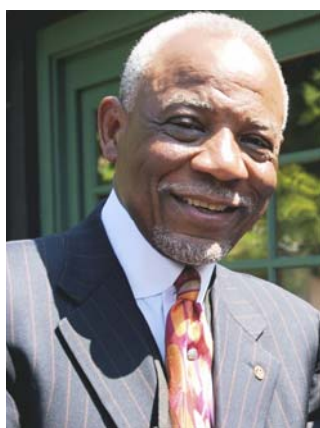




VIP MENTORING

CHILDREN FIRST

What Happens When People of Faith Mentor Children of Promise?



Above:
Reverend Dr. W. Wilson Goode, founder of the Amachi Program for children of incarcerated parents.

On Wednesday, May 2, 2007 Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode addressed the above question at a brunch in Detroit sponsored by VIP Mentoring. Why Dr. Goode? Because the question actually amounts to a challenge he issued to the Philadelphia community in 2001, when he founded the Amachi Program, a faith-based national mentoring model for children of incarcerated parents.

During the event which was held at Fellowship Chapel in Detroit, Dr. Goode told an audience of nearly 100 Community and Church leaders and other caring Metro Area residents what a difference mentoring can make in the life of a “vulnerable” child. His compelling message was a mixture of statistical, experiential and

inspirational information that drove home the point that “ONE mentor with ONE child for ONE hour each week” is a proven winning formula.

Before Dr. Goode’s keynote, representatives from each of the organizations that co-sponsored the brunch spoke. Each pledged support for the mentoring concept and vowed to continue serving the community’s children and families in a variety of ways. Event co-sponsors included the Governor’s Office of Community and Faith-Based Initiatives (Greg Roberts, Director), Prison Fellowship Ministries (Joanne Stockdale, Executive Director), ARISE Detroit (Luther Keith, Executive Director), Communities in Schools (Pandora Brown, Vol-

unteer Services Director) and Detroit Parent Network (Derek Blackmon, Director).

Recognition is also due to Pastor Wendell Anthony and the staff at Fellowship Chapel, one of VIP’s Mentoring Church Partners. The striking and spacious accommodations, heart-felt hospitality and scrumptious food contributed to the event’s overall success.

Obviously, the fact that people hear of a worthwhile cause, understand its potential impact and enjoy a message about it was not enough for Dr. Goode. Therefore he ended his keynote message by issuing a Call to Action to all who were present. Kudos and thanks to all who responded.

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MENTORS NEEDED: Spread the word about becoming a mentor

Here at VIP Mentoring, our mentors and mentees are the heart and soul of our program. With the need for mentors at an all time high, we are asking for those already invested in our program to spread the word about a program that benefits children in difficult circumstances and the community as a whole.

There are many ways you can spread the word about VIP Mentoring.

Is your church involved? If not, they should be. If there is someone at your church who is interested in volunteering their time, we can help them

recruit mentors! Staff members from VIP Mentoring will come to the church and train those interested in becoming mentors. We will also provide them with fliers, inserts for church bulletins, etc.—whatever they need to recruit more mentors.

Does your company offer community service projects? Why not get co-workers involved in becoming mentors? We will come to your office and train your co-workers and provide you with the supporting documents (brochures and fliers) to get started.

There are so many ways you can get

involved and many young people that need to be matched. For more information, please contact the VIP Mentoring office at (313) 964-1110.



Above: John Gaurdiola from Hines Interests is reading to his group of mentees in our School-Based Program taking place at Maybury Elementary school in Southwest Detroit.

Introducing...The VIP Mentoring Advisory Council

We like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the VIP Mentoring Advisory Council. The old African proverb says “it takes a village to raise a child...” here at VIP Mentoring; we take that phrase to heart. “Children First” has become our motto and because we believe so much in the future our children, we have created the VIP Mentoring Advisory Council. It truly “takes a village to raise a child” and our village starts with 20 Advisory members made up of caregivers, staff, mentors, and the youth we serve.

The goal of the Advisory Council is to help VIP Mentoring become the benchmark in Mentoring organiza-

tions through enriching the lives of the youth we serve. The Advisory Council will provide a direct means for mentors, youth, and caregivers to have their interests expressed and represented in VIP Mentoring activities. This will establish and maintain lines of communication between everyone involved with the VIP Mentoring program.

Our Advisory Council provides advice and support to VIP Mentoring staff in the planning, development and delivery of services to mentors, youth and caregivers. They help to identify “areas of need” and will assist VIP Mentoring staff in determining services and activities which could help to meet those needs.

As we look to the future our hope is that the

Advisory Council will help strengthen community awareness. It will assist in the recognition of VIP Mentoring by assisting the staff in speaking to community groups and help deliver presentations and training sessions when needed. A major goal is the evaluation of the effectiveness of current programs and services, and being a sounding board for new ideas and new programs.

We like to take this opportunity to thank all of those wonderful volunteers and staff that have taken time out of their schedules to make our Advisory Council a premier voice in the Mentoring community.



Resource Opportunities

Here are a few upcoming resourceful highlights:

Lift Every Voice: A New Era of Youth Advocacy

Summer programs held at the United Way that give youth the tools to be successful advocates in the interest of their communities and schools.

Please contact Ms. Mohammed if you are interested (313) 964-1110 ext. 201

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

Angel Food Ministries

Angel food ministries helps families all over the country by giving them a significant discount on their groceries. This program sells a \$50 box of groceries for only \$25. For more information on how to become involved with this program call Perfecting Community Care Center at (313) 365-2273

Free College Program “ Call Me Mister ”

Several African-American Colleges are looking for future black male teachers and will send them to college for 4 years FREE. For more information and the online application visit <http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu/index.htm> or call 1-800-640-2657.

Dear Parents/Caregivers: Do you have an email address?

Ms. Mohammed would like to know, please give her a call at 313 964 1110 ext. 201 or email her at nmohammed@vipmentoring.org.



VIP MENTORING

A Big Thanks from Fleming Elementary



Thank you VIP Mentoring and Lear Corporation for all that you have done for us this year. Your time and dedication to our class has helped all of us become better students and people in our society. You have helped us make better choices and all of us have exciting goals set for ourselves because of you. Thank you again for all of your hard work. We hope that all of you will return again in the Fall to help keep us on track. We will miss you.

Ms. Limmer's 4th Grade Class

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



VIP MENTORING

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