

News Release

Contact: Nancy Thorman Dahl
612-370-9169 Direct
612-370-9180 General
nancyt@mentoringworks.org



ANGEL OF MENTORING AWARDS

(Minneapolis, MN September 2, 2004) The Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota announces the recipients for its third annual Angel of Mentoring Awards. The honors, to be presented to individuals and organizations that embody the best in mentoring in Minnesota, will occur at the Minnesota Mentoring Conference, University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center, on September 21, 2004 during a special ceremony from 1:00 – 2:00 pm.

Winners exemplify a commitment to ensuring more children have caring adult mentors in their lives, and exhibit creativity, tenacity and an entrepreneurial spirit in engaging others. They go above and beyond the call of duty to guarantee that others succeed, look out for the broader interests of the mentoring community, and give back unselfishly for the greater good. Honorees also exhibit a concerted and sustained effort to provide quality mentoring experiences by adhering to programmatic standards that meet effective mentoring practices.

“Each of us has a role in raising healthy, educated children. Our winners’ stories illustrate the many roles needed to keep the mentoring movement moving forward,” remarks Joellen Gonder-Spacek, executive director, Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota. “Today there are 450,000 Minnesota children in need of a mentor. That number grows each day. You can improve the well-being of youth and discover the return on investment mentoring has for our society at the Minnesota Mentor Conference.”

Awards are given out in four categories: Individual, Twin Cities-based Mentoring Organization, Greater Minnesota Mentoring Organization and Workplace. **The ceremony will honor five recipients:**

- Angela Bailey for her commitment and tenacity of being a Big Sister for eight years while representing youth as a public defender in Hennepin County
- Mark Bailey, an inspiration and role model for us all, is a father and director at General Mills, and still finds time to mentor
- **Creatives for Causes and its Art Buddies program, a mentoring program that uses the power of creativity and imagination to mentor children from low-income families**
- Kinship Partners, a community-based, faith-oriented mentoring program serving Crow Wing county youth
- Best Buy, a corporation with a big heart that makes mentoring convenient for its employees

Minnesota is a leader in the Mentoring Movement. It is because of the innovative and quality work of many individuals, workplaces, and organizations that contributes to this success, and deserves to be recognized. In fact, past recognition as an Angel of Mentoring included a trip Washington, D.C. for the 2003 individual award-recipient who was invited to President Bush’s 2004 State of the Union address to honor his commitment to mentoring.

The Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota is the driving force in the mentoring movement. Our efforts translate into more caring adults mentoring a generation of children and youth at every level of our community. Celebrating 10 years of growing the mentoring movement. .

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