



Christian Association
of Youth Mentoring

Advancing Christian Mentoring...
one kid at a time

CHRISTIAN MENTORING TODAY

Volume 1, Issue 4

November-December 2006

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Calendar of Events

November 10-11, 2006

Advanced Training
Deer Park, NY

February, 2007

Basic Training
Washington, DC

March, 2007

Basic Training
Toronto, ON— Canada

April, 2007

Basic Training
Dallas, TX

For further details visit our
website @ www.caym.org



A message from the Executive Director...

Harold E. Orr

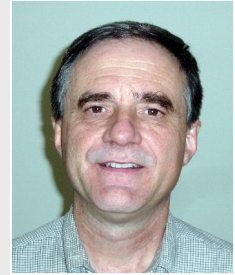
To *collaborate* or to *separate*. Indeed, this is a question that directors of Christian youth mentoring organizations are increasingly asking their boards. Do we seek opportunities to partner with non-Christian organizations on select projects or do we remain totally apart? There are clearly proponents firmly entrenched on either side of the topical fence.

Most mentoring ministries have traditionally cooperated with various government and secular agencies on an informal basis. It is not unusual for schools, probation officers and social workers to refer needy youth to programs that will match them with Christian adults. It is when we move beyond this arrangement into programs that involve joint efforts of staff and shared expenses that the questions begin. "How can we work together to reach more youth and their families without compromising our mission?" "If there are government funds involved in the program, how will this affect my ability to share my faith with a child?" Clearly the boundaries get blurred.

This space does not allow for a comprehensive discussion of the issue and it is not my purpose to espouse any one position. Rather, I would hope that this article would cause you to consider some of the issues and hopefully it will stimulate some dialogue on the question.

- Mission - while our goal is to provide a positive and stable influence in the life of a child, we also seek to have a Kingdom impact. Community or school based organizations clearly strive for the latter. The challenge to stay "on mission" in any partnering endeavor is apparent.

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Peter Vanacore
Director of Training

Keeping Out the “Creeps”

The demise of former House Representative Mark Foley makes me wonder, “Would I have approved him as a mentor?” Let’s look at his resume:

- A respected community leader
- A man of faith
- He showed consistency and faithfulness in all his work.
- Four perfect references would have been easy for him to obtain.
- He probably would have been an exemplary interviewee.

Yet he was pedophile preying on youth entrusted to his oversight.

Although I have never met him, I question whether my screening would have seen through his facade. Hindsight enables us to see problems, but would I have overlooked them in lieu of his reputation and position? Would I have had the spiritual discernment to see the hidden darkness in his picture perfect exterior?

Screening is the first step in putting the “safe” into our “safe and effective” mentoring. As we concentrate on the positive characteristics that would qualify a person for mentoring, we need to be aware of potential dangers. Prayer is an essential tool, but it not a replacement for sound screening. At the Christian Mentoring Institute we equip and prepare you for excellent screening practices that can help you “screen in” the right people, while keeping out those who are not completely qualified or even dangerous. We also provide you with the training and supervisory practices that may scare the predators away and make you aware of an existing unhealthy mentoring relationship.

“...we need to diligently maintain our best practices while keeping our ministry surrounded with prayer...”

Would Mark Foley have passed muster? I hope not, but he is a stark reminder that we need to diligently maintain our best practices while keeping our ministry surrounded with prayer. He also reminds us that despite a person’s position – whether pastor, politician or even close friend – our screening must be unbiased and thorough.

CAYM Member Corner...

MentorKids Kentucky

MentorKids Kentucky

Providing a Future and Hope for Youth

Most of us can think of someone from our childhood that took a great interest in our lives. Perhaps, that person taught you to ride a bike, helped you understand long division, or helped you perfect your jump shot. No matter what this person taught you, the greatest gift you received was their time.

As we all know, most children don't have the luxury of having both parents in their home. Children often have one parent in their life that can invest in their childhood and teach them the needed things that we take for granted. Their time is limited as they juggle a full-time workload, getting their kids off to school, and taking care of the home. Most parents are doing all of these things and so much more – by themselves.

MentorKids Kentucky is an agency in Owensboro, Kentucky that matches kids between the ages of 6 and 14 years old from single parent families with an adult of strong Christian character who will act as a role model and friend to help assist the child in their social, emotional, spiritual and academic development through one on one mentoring. Through this connection children will develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and a strong work ethic which will help them attain their highest potential

The Bible states in 1 Thessalonians 2:8, "We loved you so much that we gave you not only God's good news but our own lives, too." We share with our mentors that it is not about having all the right words, being the best at everything, or having lots of money to spend on a child. A great mentor is simply willing to share their own life with a child and invest in their well-being.

"Children need the help and friendship of someone older, a role model they can look up to and admire... someone they can be proud of... someone who can help them be proud of themselves."

Since 2002, MentorKids Kentucky has had the opportunity to share the importance of not only mentoring youth, but sharing God's good news with these individuals. Four years ago, a small army of believers chose to reclaim a mentoring agency for Christ in small town Kentucky and we've been blessed ever since. MentorKids Kentucky has seen the difference that one person can make by

investing in the life of a child. We have seen young men improve academically and socially because a male mentor took the time to pour into their life. We have seen young ladies grow to know Christ and lean on Him because a female adult shared His love.

Recently, our ministry was blessed with the donation of land to build permanent office facilities. Who knew a vacant lot could be so beautiful? When I drive by the lot to pray for the land and our upcoming Capital Campaign, I'm inspired by the monument this land will allow us to leave for Christ. MentorKids Kentucky will now have a permanent location to house and expand our ministry.

My prayer is that Christ will continue to use us for his service and bless MentorKids Kentucky and all of the fellow soldiers serving in the trenches. "To God be the Glory, great things He hath done."



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- Recruiting – of mentors and mentees. The Christian community is increasingly recognized by the secular mentoring community, as a rich source of mature and moral volunteers. Likewise, community based organizations that may spend more time “in the trenches” can provide a rich harvest of needy youth. When approached correctly this can be a very symbiotic relationship.
- Funding - most Christian mentoring ministries have long relied upon donations from churches and individuals. The secular organizations on the other hand rely largely on foundation and government grants; hence they have much more experience in the application and accountability process. The possibilities for partnering in certain grant-funded programs are distinct.

I have mentioned only a few of the areas to be considered in weighing the possibility of cooperative efforts. I’m sure those of you who have tread this path could, and I hope will, cite many more. As the saying goes “sometimes we need to think outside of the box”; but then, all of the time, we need to look up to our Heavenly Father for guidance.

If you have any thoughts on this topic that you would like to express, send them to us, we will gladly print them in a Letters to the Editor section.