

# Mentoring Matters

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Editor's Note: This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about the StrengthBuilding Partners Mentoring Program. This program at Johnson Primary, Lawrence Intermediate and Hohokam Middle Schools is being funded (in part) by the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families through a grant provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Title IV Program through the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

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## StrengthBuilding Partners Receives New Grant Award from Governor's Office

We are excited to announce that StrengthBuilding Partners has been awarded a \$149,284 grant from the Arizona Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families to continue and enhance the mentoring program that you have helped to make so successful. Funding may be renewed for up to three years.

StrengthBuilding Partners was one of only five award recipients out of 27 applicants. We have received very positive feedback and support from the Governor's Office. This new grant enables us to continue the program and expand the number of mentors and mentees to 100 matched pairs by the end of this school year. We also will be writing a StrengthBuilding Mentoring Program manual that describes how this program was created and is managed so others can learn from our experience.

With the new grant, we will expand the mentoring program to include a pilot component that will pair Hohokam Middle School students (primarily eighth graders) with a mentor who will spend time with the mentee off- site. This off-site pilot has been discussed with Mildred Manuel, Program Coordinator for K-12 of the Tribe. We anticipate paving the way for the mentoring program to expand into Cholla High School in a developmentally appropriate way.

We received a letter from Governor Napolitano that states, "Your efforts have a profound impact on our ability to meet the needs of youth in Pima County and improve the lives of many

Arizonans...Your work serves as a model for your peers, and exemplifies the values that are the cornerstone of Arizona.”

Thanks to all of you for your participation and support that make these achievements possible.

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## Starting the New School Year with Your Mentee

### **Mentor to Mentor**

“Your mentee expects to see you every week. If you find you’re having a difficult time getting away from work, you can talk to your supervisor, or have Marie talk with your supervisor, about how important it is to show up.”

Gloria Altamirano

“The transition from Lawrence to Hohokam can be challenging for both the mentee and the mentor. The pace is much faster, and Hohokam is very different from Lawrence. Even though both you and your mentee are figuring out how to be comfortable in the new setting, remember that your mentee needs you even more at this time.”

Diane Anthony

### **Ask Pam**

*Dear Pam,*

*Last year was a difficult year for me and I was very busy at my job. I am embarrassed to admit that I really did not visit my mentee very often. I did recommit for this year but I have been having second thoughts...maybe I should leave the program and let him have a new mentor. What do you think?*

*A mentor*

Dear Mentor,

Do you want to continue to be a mentor? Did you have a relationship with your mentee? Do you care about him and do you suspect or know that he cares about you?

If you answered yes to these questions, I would suggest that you continue being a mentor. Once you have established a relationship with your mentee, he looks forward to seeing you. He feels special because you care. Certainly we would like for you to see your mentee every week but we also know that sometimes life gets in the way. But if you care about each other, it’s important to your mentee to still have you as a mentor.

So, if you can sincerely commit to being present this year, if you can make every effort to be there as close to once per week as possible, please, please, please continue to be a mentor. Both you and your mentee will feel so much better because you did.

One more thing, when you see your mentee, tell him what was going on for you last year (even if you have already told him). Tell him that you really do want to be his mentor and would like a second chance with him. Ask him if he wants you to continue coming to see him. My bet is that he will say yes! When he does, don't make any promises (work may again get in the way sometimes), but tell him you look forward to seeing him and you will try your best to visit him every week.

Arrange a way to communicate with him if you are unable to visit. You can call the Mentoring Program staff to let them know that you can't be there and they will tell him, you could call him at home the night before and reschedule with him. Don't leave him suspecting the worst—communicate.

Thank you for truly caring and wanting to be your best for your mentee.

Pam

### **StrengthBuilding Tip**

The new school year is underway and so, hopefully, are your visits to see your mentee. Summers come in all shapes and sizes for everyone, especially for children. I once knew a young boy who grew 6 inches over the summer (no kidding!) and another child whose parents split up halfway through the summer. You have a relationship with your mentee and she is looking forward to seeing you, but her life (and she) may have changed a lot over the summer.

