly aware that many of our children need mentors now more than ever. The economy is putting tremendous stress on families and kids feel it when their parents worry about jobs and household finances. People are aware of that, and they are stepping up to the plate. More and more, we get emails like this one: "I've been thinking for a long time that I would like to find a way to help local youth; becoming a mentor seems like the perfect way to do that right now." And they are right - the timing of this spike in volunteerism couldn't be better.

"Not many people have a mentor, so it makes you feel lucky for what you do have", says one

Burlington student. Only 355 children had mentors when Mobius was formed six years ago. Since then the number of adult-to-child mentor matches has grown steadily, breaking the 800 mark after an intensive recruitment campaign during National Mentoring Month in January of this year. Working with numerous local mentoring programs within Chittenden County agencies, Mobius aims to grow the number of children with mentors to 1,500 by the end of 2011. The current estimated need for mentors is 3,300.

The mentoring movement has a lot of support in this community. We know that mentoring helps children avoid illegal drugs, delinquency, teen pregnancy, and other self-destructive behaviors. Studies have shown that mentored children have more confidence, do better in school, and may even be less likely to commit crimes when they become adults. The kids really love that someone is there to do things with them and give them undivided attention and in return they want to make us proud of them.

We applaud the citizens of our community for putting their compassion into action and we thank them for the recent growth in mentoring. Mentoring gives us all a renewed sense of pride in community. Mentoring gives each of us a chance to do something truly meaningful by helping a child. And here's the most interesting and unexpected outcome - mentoring changes two lives, the mentee's and the mentor's.

Anyone interested in mentoring is encouraged to contact Mobius at 658-1888 or go to [www.mobiusmentors.org](http://www.mobiusmentors.org) to learn more

## Race to the Top of Vermont Fundraiser

**Sunday, August 30, 2009 at 9 a.m. the race begins!**

The Catamount Trail Association (CTA) is hosting their second annual FJG Race to the Top of Vermont (RTTOVT) fundraiser in which participants can sign up to race (run or bike) or walk (non-competitive), along the 4.3 mile-long trail. The course climbs 2,550 vertical feet to the summit of Mount Mansfield in Stowe. ***This year, for the first time, FJG RTTOVT participants can run or walk for Mobius or any participating mentoring program.***



Join us for this exciting event or sponsor someone on Team Mobius and help us meet our goal of \$25,000! Money raised from this event will help Mobius continue to find mentors for kids. To register for FJG RTTOVT go to <http://www.mobiusmentors.org>. Then sign up for Team Mobius on [Firstgiving](http://www.firstgiving.com). Then ask your neighbors, family, friends and other people you know in the community to sponsor you for this enjoyable fundraiser. Participants will be rewarded with one of the most spectacular views in the east overlooking three states and Quebec.



Please consider walking to help Mobius find mentors for kids, to support mentoring, raise funds, and to enjoy the great outdoors! Register for the race [here](#)

To sponsor someone who is walking for Mobius, please go to <http://www.firstgiving.com/19301>

Have questions?  
Call Andrea at 802.658.1888

## Mentoring Partnership Conference

### Northeast Regional Workshops offered in October

Mobius is pleased to announce the first *Northeast Regional Mentoring Conference: United Hands for Mentoring*. The conference will take place October 15 and 16 at the Marriott in Providence, Rhode Island.



The mentoring partnerships of Long Island, Maine, Massachusetts, NYC, Rhode Island and Vermont, in conjunction with the Governor's Prevention Partnership of Connecticut, Mentor Consulting Group, MENTOR. Webster Bank is the premiere event sponsor. These partnerships have joined hands and years of experience to bring you this conference for the first time!

The conference includes five tracks, 15 workshops and eight guest speakers. Topics will include mentor retention, mentoring children of prisoners, screening mentors, and the role of businesses.

Please visit the website for more details <http://newenglandmentors.ning.com/events>.



### MentorPRO is Still Available

Did you miss the first round of MentorPRO registration? There are still spots to fill!

MentorPRO, the online software that provides mentor programs a system to monitor program mentor/mentee relationships and to evaluate the outcomes of their relationships, still has openings for programs who meet the criteria to use this helpful resource. ALL mentoring programs in Vermont are encouraged to register on MENTOR's national website to benefit from

their volunteer registry at <http://www.vtmentoring.org/>.

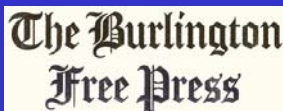
### Network with Mobius!



Become a fan!



Follow #MobiusMentors!



Read our Blog!

If you have any stories or articles to share with the mentoring community please let us know! Send in your stories to [meredith@mobiusmentors.org](mailto:meredith@mobiusmentors.org). It truly is the stories and real life experiences that get people excited about mentoring, so share your

Like what we're doing?

experiences and help Mobius develop a culture of mentoring in our community!

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