

Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame Archive Project

Archive Project

Inception to Induction

Mentoring Partnership of Long Island

“We Make Mentoring Work”

Year of Founding: 1993

Issue Addressed: Need for Additional Positive Adult Role Models for Long Island Youth

Induction Category & Year: Children and Youth Services, 2007

Founder: James Boisi

Personal Quote from the Executive Director: “We are the go-to authorities when it comes to safe and effective mentoring.” – Jean Lahage Cohen

History: The Mentoring Partnership of Long Island was established in 1993 as an affiliate of the non-profit organization, The National Mentoring Partnership, now known as MENTOR. The Long Island “chapter” was started by Jim Boisi, a retired vice chairman of J. P. Morgan and the father of Geoff Boisi. Geoff Boisi and fellow investment banker Ray Chambers recognized the importance of children having positive mentoring experiences and had a shared vision of increasing the number of youth who could be paired with a caring mentor. This inspired the two investment bankers to pool together their resources and start MENTOR in 1990. The organization was specifically designed with the goal of bringing mentoring to a scale across the United States so that more children could be served and experience the powerful benefits of a positive mentoring relationship.

Boisi and Chambers knew first hand the value of having someone in their lives guiding them, caring for them, and just having someone to go to when times are tough. With this in mind, the two were even more determined to reach their goal of providing a national service as a connection point to all mentoring programs around the country; helping them adopt and implement best practices. MENTOR currently has 20+ affiliates around the country already established, including one on Long Island and one in New York City.

The mentoring movement continues to grow nation-wide. The Bush Administration policy of “No Child Left Behind” helped build national awareness of the importance of quality mentoring and how important it is for children to have positive role models helping them navigate through adolescence.

Currently The Mentoring Partnership of Long Island is involved with over 210 program providers, with more than half of those programs running in schools throughout Long Island. The other programs the Partnership serves are creatively structured with corporations, community centers, faith-based organizations, and local government agencies that work with youth. Their goal is to provide as many children as possible with safe, quality mentoring services, in order to encourage young people to stay in school and make wise decisions that will help them reach their personal goals, as well as benefit society.

Agency Mission: The Mentoring Partnership of Long Island's mission is to bring caring adults together with children in need through safe, effective mentoring programs. MPLI accomplishes this goal by providing training, technical support, advocacy and resources to program providers and volunteers engaged in mentoring.

Since 1993, The Mentoring Partnership of Long Island has been committed to bringing quality mentoring to the estimated 100,000 “at-risk” children and youth on Long Island. MPLI serves as a resource for youth mentors and youth mentoring programs on Long Island as well as an advocate for the expansion of mentoring opportunities so that every child who needs a mentor has one. MPLI has three interlocking goals for its work:

- To foster the creation of mentoring programs on Long Island by recruitment and outreach to prospective program operators and volunteers
- To bring best practices to mentoring and build the capacity of providers by offering technical assistance, training and resources to our program partners
- To create a climate favorable to mentoring by raising awareness and making mentoring a priority among policy makers, legislators and the general public through an intentional advocacy effort

By providing these services the agency is able to help new mentoring programs get started, as well as help existing mentoring programs expand and recruit new members. Additionally, through outreach efforts, they raise awareness of the importance of mentoring across Long Island.

Population Served: The Mentoring Partnership of Long Island offers their specialized consultative services to all schools and non-profit organizations who are interested in creating or enhancing formal mentoring services. The children who are usually served by these various mentoring programs are diverse and may have a variety of different needs based on social, economic or cultural differences, but the organization believes all children and youth can benefit from a trusting and supportive adult friendship.

Scope of Activities: The Mentoring Partnership of Long Island provides many different services to mentoring programs. Perhaps the two most significant are consultation on the optimal program construct for individual organizations and the training of program coordinators, mentors and mentees who will ultimately be paired with youth in those programs. MPLI also provides enhanced trainings for youth who are serving as Peer Mentors and also special training for the youth being mentored.

Volunteer Involvement: Most of the people running mentoring programs are volunteers, as are the mentors they pair with youth in their programs. The majority of volunteers in the mentoring programs tend to be female and, as a result, there is a shortage of male and especially ethnically diverse male mentors.

Affiliate Organizations: The Mentoring Partnership of Long Island works mostly with school districts, community centers and other nonprofits. They also work with other organizations on Long Island such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island, and the Education and Assistance Corporation.

Funding Sources: The Mentoring Partnership of Long Island raises its own budget through a combination of sources including corporate and foundation support individual donations and has, in the past, received some federal funding. Two important corporate supporters are State Farm Insurance Companies and the Bethpage Federal Credit Union.

Spreading of Funds: Each year the Mentoring Partnership of Long Island gives out a mentoring achievement award to mentors and program coordinators on Long Island who have gone above and beyond helping young people through mentoring. The Mentoring Partnership donates \$500 to the mentoring program that the award winner is affiliated with. Through this award initiative and also through occasional opportunities for pass through funds to enhance mentoring, the agency has donated thousands of dollars to various mentoring programs on Long Island over the years.

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