



VIP MENTORING

CHILDREN FIRST

Launch of the VIP Mentoring School-Based Program

The *VIP Mentoring School-Based Program* has officially been launched at four elementary schools throughout the city of Detroit. We have partnered with several local businesses to help provide mentors for each school. Although this program is a pilot, we have already seen great changes in the children's behavior as well as attitude.

The program is designed to provide families and children living within

the community with family resource and an educational support mechanism to enhance the ability to make the children successful in life. The program will work with an initial 4th grade class and successfully transition each of these student's educational levels from elementary school to middle school. VIP will measure it's success through an evaluation plan that will be implemented through Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies.



Above: Our Gompers Elementary Facilitator, Ora Williams, filling in for some of her students on Grandparents Day.

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Report Card Rally	1	The rally took place at Communities in Schools on Saturday April 14th. It was planned to serve two equally important purposes. The first was to get the word out about resources available within our communities. Many organizations came out to talk with our families and mentors about what they have to offer. The second purpose was to give our VIP Mentoring children the opportunity to participate in a raffle where their admission was their report card. Collecting the children's report cards is important to evaluating the children's progress during their mentoring commitment.
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REPORT CARD RALLY!



Faith-based Mentoring: One Life at a Time

“Faith without works is dead” and the same can be said of a community of Faith which isn’t about the business of changing lives – many times one life at a time. The Messiah changed the individual lives of many whom He had never encountered before, setting a model of ministry for believers everywhere and in every place and time. That’s why VIP is making a great effort to involve people and organizations of faith in the one-to-one mentoring of young people between the ages of 7-14 years old.

VIP has already partnered with several churches including Oak Grove A.M.E., Fellowship Chapel, Galilee Missionary Baptist and others to provide mentors to some worthy and waiting children. And we are in the process of creating relationships with other churches and individuals who want to get involved in mentoring. All that is required is a desire to put one’s faith to work in a way that transcends church walls, denominations and once-a-year-at-Christmas outreach, consider

mentoring and/or starting a VIP Mentoring Ministry in your church. In future editions, we will feature information and articles about some of the mentors, mentees and events connected to the Detroit and Greater Metro Area Faith Community. In the meantime, to be in the know about our upcoming Faith-based activities, visit our website at www.vipmentoring.org, and click on All Upcoming Events.



Above: Governor Granholm visits with the Able family while speaking about VIP Mentoring at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church.

MENTOR OF THE YEAR

Shirley Moore and thirteen year old mentee Harry Carpenter have been matched in the VIP Mentoring Program for 3 years. They have been on all types of outings from going to the movies and Greenfield Village, to just hanging out at the Detroit Shock picnic. Shirley and Harry have a great relationship; Harry says “Mrs. Moore is someone that cares for you, like a big sister.” Not only does she take Harry to exciting events, but she is also concerned about his education and cultural experiences. She has taken the time to exposed Harry to Wayne State’s Art Festival, the DIA (Detroit In-

stitute of Arts), and the Symphony Orchestra.

Harry says “She is someone you can look to when you feel down...She helps me on how to act around people, being nice and kind, and how to make a person feel better...I also do much better in school.” There is so much a child can gain from a mentoring relationship.

Shirley Moore, with Harry by her side, was selected as VIP Mentoring’s 2007 Mentor of the Year, for her dedication and commitment to Harry and the VIP Mentoring program. Shirley never misses an opportunity to

bring Harry to a VIP Mentoring event and has even lent a hand by chaperoning.. Shirley Moore is a great role model and Harry Carpenter is a very bright and intelligent young man and we really take the pleasure of their involvement in the VIP Mentoring program.

“Mentoring is very important, affording both the mentor and mentee the opportunity to venture out and experience things new through the eyes of a child, and greatly refreshes the adult’s memory.”

Mrs. Shirley Moore



Above: Shirley Moore and her mentee Harry Carpenter pose for a picture with First Gentleman Dan Mulhern.



Brunch with the Reverend Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr.

VIP Mentoring will be hosting a brunch with the Reverend Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr. in early May. Dr. Goode is director and organizer of the nationally acclaimed Amachi Program, a national faith-based mentoring model for children of incarcerated parents. He is an ordained Baptist Minister with over 50 years service at the First Baptist Church of Paschall Located in southwest Philadelphia.

The event is free of charge and all are welcome, however RSVP's are required. The event will take place at Fellowship Chapel on May 2nd at 10:00am. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Rev. Dr. Alice Paterson at 313 964 1110 ext. 203.

Resource Opportunities

Here are a few upcoming resourceful highlights:

IHOP For Books

Communities in Schools in collaboration with IHOP will have a fun filled reading program for youth K-5th grade. **There will be complimentary books and meal.**

International House of Pancakes 2701 E. Jefferson, Detroit MI 48207

Every Monday starting March 12, 2007

4:30pm-6:00pm

8th Annual Michigan Charter Schools Fine Arts Camp

This offers students of charter schools the opportunity to stay in the Western Michigan University dorms, while learning about theater, art, music, and dance. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**

Western Michigan University

July 9-12, 2007

Register online at www.charterschoolfinearts.org

Register by phone 1 (517) 374-9167

Harvard's Tuition Announcement

Harvard is offering free tuition for students with a family income below \$40,000. Call Harvard Financial Aid Low and Moderate Income Initiative at (617)384 1213 or (617) 495 1581.

**We're on the web:
www.vipmentoring.org**