

Mentoring in Action Newsletter

From the Desk: Mentor Coordinator

Maryellen Gomes



Since our official launch in January Cobb Mentoring Matters has grown rapidly and much of that has to do with the caliber of mentors we have!

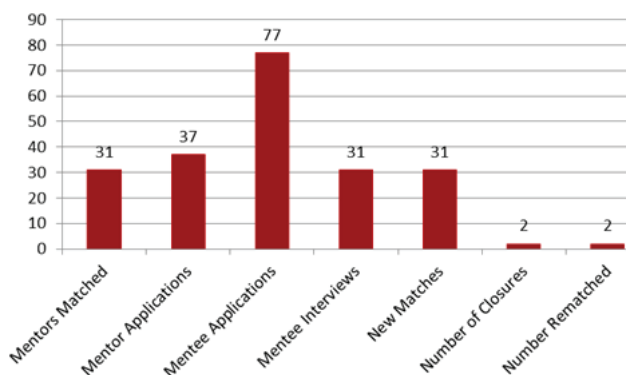
Their commitment and desire to serve and meet the needs of our students has been beyond reproach.

For a few of the mentors, the honeymoon period didn't last long, but they hung in there! I have said this repeatedly that the caliber of mentors that we have in Cobb Mentoring Matters has exceeded my expectations! Our End of the Year Celebration was to not only honor and thank our Mentors but also served to provide them with additional skills and tools to enhance their mentoring experience. I am delighted to report that all our Mentors will continue in the program next year.

In preparation for the 2012-2013 school year, we will continue to recruit, train and match potential volunteers over the summer. Our hope is that the excitement that has been generated will continue to spread throughout Cobb County and inspire businesses, civic groups, churches and individuals to "join the movement!"

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Mentoring by the Numbers



Paulette's Corner: Letter to Our Mentors

"There are two ways of spreading light - to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." - Edith Wharton



Dear Mentors,
I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere

thanks and appreciation for the dedication and enthusiasm you have brought to Cobb County School District's Cobb Mentoring Matters. The phenomenal success and accomplishments of this important program rests with our committed mentors.

Your willingness to use your gifts and abilities to strengthen and support our at-risk youth provides a platform by which

these students can move forward with a future that is full of promise. It is difficult to explain the profound impact the time and attention you share has on the life of a child. These children are our future and your investment in their lives is our legacy.

A heartfelt 'thank you' for your leadership and service to the students of our school district.

With gratitude,
Paulette Herbert

Paulette Herbert, Ed.D, RPT, LCSW
Cobb County School District

Our Mentors in Action

On May 5, we held our End of the Year Celebration by recognizing the great work of the mentors this past year and by holding two training modules covering the Mental Health of our students and the impact of mentors.

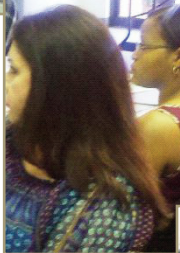
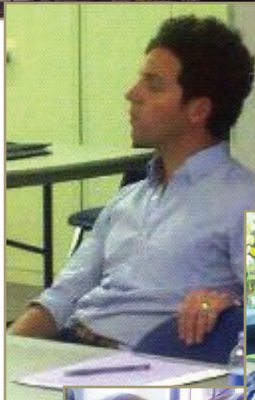
Our presenters were John Cornelison, Clinical Manager for the

Success for All Students project, and Marcos Sanchez, Substance Counselor for the Success for All Students project.

Cornelison provides administrative direction for the Licensed Mental Health Therapists, Certified Addiction Counselors and Family Support Specialists who serve

the 35 Cobb elementary, middle, and high schools involved in the project.

Sanchez followed presenting “Drugs 101.” He implements strategies and programs aimed at prevention and provides intervention services for areas 5 and 6 of the Cobb County School District.



“It was a great presentation, but we needed more time.”

“The Hunter .vs. Farmer concept was helpful.”

“Keep dialog going.”

“It gave me new insight.”

“The presenting characteristics for anxiety and depression.”

Photos and Quotes from the End of the Year Celebration

“It made me more aware of the problem (drugs).”

“More time to discuss Drugs 101 topic.”

“I want more, very relevant.”

“Great tips that can be used with mentees.”

“I specifically liked the Hunter .vs. Farmer reference.”

“Great job.”

Acknowledgments

We would like to recognize and thank our sponsors for their contribution to the End of the Year Celebration!

- Gas South: Breakfast
- Moe’s Southwest Grill: Gift Certificates
- Kroger (Dallas Highway, Powder Springs): Flowers

Student at Wheeler works with Cobb Mentoring Matters

LaShauna Owens, senior at Wheeler High School, selected Cobb Mentoring Matters as the topic on which to base her research paper and turn her study into a real world experience.

Wheeler requires each Senior during their course of 12th grade Literature to participate in a Senior Project.

We welcomed the

idea to act as a mentor and guide her through an internship.

Ms. Owens jumped in with both feet! She began by attending the Mentor Orientation/ Training session to better understand the full scope of the District's own mentoring program.

We then proposed the idea of utilizing her to talk with a group of

middle school girls at Tapp Middle School who are participating in an Anger Management Group facilitated by Girls Inc.

On March 27, Ms. Owens facilitated a 60-minute session on self-image, preparing to enter high school and how to take advantage of a mentoring relationship. Job well done LaShauna!!



Step Into Spring

We will continue the process of recruiting mentors during the spring and summer, so that when the 2012-2013 school year begins in August, we will have an army of mentors ready to be matched with students.

If you have not already done so, visit our website at www.cobbmentoringmatters.org for more information or to request to become a mentor.

YOU ALREADY POSSESS THE SKILLS AND CHARACTERISTICS NEEDED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BE A MENTOR
Join the Movement!
Mentoring works. Cobb County School District needs you to be a mentor to make a difference in our youth!

www.cobbmentoringmatters.org

Cobb MENTORING MATTERS
TO INSPIRE AND EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITY

Look Who's Joined the Movement

Allatoona High School
Austell Primary School
Awtrey Middle School
Barber Middle School
Brumby Elementary School
Bryant Intermediate School
Bryant Primary School
Clay Elementary School
Compton Elementary School
Cooper Middle School
Daniell Middle School
Dickerson Middle School
Dodgen Middle School
Dowell Elementary School
Durham Middle School
Eastvalley Elementary School
Floyd Middle School

Garrett Middle School
Harrison High School
Hayes Intermediate School
Hayes Primary School
Hillgrove High School
Kennesaw Mountain High School
Lewis Elementary School
Lost Mountain Middle School
Lovingood Middle School
McCleskey Middle School
McEachern High School
Palmer Middle School
Pickett's Mill Elementary School
Pine Mountain Middle School
Powers Ferry Elementary School
Riverside Primary School
Smitha Middle School

Sope Creek Elementary School
South Cobb High School
Sprayberry High School
Tapp Middle School
Timber Ridge Elementary School
Varner Elementary School
Wheeler High School
Gas South
Cobb EMC
Cobb Rotary Club
Moe's Southwest Grill
Kennesaw State University
Celebrate Life International
Culture Connect
It's About Kids Mentoring Program
West Cobb Business Association
Girls Inc.