



Resource Toolkit created by:

## 2009 Delta Leadership Institute

### **Additional resources:**

**America's Promise -- The Alliance for Youth**

Internet: [www.americaspromise.org](http://www.americaspromise.org)

**AmeriCorps**

Internet: [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org)

**Boys & Girls Clubs of America**

Internet: [www.bgca.org](http://www.bgca.org)

**Corporation for National Service**

Internet: [www.nationalservice.org](http://www.nationalservice.org)

**Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse (JJC)**

Internet: [www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org)

**Mentoring**

Internet: [www.mentoring.org](http://www.mentoring.org)

**National Crime Prevention Council**

Internet: [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)

**Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)**

Internet: [www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org)

**Save the Children**

Internet: [www.savethechildren.org/mentors](http://www.savethechildren.org/mentors)

**YMCA of the USA**

Internet: [www.ymca.net](http://www.ymca.net)



**From left to right:**

Bobby Goode, Union City, TN

Steve Halter, Poplar Bluff, MO

Helenor Bell, Hayneville, AL

Fairy Armstrong, Brinkley, AR

Martine Jackson, Carbondale, IL

Stephanie Rankins, Montgomery, AL

Rick Harlow, Memphis, TN

## PEER MENTORING



The Delta Regional Authority works to improve life for the residents of the 252 Counties and parishes in parts of eight states. The Mississippi Delta Region is the most economically distressed area in the United States. The DRA is working to turn this around through promoting programs (such as Peer Mentoring) that improve the education of our youth.

This brochure is designed for school systems in the Delta Region as a Resource Toolkit to help implement a Peer Mentoring Program within their school system. Although this brochure is not meant to be all inclusive, it should serve as a good starting point.

## Why Mentor?

Statistics show that one-third of teens and 20% of younger children lack quality relationships with their parents. As of 2000 an estimated 13.5 million single parents had custody of 21.7 million children under 21 years of age whose other parent lived somewhere else. ([www.americaspromise.org](http://www.americaspromise.org), [www.parentswithoutpartners.org](http://www.parentswithoutpartners.org))

Peer programs of all kinds are increasing in both school and community settings across the United States, offering new opportunities for young people to be engaged in meaningful service to others. This trend is particularly apparent in the field of mentoring. In an interview for the National Mentoring Center Bulletin (July 2005), Dr. Michael Karcher speculated that "within a decade, cross-age peer mentoring will constitute half of all mentoring matches in the country", a comment that is supported by examples from the field. In 2003, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America reported that high school Bigs made up over one-third of the total number of BBBS matches, and that number is increasing annually.

The growing popularity of these programs can be attributed to a number of factors, including:

-An increased national emphasis on community service and volunteerism by young people.

-The emergence of positive youth development as a significant set of principles in working with at-risk youth.

-An increased need for support in schools to overcome youth violence, negative peer pressure, educational failure, and other problems.

**Source: U.S. Department of Education- Mentoring Resource Center, #7, December 2005**

## Resources to help start a Mentoring Program

### U.S Department of Education Mentoring Resource Center (MRC)

The MRC has been created to provide United States Department of Education Mentoring Program grantees with training, technical assistance, publications, research, and consultation, all in an effort to help their program staff design and implement the highest quality mentoring programs. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, the MRC is a collaborative effort between EMT Associates, located in Folsom, CA, and the National Mentoring Center, located in Portland, OR. Both organizations have extensive experience in providing guidance, learning opportunities, and informational support to youth mentoring efforts. These organizations are excited to join forces in an effort to help U.S. Department of Education grantees work towards both their long-term goals and the specific goals of their Mentoring Program grant.



For more information:

[www.edmentoring.org](http://www.edmentoring.org)



**Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest, largest and most effective youth mentoring organization in the United States.** They have been the leader in one-to-one youth service for more than a century, developing positive relationships that have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of young people. Big Brothers Big Sisters mentors children, ages 6 through 18, in communities across the country - including yours.

**The Big Brothers Big Sisters Mission** is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships with mentors that have a measurable impact on youth.

**The Big Brothers Big Sisters Vision** is successful mentoring relationships for all children who need and want them, contributing to brighter futures, better schools, and stronger communities for all.

#### **Our Mentoring Programs Work**

National research has shown that positive relationships between youth and their Big Brothers and Big Sisters mentors have a direct and measurable impact on children's lives. By participating in their youth mentoring programs, Little Brothers and Sisters are:

- More confident in their schoolwork performance
- Able to get along better with their families
- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol
- 52% less likely to skip school.

For more information:

[www.bbbsa.org](http://www.bbbsa.org)