Take some time during these opening weeks of school to become reacquainted with your mentee. Use the program "at Site" camera located with the games to take a new picture of you and your mentee like you did when you first met; take the time to know who your mentee is now; be open to learning who she is and what her strengths are now. The year will flow easily when you are able to share your experiences and changes together without expectations or judgments.

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### **News from the Partnership Team**

Welcome to our new staff member, Rosa Soto, Mentoring Aide. The new grant included funding for a part-time Mentoring Aide, and Rosa was hired to fill the position. Rosa most recently worked for the Tribe, first as an accounts payable specialist, and then as a fixed asset accountant and general insurance analyst. She is fluent in English and Spanish and holds an Associate's degree in Business & Accounting. Rosa has been a mentor since April of 2003, and was looking for a position where she could use the skills she has acquired through the program. We are delighted to add Rosa's strengths to the SBP team.

On June 16 and 17, Marie Stickford and Pat Trainor distributed Mentoring Program information at the Yoemia Nau Yahame Conference at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde.

In August, we met with Hector Youtsey, General Manager of KPYT-LP, the new low frequency radio station that serves the Tribe. Hector and his staff have been very supportive, running

public service announcements to help recruit our new staff member and to recruit additional mentors. Keep listening to 100.3 FM for additional information on our program.

The summer was busy with recruiting, particularly for the Boys & Girls Club component of the Mentoring Program. Recent developments have required a new source of funding to continue to have mentors meet with their mentees at the PYT Boys & Girls Club. We will keep you informed on the status of this part of the program.

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## Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 7, 2 p.m.	Partnership Team Meeting at Lawrence
Thursday, September 8, lunch time	Meet Your Mentor Party at Johnson
Monday, September 12, lunch time	Meet Your Mentor Party at Hohokam
Thursday, September 15, lunch time	Meet Your Mentor Party at Lawrence
Friday, October 14	TUSD Grading Day
Friday, November 11	Veteran's Day
November 24, 25	Thanksgiving Recess
Wednesday, December 7, lunch time	Lawrence Game Day and Holiday Gift Exchange
Thursday, December 8, lunch time	Johnson Game Day and Holiday Gift Exchange
Monday, December 12, lunch time	Hohokam Game Day and Holiday Gift Exchange
December 19 – January 1	Winter Vacation

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## Meet the Mentors

**Gloria Altamirano** just started her second year as a mentor. Now the Office Manager at Lawrence Intermediate School, she first worked at Lawrence as a playground monitor 25 years ago when the school was located on Mark Road. Before starting to work in TUSD in 1987, Gloria was a supervisor at a private school with a single classroom for 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Gloria has lived in Tucson her whole life and attended Pueblo High School. When she went back to Pima Community College after being out of school for 20 years, she made the Dean's List! This is quite an accomplishment for the mother of seven children who now range in age

from 16 to 35. Gloria is married, and her husband also works for TUSD. Their life is full with family activities, including softball and fishing, and spending time with 14 grandchildren.

**Diane Anthony** returned to Tucson in 2002 and began working as a nutritionist with the PYT Health Department. Currently, she provides one-on-one counseling and makes presentations for the Diabetes Prevention Program. She is a mentor because she believes that every child can achieve his or her potential, and she wants to help her mentee see what that potential is.

Diane and her six sisters and three brothers lived all over the southwest, including both the Navajo and Apache reservations. After receiving her degree in Dietetics from the University of Wyoming, her first job was in Bullhead City. She also lived in Europe for six years while raising her family. She has two sons who live out of state, a daughter in Tucson, three grandchildren and a fourth on the way. She still enjoys traveling, as well as camping and hiking.

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## How You Can Help

Please continue to encourage your friends and co-workers to contact Marie Stickford at **404-6275** for more information or an application to become a mentor. Marie is also available to make a presentation or home visit to talk about how to become a mentor. Call Pat Trainor with mentee referrals at 481-5760.

We also welcome your submissions of stories about the mentor/mentee relationship and ideas for activities for publication in this newsletter. Please send your articles or comments to Marie at [maries@strengthbuilding.org](mailto:maries@strengthbuilding.org).