

**Highlights**

- National Mentoring Month raises awareness of youth mentoring through several events across Massachusetts and MMP distributes over \$10,000 worth of match activities to programs
- Caregiver's Choice expands mentoring for children of incarcerated parents and MMP expands involvement to 11 programs
- MMP hosts 2010 MENTOR State Caucus for representatives from partnerships across the country and leads movement to roll out national quality assurance process, modeled after MMP's own Quality-Based Membership
- Champions of Mentoring sets new fundraising record and honors three outstanding supporters of youth mentoring
- Mentoring Night at Fenway hosts 750 mentors and mentees from across the state and inspires hundreds to become mentors

**National Mentoring Month 2010**

January was National Mentoring Month and MMP, as the statewide lead, executed a comprehensive campaign to recruit mentors and raise awareness about the need for quality youth mentoring. In addition to the activities detailed below, Staples, Inc. **underwrote over \$20,000 worth of public service announcements** that ran in print and online media outlets across the state. This allowed our mentor recruitment and public awareness efforts to be more targeted, wide reaching, and impactful in their messaging, and resulted in over 130 referrals, a **45% increase** over average monthly referrals in 2009.



**Youth Mentoring Day 2010: Mentoring Matters**

Youth Mentoring Day 2010, held on January 21st at the State House in Boston, brought together **200 people**, including state legislators, mentoring program staff, and mentors and mentees from across Massachusetts to raise awareness about the need for youth mentoring. The program featured a testimonial by James Monahan, mentor, and Christopher Thomasson, mentee, of Children's Friend and Family Services in Salem, who have been matched for eleven years, as well as a multimedia presentation, created by the Highland Street AmeriCorps Ambassadors of Mentoring, that gave an inside look at being a mentor. This year's Advocates of Mentoring, **State Sen. Rosenberg, State Rep. Haddad, State Rep. Pignatelli, and State Sen. Hart** were honored for their tremendous support of youth mentoring.

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**Youth Mentoring Forum**

Held January 27th at the InterContinental Hotel in Boston, and sponsored generously by State Street Corporation and UMass Boston, the Forum brought together a diverse group of funders, mentoring programs and community leaders for an in-depth discussion of cutting edge research in the mentoring field. The event highlighted a presentation by locally based, **nationally renowned researchers Dr. Belle Liang, Dr. Jean Rhodes, and Dr. Renée Spencer**, that focused on new ethics guidelines for mentors.

**Donated Match Activities**

MMP garnered and distributed **more than \$10,000 worth of free match activities to over 30 programs** across the state throughout January. These donations included 60 tickets to Celtics games, passes to Mass MOCA, the Worcester Art Museum and the New Bedford Whaling Museum. In addition, MMP organized "**Mentoring Day at the Springfield Armor**" which gave mentors and mentees the chance to spend time together and participate in on-court activities at a local basketball game.



**Community Conversation in Western MA**

Co-sponsored by Big Y Foods and the Regional Employment Board of Hampden County, MMP hosted "**A Community Conversation with Dr. Timothy Black**" in Springfield. The event featured a presentation by Dr. Black on his book *When a Heart Turns Rock Solid: The Lives of Three Puerto Rican Brothers On and Off the Streets*, an 18 year ethnographic study of three Springfield youth and the social forces that shaped their lives. His experience shined a light onto the lives of at-risk youth in our community and what we, as mentors, stand to gain from becoming the caring adult in their lives.

**Mentoring Children of Prisoners: Caregivers' Choice**

Since March, MMP has been working with the National Mentoring Partnership/MENTOR to offer youth mentoring programs in Massachusetts the opportunity to join **Mentoring Children of Prisoners: Caregivers' Choice Program**. This innovative nationwide program provides **children of incarcerated parents expanded access to mentoring services**. The program is extremely valuable in reaching a population of youth with a unique set of circumstances and those who are in great need of mentoring; but this program is also greatly beneficial to mentoring programs as they can receive up to \$1,000 for every Caregiver's Choice mentoring match they serve. MMP has conducted targeted outreach resulting in **over 96 hours of dedicated time** to programs through webinars, conference calls, one-on-one technical assistance, email outreach and information presentations on the program at all of MMP's trainings. To date, eleven programs have become a part of the initiative in Massachusetts.

