



EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CONNECTION!

Mentoring Matters



CONNECTING for PURPOSE
"Empowerment Through Connection"

IN THIS SEPTEMBER 2016 ISSUE

Mentoring in 2016

by Michelle Raysor

Whether you realize it or not, someone is already looking up to you. According to a 2014 report entitled *The Mentoring Effect* written by an organization called Mentor "mentoring has a significant impact that results in positive outcomes for young people involved. Mentoring connects them to networks of support and resources that allow them to reach for social and economic opportunity and succeed". This sounds good, however the same report indicated that one in three young people will grow up without a mentor. Connecting For Purpose has joined the array of existing forces in an effort to increase and identify mentors in every available sector. We are reaching out to parents, schools, churches, businesses, law enforcement, and public officials to create opportunities that touch the lives of youth as well as adults.

It is a fact that young people as well as adults benefit from mentoring relationships, however, studies show that more than one in three young person's report that they have never had a mentor introduced to them. Mentoring is a relationship that must be presented to our young and older populations at every opportunity. Connecting For Purpose is committed to

helping to close the mentoring gap that exists among some of the most vulnerable populations. One of our goals is to advance opportunities for young people by encouraging mentors to volunteer his or her services to make a difference in the lives of youth and adults alike. We realize that this is not a project that can be conquered alone.

Mentoring relationships are not just about helping individuals become problem free, but helping individuals establish life goals that will cause them to become successful, self-sufficient and responsible contributing adults. There is much evidence highlighting protective factors as crucial to continued growth and maturity. Protective factors such as strong cognitive and social skills, high self-esteem, connection to family and community, and coping skills are all vital to the successfulness of any human being.

"A lot of people have gone farther than they thought they could because someone else thought they could"

Author Unknown



August 20, 2016

Volunteers, Mentors, Mentees, those interested in becoming volunteers, and supporters gathered with CFP for our 1st Mentoring Matter's meet and greet.



Empowerment through Connection!

Opening Prayer

by Pastor Bullock

The Mentoring Matters Event was opened up with a prayer of blessing by Bishop CT Bullock, Pastor of New Bethel FPC, 455 Station Road, Bellport, NY. Bishop Bullock has always extended himself and ministry in collaboration with all of the local faith based organizations in the community of Bellport to make a difference. He has always been a part of highlighting the diversity of the community while building a vision of unity. We are grateful to Bishop Bullock for opening the doors of his church on August 20, 2016 to Connecting for Purpose. Thank you Bishop Bullock for your continued efforts



to improve the quality of life in North Bellport!

Purpose volunteer in the Veterans Pod at the Yaphank County Jail.

Marie Masters is one of the volunteers at Connecting For Purpose. Marie is a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Counselor, Recovery Coach, and Trainer. She currently serves as a Connecting For



We had the honor of presenting one of our newest volunteers as well, LaTarsha Thomas. Latarsha is a licensed clinical social worker with a background serving diverse populations. Latarsha is passionate about giving back to the community and helping in any way that she can. Her enthusiasm and eagerness to do whatever it takes is evident in her unique style of engagement.



Marie Mastes

Leeronson Boykin became one of CFP's volunteers in May 2016. Leeronson is passionate and committed to helping guide, teach, mentor, and instruct young men. He has accomplished some very notable goals and has embraced his purpose to give back. He is a definite power of example and we are so proud to have him on our team!



John Rogers

John Rodgers, Chairman Of The Greater Bellport Coalition joined us at our first "Mentoring Matters" event. John has worked diligently in his role as Chairman of the Greater Bellport. He has worked diligently in his role as chairman working on projects such as crafting a land use plan to provide the opportunity for residents to own their own businesses, employment opportunities, and options for those who want to stay in the neighborhood but can't afford a house.

John has worked with community leaders and officials on plans including creating a main street on Montauk Highway, fixing abandoned houses and redirecting truck traffic away from station road, as well as new sidewalks and multifamily housing. He has demonstrated his dedication and commitment to building a Better Bellport. I am pleased to have his support and belief in the work that we do at Connecting For Purpose. John is a Board Member with CFP.



Latarsha Thomas

Latarsha believes in a strengths-based empowerment approach and has been successful working with adult populations.



Leeronson Boykin

Why Mentoring Matters

Tatiana Trent

August 20, 2016

Purpose Keepers

Purpose Keeper



Christina Faith-Evans Colas

Purpose Keeper



Arielle Strange

It was an honor to present Ms. Arielle Strange with a Certificate for Academic Achievement from Connecting for Purpose" at our "Why Mentoring Matters Event" on August 20, 2016. Arielle is a 2016 High School graduate from - Bellport HS- South Country School District---*GPA-3.6. She Plays the violin and piano. She participated in the NY State Music Festivals for six years.

She has participated in the Step program at the Suffolk Community College She was selected to participate in summer program at the Brookhaven National Laboratory. She is a 3 year Science Olympiad participant.



