

December's Mentor Monthly Update



"We do not choose to be born. We do not choose our parents. We do not choose our historical epoch, the country of our birth, or the immediate circumstances of our upbringing...But within all this realm of choicelessness, we do choose how we shall live: courageously or in cowardice, honorably or dishonorably, with purpose or adrift. We decide what is important and what is trivial in life. We decide that what makes us significant is either what we do or what we refuse to do...And as we decide and choose, so are our lives formed."

-Joseph Epstein

Hello everyone!

My name is Vineeta Kapahi and I am the new Go-Betweener Mentoring Program Coordinator at Culture Connect. I will be the new contact for matches with mentees located in Dekalb and Gwinnett. I wanted to remind you all that Dekalb, Gwinnett, and Cobb county schools have winter vacation from December 18th until January 4. I encourage you to try to spend time with your mentees during this break.

Please see the upcoming events, volunteer opportunity, and other ways to get involved listed below and be sure to mark your calendars so that you and your mentee can be there to share with others in the program! As always, feel free to contact Nick or myself at any point.

I am very much looking forward to getting to know all of you soon and wish you a safe and relaxing holiday season!

-Vineeta Kapahi, Go-Betweener Mentoring Program Coordinator

Quick Reminder:

A reminder to all currently matched mentors to send in a monthly activity report for the past month of November to: nick.cheadle@cultureconnectinc.org if your mentee is in Cobb or volunteer.coordinator@cultureconnectinc.org if your mentee is in Gwinnett or Dekalb.

Thank you!

Thanksgiving Potluck

The Go-Betweener™ Mentoring Program held its first Thanksgiving Potluck on November 20th. Mentors, mentees, and families enjoyed a delicious meal including dishes from over fifteen countries! We had a wonderful time sharing and learning about one another and playing exciting games. Culture Connect would like to thank everyone that contributed to the potluck and especially Kaiser Permanente for donating the space. We hope you can join us at future events!



Upcoming Events!

If you haven't already, please mark your calendars for the following events and make sure that you and your mentee are there! More details soon to come.

Go-Betweener Annual Party: *Saturday, January 29nd 11:00am-3:00pm**

January is National Mentoring month and we are going to celebrate by having a party! More details to come soon.

Educational Workshop: *March 6, 2010, 2:00pm*

Following the success of The Healthy Lifestyles Workshop, the Go-Betweener Mentoring Program will hold its second educational workshop on March 6th. We want to make this workshop as useful as possible for participants, and are currently taking suggestions for topics for this workshop. Please contact Nick or Vineeta if there is a topic that you or your mentee would like to learn more about! Proposed topics thus far include Goal Setting and Confidence, Financial Literacy, and Life After High School.

Meet the World in Atlanta: *March 26, 2011, 6:00-10:00pm*

Join us in celebrating the diversity of Atlanta while learning more about Culture Connect, enjoying international music and cuisine, and having a great time at our annual fundraising event.

**Date changed since previous monthly update.*

Share Your Story

Culture Connect has three great opportunities for you and your mentee to share your story!

Spotlight on GBMP Matches: Beginning in 2011, we will begin highlighting one mentoring match in each month's Mentor Monthly Update. If you'd like to be the first to

share your mentoring experience with other participants in January's update, please contact Nick or Vineeta.

[StoryCorps](#) has studios right here in Atlanta where you and your mentee can go to record a conversation. From the StoryCorps website: "StoryCorps is an independent nonprofit whose mission is to provide Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of our lives. Each conversation is recorded on a free CD to share, and is preserved at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress."

Culture Connect's Education and Advocacy Blog is intended to provide members of the Atlanta community with an open forum that will allow them to engage at a personal level and learn more about the cultural, linguistic, and immigration issues of our community. The blog will feature testimonials by Mentors and Mentees in our Go-Betweeners Mentoring Program, reflections by interpreters and volunteers, cultural book reviews, as well as pieces by local students on issues pertaining to immigration in Atlanta, language access, and cultural competency.

To participate in any of these great opportunities, please email Nick Cheadle.

Volunteer Opportunity

Midtown Assistance Center

The Midtown Assistance Center is a non-profit, inter-faith organization whose mission is to provide emergency assistance to the working poor of Midtown and Downtown Atlanta to prevent homelessness and hunger during periods of crisis. You can volunteer in the clothes closet or food pantry!

http://www.midtownassistancectr.org/help_mac/volunteering.html

Contact Alex: aschechter@midtownassistancectr.org

This is a great opportunity to promote volunteerism in your mentee and expose him or her to new issues in our world! The contact for this opportunity is familiar with the Go-Betweeners Mentoring Program and is looking forward to receiving your requests to volunteer with their agencies! Happy volunteering.

Mentor Trainings Saturday, December 11th in Smyrna and Sunday December 12th in Decatur!

Don't miss out on our next mentor training! This training is **mandatory** for all new mentors. Training is a great way to meet other mentors and learn from one another's experiences. The sooner you are able to attend a training the sooner you will be making a difference in the life of a child!

Saturday, December 11, 2010- 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Panera Bread Co.
3625 Spring Hill Parkway SE
Smyrna, GA 30080

Sunday, December 12, 2010- 1:30 PM-4:00PM

Culture Connect, Inc.

4151 Memorial Drive
Kensington Office Complex Building E, Suite 207
Decatur, GA 30032

Please RSVP to Nick Cheadle, Go-Betweeners Mentoring Program Manager
nick.cheadle@cultureconnectinc.org or call (404) 825-8145 if you plan to attend one of these training sessions.

If you have not already done so, please turn in your application and arrange for an interview as soon as possible so that you will be able to attend this training! We look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions about the Go-Betweeners Mentoring Program please do not hesitate to call or email Nick Cheadle (Cobb) or Vineeta Kapahi (DeKalb and Gwinnett). Updated contact information listed below.

Nick Cheadle
nick.cheadle@cultureconnectinc.org
404-825-8145

Vineeta Kapahi
volunteer.coordinator@cultureconnectinc.org
P: 404-292-8457 x4

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