## MMP hosts MENTOR States Caucus 2010

MMP hosted colleagues from Mentoring Partnerships around the country in late June for the annual States Caucus. Throughout the Caucus, attendees participated in sessions on **expanding quality mentoring practices nationwide and on a range of issues aimed at closing the mentoring gap in America**. With lead support from Bank of America, the three-day meeting provided a forum for the sharing of best practices from the field, and highlighted the **groundbreaking role MMP has played in establishing quality metrics and training for mentoring programs**. There was also discussion of plans to embark upon a collaborative effort to develop a strategic plan for the continued expansion of quality mentoring opportunities for youth nationwide.



With lead coordination by MMP's Highland Street Ambassador of Mentoring Allison Smith, the Caucus featured spirited and educational skill-building workshops and roundtable discussions. At the Opening Leadership Forum, attended by Mentoring Partnerships' executive directors and board chairs, **MMP's Acting Board Chair Regina Pisa and MMP co-founder and board member Rev. J. Donald Monan** shared MMP's recent accomplishments and ideas with forum attendees around approaches to developing a more cohesive network of leaders nationwide to jointly close the mentoring gap. The workshops focused on topics such as the latest mentoring research presented by Dr. Renée Spencer, Associate Professor at Boston University; the latest in public policy around

mentoring; the upcoming 10th anniversary of National Mentoring Month; and a **national initiative to ensure quality standards are being met by programs across the country, which is modeled after MMP's own first-in-the-nation Quality Based Membership**.

"We are very grateful to Mass Mentoring for hosting state Mentoring Partnerships from around the country in the beautiful city of Boston," said Larry M. Wright, Ph.D, President and CEO of MENTOR. "This States Caucus was particularly memorable because we celebrated 20 years of quality mentoring and we applauded our State Partners as the core building blocks of our national mentoring infrastructure. We saw tremendous communication and collaboration and more efficient use of resources and innovation when we convened last week. **It is clear that if we continue in this direction together, we will achieve our collective goal of closing the mentoring gap.**"

## A Great Day for Mentoring at Fenway



May 20<sup>th</sup> at Fenway Park was a BIG day for mentoring. **Red Sox Manager Terry Francona and Pitching Coach John Farrell, AL MVP Joe Mauer of the Minnesota Twins, NESN Red Sox Studio Host Tom Caron, and Shapiro Negotiations Institute Co-Founder Ron Shapiro** helped MMP honor leading supporters of mentoring at the sixth annual Champions of Mentoring Breakfast presented by Citi. That night, MMP and the Red Sox hosted Mentoring Night at Fenway Park for more than 700 mentors and mentees from across the state at the game against the Twins.

**Champions raised a record-breaking \$225,000 - almost 20% more than in 2009 - to help MMP reach its goal of doubling the number of Massachusetts youth in high-quality mentoring relationships to 40,000 by**

2013. MMP honored Suffolk County **Sheriff Andrea Cabral, Rodman Ride for Kids President Don Rodman, and State Senator Stan Rosenberg** for their tireless efforts in support of mentoring. Additionally, three educational awards were presented to mentees who have persevered through adversity: **the KELLY award**, named in honor of Liberty Mutual Group Chairman, President & CEO, and former MMP Board Chair Ted Kelly and his wife Debbie, was awarded to Demetrius McLester from Boston Scholars and AJ Graziano, Jr. from Partners for Youth With Disabilities. **The Connolly Award**, named in honor of the late President of Citizens Financial Group and MMP Board Chair Jim Connolly, was awarded to Staci Davidson from Big Sister Association of Greater Boston. All three were nominated by their mentors.



For the game that evening, several lucky matches participated in pre-game activities, **from reading the starting line-ups on NESN, to throwing out the ceremonial opening pitch, to singing the National Anthem**. Fun was had by all, but more importantly, the day showcased the powerful impact of mentoring and the many ways people can support the movement.