

PARTNER PAGES

SPRING 2013
WCPARTNERS.ORG

NEWS & NOTES FROM
WINDSOR COUNTY PARTNERS: MENTORS FOR YOUTH



Senior partner Jeff Page of Windsor and junior partner Francis, a Quechee resident, practice their archery skills.

On Target: Male Mentors

Jeff Page of Windsor and Francis, a Quechee resident, share what dozens of young people in Windsor County are hoping for: a mentor/mentee relationship based on mutual respect, common interests and fun. However, with a lengthy wait list and shortage of adult volunteers, particularly among males, Windsor County Partners (WCP) is struggling to meet the need.

Among those on WCP's extensive wait list is Francis' brother.

"My little brother is dying to get a mentor," said Francis, whose mother suggested the

program to him after the loss of his father and several moves shook their family.

In addition to the obvious good times Jeff and Francis share — archery, sledding, library and bookstore visits, movie nights, rock-climbing, hiking and swimming — Francis cites one important thing that having a positive male role model in his life has given him: "Trust."

"I try to be really consistent and make sure that we stick to our plans," said Jeff, a former coach who discovered WCP when he

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Thank You!

Windsor County Partners relies on the support of our community to sustain our programs. We couldn't do this important work without the help of businesses, organizations and private individuals. Thank you to our donors for their ongoing support that enables us to make a difference in the lives of so many young people.



Recent Donors:

Thank you to the Upper Valley Food Co-op for choosing WCP as its community partner in January.

Thank you to the following businesses for sponsoring a newspaper ad during National Mentoring Month in January:

- Unicorn, Woodstock
- Merchants Bank
- White River Yarns, White River Jct.
- Dan & Whit's, Norwich
- Hartford Pizza
- Mascoma Savings Bank
- Ledyard National Bank
- Kinney Pike Insurance
- F. H. Gillingham & Sons, Woodstock
- Woodstock Farmer's Market

Last but not least, thank you to the voters in 18 towns who approved \$18,850 in funds to be allocated to WCP.



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WCPARTNERS.ORG

OUR MISSION

WINDSOR COUNTY PARTNERS' MISSION IS THAT, THROUGH MENTORING, WINDSOR COUNTY YOUTH WILL REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL AS HEALTHY, RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKERS.

CONTACT US

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Partner Point of View

Dick's Story : Businessman Turned Mentor

Enjoy this first-person account from a longtime WCP mentor, Dick.

“ This is the story of our partnership, which began almost two years ago. I didn't think it would work at all after our first meeting together. He was a wild eighth-grader, graduating into high school, and I am a retired businessman.

His mom's love for him convinced me to give it a try. My, how it worked!

He loves to bake and wants to make that his career. So that's what we do, each week in the wintertime, after school. You name it, and we have probably baked it! We tend to go for German recipes since we have that heritage in common. In fact, he was getting ahead of me with his German language schooling so I had to take a course to keep up.

While things are cooking, we watch wholesome/classic movies like "Casablanca," "Of Mice and Men," "To Kill a Mocking Bird" and Agatha Christie mysteries. It takes a while for my [junior] partner to get interested in black-and-white movies

produced long before he was born. And it takes me a while to buy into some of his musical tastes. Now, after introducing me to "Gangnam Style" video, he has full command of the radio. (I still control the volume.)

In the summertime, we go swimming and canoeing. I hadn't gone swimming for years or rolled a canoe over since Boy Scouts!

So what's the bottom line for this longtime businessman? I'm having a ball, and my [junior] partner likes it also. What motivated me to become a mentor? I was given a lot in my youth. The immediate reward for me is real youthful fun, but there is also a good feeling that maybe I'm helping my partner become a good young man.

Seeing "The Hobbit" together is my partner's biggest unanticipated reward. (Maybe he also enjoyed answering my many questions about the movie.)

The only challenge, according to him, is that we keep running out of time. If he could tell someone one thing about our mentoring relationship, his answer would be 'awesome!' — and that would be mine also."



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WELCOME, NEW MENTORS AND MENTEES! CAROLE CANFIELD AND TORY, CHING-WEN TAYLOR AND CADE, MELANIE MATULONIS AND TIANA

**CONGRATULATIONS TO BRUCE SAHLER AND HIS JUNIOR PARTNER, KYLE!
APRIL 2013 MARKS 7 YEARS TOGETHER!**

Mentors sought to fill WCP wait list

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was looking for a volunteer opportunity that offered "a way to connect."

"All through raising my kids, I had coached," he said. "I came into contact with a lot of kids through these programs. It was sad to me — shocking — to see the number of kids fall off the path."

Jeff credits the duo's success as a match to WCP's process of evaluating new partners, guided by Executive Director Kathy Kinter, and offers the following advice to prospective mentors: "You definitely have to have time and energy. It makes it easier to find [your] rhythm."

Francis also has some valuable ad-

vice, for both mentors and mentees: "Have a notebook and pencil, because you really want to [record] those memories."

Well said.

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Windsor County Partners' **PALS** program matches adult mentors with youth ages 8 to 17 for two hours of bonding each week. In addition to PALS, WCP sponsors a **Let's Do Lunch** program in Springfield, which pairs volunteers with students (ages 5 to 17) for one hour a week for the duration of the school year.

For more information about becoming a mentor, or other ways to support WCP, email info@wcpartners.org or call 802.674.5101.

WCP Needs

adult mentors • board and committee members • discounts on goods and services from area businesses, for use in partner activities • donations • community education opportunities, such as WCP presentations to local clubs and organizations*

*Windsor County Partners recently made presentations to the **Woodstock Rotary** and **Springfield Lions Club**. For more information about a presentation, or to make a donation to WCP, call Executive Director Kathy Kinter at 802.674.5101.