It was an honor to present Ms. Christina Faith-Evans Colas with a Certificate for Academic Achievement from Connecting for Purpose" at our "Why Mentoring Matters Event" on August 20, 2016. Christina was awarded "Youth of the Year 2016" from the Bellport Boys and Girls Club. Christina has been in the Honor Society since 9th grade, Christina has demonstrated a commitment to maintaining a drug-free body and she excels in physical education at school. Recreationally she also enjoys playing volleyball and dancing. Christina's post high school education plan is to attend college and get on track to becoming an Obstetrician.

She has always been active in her local Church – Grace AME Zion Church, Patchogue. She is currently starting her freshman year at Alfred State University where she will be studying to become a registered nurse...

Purpose Keeper



Purpose Keeper



It was an honor to present Jaye Bookhart, my grandson with a Certificate for Academic Achievement from Connecting for Purpose" at our "Why Mentoring Matters Event" on August 20, 2016. He is a June 2016 graduate from - Bellport HS- South Country School District. He has never been arrested; He has a very close relationship with his brothers and sister; he is a real friend to anyone that he becomes friends with.

He is focused, loyal, and committed; dedicated; disciplined; and determined... He graduated Starting Point Guard for 2 Years at Bellport High School he helped lead his team to the playoffs. He let us know that he has conquered his fear of rejection and let go of his insecurities. He will be a Freshman starting September 2016 at Suffolk Community College.

Amid several challenges Tatiana greeted the room with a genuine attempt to press forward. She acknowledged the support that Connecting For Purpose staff has provided her and vows to continue in her quest to find a new job and return back to Suffolk Community College for the September 2016 school year.



Tachica Chandler has made tremendous strides in her journey towards wholeness. She was presented with a certificate of recognition for outstanding generosity and dedication to community service. Her future is looking very bright...She is preparing to switch careers and go back to school.

The "Mentoring Matters" Event was filled with speaker after speaker who provided us with an array of inspirational and motivational words of encouragement. Everyone left with a new perspective on the importance of volunteering and giving back by making a difference in someone else's life. Many signed up either to be volunteers, mentors, mentees, and to attend the retreat in the Riverhead Jail. The youth signed up to go on the YES Tour of the jail scheduled September 1, 2016.



Supervisor Samantha Elliot expressed words of gratitude for attending the event and blessed our hearts with a song. She will be sharing in song at the Riverhead Retreat October 1, 2016.



The Power of Connection!



Lisa, one of our newest mentees addressed the room with very candid and inspiring words. Lisa possesses a level of enthusiasm that is very encouraging.



Laquita shared words of conformation about her positive experience with Connecting For Purpose.



Diane Saunders and Edgar Iglesias

Thank you Diane for providing us with a wealth of information about the "Fatherhood Initiative".

Thumbs up to Edgar bringing us information regarding insurance plans available with United Health Care. Both of you helped make the day a success.



Michelle Raysor, CEO and Founder

I am Extremely Happy and Filled with Great Expectation!

What would Connecting For Purpose be without Jahnice Strange? Jahnice shared some of her awe inspiring journey including the various successes she has experienced as well as the restoration of many meaningful relationships in her life. She expressed gratitude for all of the services that were available to her through Connecting for Purpose... Jahnice provides Re-Entry services to currently incarcerated women at the Riverhead Jail on a weekly basis.

Thank You

Thank you for your support Pastor Edward Lanham. Pastor Lanham is the founder and senior pastor at Fisher's of Men COGIC Family Worship Center; 422 Sills Road Yaphank, New York 11980. He serves together with his wife Lady Jean Lanham in various forms of much needed ministry to the family. His passion and unwavering commitment to ministry has been consistent. Pastor Lanham is a board member with Connecting For Purpose. You have remained consistent in your encouragement and prayer for the work at CFP. You are definitely a "Fisher of Men".



Pastor Edward Lanham

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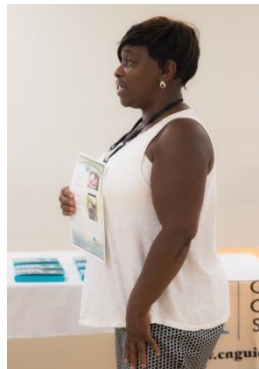


It was such a pleasure to see the support as well as the care and concern on this day. A fire for mentoring and volunteering was ignited. Connecting For Purpose is committed to "Making Bellport and the surrounding areas Great". We are devoted to our youth, young adults and older adults. The possibilities are unlimited...Failure is not an option. Just "be the change that you want to see".

We solicit your support and donations. All of our work at present is done solely voluntarily. We welcome volunteers, interns, potential mentors, and mentee referrals.



There is only one "Diane Saunders"
Thank You!



Thank you to Kim for serving!



A Heart Felt Thanks to Joyce Roach for preparing the food; It was delicious!



Thank You Again Edgar!

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED!