Kansas Mentoring Month Kicks off 2014

January not only marked the start of a fresh new year, but also an acknowledgement to some of the most important people in our lives—our mentors. The month of January is celebrated as National Mentoring Month (NMM) and on December 20, 2013, Governor Sam Brownback proclaimed it Kansas Mentoring Month. Mentoring matches from Communities in Schools and Boy Scouts of America along with Kansas Mentors’ staff and Council members representing Kansas Parent Teacher Association participated in the proclamation signing (please see picture above).

National Mentoring Month is a month full of celebration. It is a way for Kansas mentoring programs to celebrate the everyday people who are making a difference in the lives of our young people. Kansas Mentors celebrates NMM by educating our legislators about the importance of mentoring and recognizing the great work and efforts put forth by its 175 plus partners that work tirelessly everyday to ensure that every youth has access to a caring and quality role model.

What a great way to kick off 2014!
2013 Coaches Challenge Standings

IOWA (UI, ISU, UNI) 1,577
KANSAS (KU, KSU) 3,729
NEBRASKA (NU) 1,139
MICHIGAN 1,470
MINNESOTA (U of M) 954

2014 Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership is proud to facilitate the Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series (CMWS) in partnership with the CMWS planning team. Through ongoing planning and evaluation of the latest developments in the field, the team delivers a webinar each month focused on strengthening mentoring practice, sharing new resources, and helping the field put research into practice.

The network of twenty-eight mentoring partnerships works to strengthen the mentoring field by offering trainings to practitioners, promoting quality standards for mentoring programs, and increasing the local mentoring resources. This webinar series offers a free, accessible platform for Mentoring Partnerships and other technical assistance providers to share their expertise with the field.

Webinars are held monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 12:00-1:15 CST.

Webinars are FREE and online. Links to register for the upcoming webinar, with full descriptions and panelist information, are posted in the month leading up to the webinar. Check back periodically as plans for each month are finalized!

Next Live Webinar: Introduction to the National Mentoring Resource Center, Thursday, February 20, 2014. [Register here!!!]

2013 Coaches’ Challenge

Kansas recruits 3,729 new mentors!!

Congratulations Kansas mentoring programs on another Coaches’ Challenge victory! And congratulations to every state who participated in the Coaches’ Challenge—and helped to close the mentoring gap in our nation.

Coach Snyder headed up team Kansas and both Kansas State University and Kansas University hosted a Challenge promotional event during home football games. Mentoring programs across the state were given the opportunity to nominate “Outstanding” matches to attend the football game and be recognized for their nomination. Matches from MATCH: Mentor a Teen; Create Hope, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Schools of Hope participated in the events.

Over 35,000 new mentors have been recruited since the Coaches’ Challenge began in 2008.

Connect with us!!

Kansas Mentors
@KansasMentors

Partner Spotlight—CAYM Core Mentoring Training

The Christian Association of Youth Mentoring (CAYM) helps train and support Christian churches and nonprofits in the development of safe, effective, and sustainable mentoring programs. We teach the best practices of safe and effective mentoring in a Christian context. Whether you are a nonprofit agency or a church-based program, CAYM’s Core Mentoring Training has what you need to either improve your ministry or get it started. Our staff have decades of experience in running mentoring programs. Over the past decade, we have helped hundreds of churches and nonprofits develop the best practices of safe and effective mentoring.

CAYM Core Mentoring Training
Friday, February 21 – 8:30 am - 6:30 pm
Saturday, February 22 – 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
River Community Church
2130 N. Oliver
Wichita, KS 67208

Cost: $100 per person
Contact: Donnovan Karber
316-708-9107
Donnovan@caym.org

Please visit [www.caym.org](http://www.caym.org) for more details!
Gold Star Program

Updates

The Kansas Mentors Gold Star program was developed in 2008 as an effort to provide a safe and effective mentoring environment for the youth of Kansas. This program recognizes mentoring partners across the state who have committed to maintaining a basic set of standards to ensure a quality mentoring experience.

Recognition as a Gold Star program communicates to the state your organization’s commitment to quality mentoring. Kansas Mentors encourages all programs to go through the Gold Star application process. The Gold Star Quality Mentoring System will create benchmarks of current quality practices, which in turn, allows the field to improve future practices.

We’d love to help you become a Gold Star program! Drop us an email at mentor@ksde.org to see how we can work together to get you qualified!

Kansas Mentors is always accepting Gold Star applications and will provide technical assistance FREE of charge during the application process!

NEW Kansas Mentors Website

If you have bookmarked your favorite pages on www.kansasmentors.org, you will need to update those addresses! You can still type in www.kansasmentors.org into your address bar and find us, as this is a “vanity address”.

The true address is:

Please feel free to post KM links to your own websites—just be sure it is the new address and not the old one!

2013 State of Mentoring

*Kansas Mentors is committed to providing every young Kansas access to a caring and quality mentor.*

Currently, KM is conducting our annual State of Mentoring survey of all partner programs in Kansas. The outcomes of this survey provide a snapshot of what mentoring looks like throughout the state.

Information from this survey should come from August 1, 2012-July 31, 2013. Please note that no individual organization information will be disclosed.

Data from this survey will be used to:
- Assess the current state of mentoring in Kansas
- Describe the mentoring gap that exists in Kansas
- Communicate to the public, elected officials and funders (including the need for increased funding opportunities

If you haven’t already done so, please take 10-15 to fill out this short survey. Should there be questions that ask for information that your program does not collect, you may input a “0”.

If you are part of the Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, the state office is completing this for you!

*Please note: If you are a KM Gold Star program, we ask that you participate in this brief survey.*

Access the survey here!!!

KM Background Check Grants

In an effort to reduce a significant funding barrier that mentoring programs face when trying to recruit and match mentors with youth on their waiting lists, Kansas Mentors excited to announce a grant opportunity to Gold Star programs to help reduce the costs of Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) background checks. Due to our continued partnership with Volunteer Kansas, KM will be able to award $34,500 in background check funding during 2014.

This funding is limited to mentoring programs in the state of Kansas serving youth ages 5-18 years. Applicants must:
- Be a registered Gold Star Program with Kansas Mentors
- Be a registered program with Volunteer Kansas
- List mentoring opportunities on www.volunteerkansas.org

For grant application and materials, please visit the Kansas Mentors website or contact Cheri Faunce at 785-368-6211, or email mentor@ksde.org.

Applications for this funding are accepted on a revolving basis—however, this is a FIRST COME FIRST SERVE grant competition. Don’t waste any time!! Fill out the application today!

Next Due Date: February 28, 2014