

FALL 2010

STUDENT MENTOR PARTNERS | WWW.STUDENTMENTORPARTNERS.ORG

Student Mentor Partners



Investing in the future...  
One student at a time

# Mentoring Matters



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## Student Mentor Partners Welcomes 14 New Students and New Executive Director

The school year is off and running, and that holds true for 14 Detroit-area teens beginning their year with Student Mentor Partners.

"We received dozens of applications this year, and as we do each year, we carefully interviewed all of our applicants and selected 14 students who we felt would benefit most from the mentor/mentee relationship and placement in one of our 11 partner schools," said Tyler MacEachran, Executive Director. "The kick-off of the school year is such an exciting time for all students, but for our 14 program participants, this is the start of a brand new experience."

All 14 students are paired with an adult mentor, someone who will help guide them and assist them in their journey. You will meet our new students in this newsletter.

The organization also began the school year with a new Executive Director. Tyler MacEachran comes to the organization with nearly 20 years of leadership and non-profit experience, having recently served as Vice President of the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

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"I can't say enough about Student Mentor Partners, its mission, its goals, the students it serves and the amazing group of volunteers who help it succeed," said MacEachran. "These are challenging times in the Detroit area, but we can make sure our kids have brighter futures by supporting organizations like Student Mentor Partners. I'm excited to lead this great effort."

MacEachran said his primary goal in the first few months of his new job, will be to garner additional funding for programs and also increase awareness of the organization. "We need more students; we need more mentors to nurture them; and we need the support of the community to help us succeed," said MacEachran. "The relationships that are formed, whether it's mentor and mentee, or Student Mentor Partners and donors, are simply awe-inspiring. I'm honored to begin this journey with all of you!"

Like so many organizations, we need your help. We welcome volunteers...and we are particularly looking for people who could lend us technical support, accounting help, phone outreach and general clerical/administrative work. Please call the office at 586-445-6295 for more information! You too can have a hand in the fun!



*"I can't say enough about Student Mentor Partners, its mission, its goals, the students it serves and the amazing group of volunteers who help it succeed,"*

-Tyler MacEachran  
Executive Director.

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## Mentoring... Building Relationships that Can Last a Lifetime

Bernard Draper was accepted into Student Mentor Partners for the 2006-2007 school year. About to enter Detroit Urban Lutheran High School, Bernard was matched with mentor Greg Leslie and an immediate bond was formed.

"It was amazing because they began to communicate and meet with each other far more than the 4-hour-per-month requirement," said Jessica Johnson, Student Mentor Partners Mentor Coordinator. "They saw each other twice a week, attending Pistons Games, playing laser tag, enjoying Detroit Symphony Orchestra concerts. From the beginning, Bernard was a student who took our program seriously and worked hard to learn everything he could from it. This was a true friendship in the making!"

Greg also helped Bernard choose a career path and a college in which to pursue that degree. Bernard decided he wanted to be a pharmacist so he could help others and also learn the new technological advances in the medical field.

Like so many kids, Bernard was facing quite a few challenges in his life. His mother is blind and he lost his father to cancer not long ago. Bernard is also partially blind and has had surgical procedures to correct his sight.

This spring, Bernard Draper graduated from high school with a 3.36 GPA. He now attends Oakland University and is pursuing that degree in Pharmacology. He and Greg maintain their friendship, as Bernard looks to him as a father figure.

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"My relationship with Greg is very important to me. Since I lost my father, it seems that God sent Greg to take his place in so many ways. Greg has not only been like a father to me, he has been a supporter, a motivator and he has introduced me to so many things. Greg has just been a joy to know."

For information on how to become a mentor, please call (586) 445-6295



### Board Members Work to Achieve Goals of Student Mentor Partners



Student Mentor Partners began the 2010-2011 school year with 9 devoted and enthusiastic board members, committed to our mission and goals. Our board members are from various communities in the Detroit-area, and all have great concerns about education in this area.

Sandra MacDonald, Inergy Automotive Systems Vice President, Human Resources, North American Operations, is our newest board member. She discussed with us, why she agreed to join our board. "I believe education provides the best possible building block for taking care of oneself and the communities in which we live. In the long run, this will lead to revitalization of the city of Detroit."

The board of directors meets once a month and board members typically attend the Student Mentor Partners events and programs.

Student Mentor  
Partners Board of  
Directors, 2010

Paul Edwards, MD  
(President), Chair,  
Department of  
Ophthalmology, Henry  
Ford Health Systems

Canice Johnson,  
RSM, PhD (Vice  
President), Educator,  
Sisters of Mercy

Mary Jo Adragna  
(Treasurer),  
Community  
Volunteer

Shanta McMullan  
(Secretary), Attorney,  
Honigman, Miller,  
Schwartz and Cohn,  
LLP

Bill Adlhoch,  
President, Adlhoch  
and Associates  
Realtors

Sandra MacDonald,  
Vice President of  
Human Resources,  
North American  
Operations, Inergy  
Automotive Systems

Tyler MacEachran,  
Executive Director,  
Student Mentor  
Partners

Don Mott, Partner,  
Mott and Staniszewski

Locksley A. Smith,  
President, Locksley A.  
Smith, CPA

## 2010-2011 Student

Student Mentor Partners welcomed 14 new students this fall, with each one beginning the school year at one of our wonderful partner schools. It's tradition that we introduce you to all of our teens. We are so proud to have each of these talented youth as part of our organization.

Chante Dearing, Grade 10, Detroit Cristo Rey High School

Andre Najjar, Grade 9, DeLaSalle Collegiate High School

Diamond Hayes, Grade 9, Detroit Cristo Rey High School

David Balaze, Grade 9, Bishop Foley Catholic High School

D'Asia McDonald, Grade 9, Mercy High School

Mariah Felder, Grade 9, Bishop Foley Catholic High School

Myra Lackey, Grade 9, Bishop Foley Catholic High School

Jasmine Owens-Goode, Grade 9, Regina High School

Lamar Benson, Grade 9, Loyola High School-Detroit

Abigail Iglesias, Grade 10, St. Frances Cabrini High School

Mark Anthony Burns, Grade 9, University of Detroit Jesuit High School & Academy

Justin Robinson, Grade 9, Detroit Cristo Rey High School

Niani Johnson, Grade 9, Mercy High School

Bernard Mackerl, Grade 9, University of Detroit



## Picnic and Low Ropes, Fall Event Round-Up

Fall was certainly busy for Student Mentor Partners!

We kicked off the school year with our annual picnic on Belle Isle. It was great to see old friends, and of course meet new ones! Our new students had the chance to meet their mentors for the first time, and mentors became acquainted with their mentees and family members. Board members, volunteers, staff, returning students and mentors joined in the fun, food and activities!



In mid-September, mentors and mentees participated in the annual Low Ropes program, a get-acquainted and team-building exercise. The event was held at Echo Grove, a challenge and ropes facility in Leonard, Michigan. Our goal for

this event was to begin to build trust between mentors and mentees, while helping our mentees build their self-esteem. The event was a great success!



## Four Ways to Help Student Mentor Partners

Are you looking for a way to get involved with Student Mentor Partners? Are you just learning about us? Here are 4 key ways to get involved:

1. Volunteer! Simply put, we love help and involvement! Give us a call if you'd like to volunteer at an event or in our office. We keep staffing numbers very low so we can put all of our funding into our programs. We can use assistance in our office in the areas of accounting, IT, phone outreach and administration/clerical.
2. Become a Mentor: Our students need you! Mentoring is a 4-year, 4-hour-per-month commitment, and typically, the relationships our mentors and mentees form last years after high school! Mentoring a student means making an impact on his or her life, communicating and interacting. Mentors are friends, advisors and good listeners! It's a role you will value for a lifetime.
3. Host a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Fundraiser: What is a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Fundraiser? It's fundraising for the organization, your way! In other words, you organize the event, invite your friends and family, and the proceeds go directly to Student Mentor Partners. The fundraiser can be anything from a bowling night to a luncheon, it's up to you. Make sure you give us a call so we can help you with a bit of publicity and organization. We are always thrilled to hear of our supporters innovative fundraising ideas!
4. Donate to Student Mentor Partners: We can't exist without the generosity and the efforts of our supporters. We need funding to continue this extraordinary program which includes providing tuition assistance to at-risk youth. Any amount is considered generous, and we value your contributions. You can also think about setting up a grant or endowment, something that's spread across a number of years.



Student Mentor Partners is going green! Please email us and let us know that you would like to receive all communications electronically.

[Smp@studentmentorpartners.org](mailto:Smp@studentmentorpartners.org)

Do you have a Facebook Account



Be sure to become a fan of the Student Mentor Partners Facebook page! This is a great way to connect with others who participate in the organization. You can also keep current on our events and programs.

## Student Mentor Partners



*Investing in the future...  
One student at a time*

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## Where Are They Now?

Help us find former Student Mentor Partners students



It's exciting and energizing to watch as our 14 new students begin the school year with help and guidance from their mentors. But it's equally as thrilling when we hear about the successes and the accomplishments of some of our former mentees.

Unfortunately, many times once a teen finishes high school in our program, we lose touch. But we want that to change! You can help us re-connect with some of our former program participants.

As always, thank you for helping us spread the word about how satisfying and effective mentoring is. If you are a former program participant, or you know of someone who was either a mentor or a student in Student Mentor Partners, please, call us at 586-445-6295 or email us at [smp@studentmentorpartners.org](mailto:smp@studentmentorpartners.org)

## Remember Student Mentor Partners in Your Financial Planning

Students in years to come will benefit from your generosity!

Please consider leaving a bequest or beneficiary designation in your will for Student Mentor Partners.

Leaving a legacy gift will ensure that this organization will always be here to provide the programs and the support to at-risk teens in the Detroit-area. We thank you for your consideration.

For more information, please call our office, 586-445-6295.