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## THIS IS HISTORIC MONTH.

**What action will you take that you might remember 20 years from now as something that began during this month?**

Barack Obama will become President of the United States on January 20.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is being celebrated today, January 19, with a national day of service.  
<http://www.mlkday.gov/>

And, January is National Mentoring Month! January 22 is Thank your Mentor Day!  
<http://nationalmentoringmonth.org/>

**How can we celebrate these events, and turn them into learning and inspiration at the same time.**

- 01/** Volunteers and students in tutor/mentor programs throughout the country can EACH submit a story for “Thank Your Mentor Day”- This can be a research, writing and learning activity in tutor/mentor programs. Volunteers can assist the student with not only carefully thinking about someone who has been inspirational in their life, but can show the student how to use the Internet to share that story with others.

Learn more at [http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/chc/wmy2009/Thank\\_Them/intro.html](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/chc/wmy2009/Thank_Them/intro.html)

- 02/** Work with Cabrini Connections and the Tutor/Mentor Connection to create thousands of blog stories about mentoring, and about HOPE, during the week of Jan. 16 . You can write stories on Facebook, Linked In, or on your own organizational blogs. At <http://tutormentorconnection.ning.com> and on the T/MC site we’re trying to build a master list of blogs focused on mentoring, tutoring, volunteering and service. If you have your own blog, or networking place, tell your story there, with a link back to our blogs. Connect the stories. Create more visibility for tutoring/mentoring.

Read more about this idea at <http://tutormentor.blogspot.com/2009/01/there-will-be-millions-of-people-trying.html>

- 03/** Participate in policy making - visit the Obama Urban Policy site with your student and vote on the suggestion that have been made, or add your own.

Learn more at <http://obamaurbanpolicy.obamacto.org/pages/general/suggestions>

## New Research articles of interest

### Succeeding With, or In Spite of Evidence-Based Practices.

A very interesting and, in my estimation, insightful article on evidence-based practice.

<http://www.blueavocado.org/node/265>

### Succeeding With, or In Spite of Evidence-Based Practices.

This article by Richard Rothstein claims that public policy focused narrowly at test scores is flawed and also shows how kids in high poverty neighborhoods need a range of non-school supports to succeed in school and move to jobs.

<http://tinyurl.com/6qweuk>

### 10 things we’d like to tell a philanthropist.

Read all 10 suggestions at the following site.

<http://www.svpseattle.org/news-resources/svp-1/archive/2008/03/17/10-things-we>

### Youth Mentoring ListServ.

Youth Mentoring ListServ formed in Fall 2008. Join in discussions of youth mentoring with some of the leading mentoring researchers and evaluators from around the country. This discussion group is hosted by David Dubois, Associate Professor in the Division of Community Health Sciences within the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

[http://www.mentoring.org/take\\_action/faces\\_of\\_mentoring/dr\\_david\\_dubois/](http://www.mentoring.org/take_action/faces_of_mentoring/dr_david_dubois/)

If you’d like to subscribe to this on-line forum, email David. ➔ [dldubois@uic.edu](mailto:dldubois@uic.edu)

**Support your discussions and engagement with a library of knowledge hosted on the Tutor/Mentor Connection web site:**

**Visit <http://www.tutormentorexchange.net/definition-of-issues.html> to see how the T/MC organizes this information. Add your own links and submit articles to the <http://www.tutormentorconnection.org> site.**

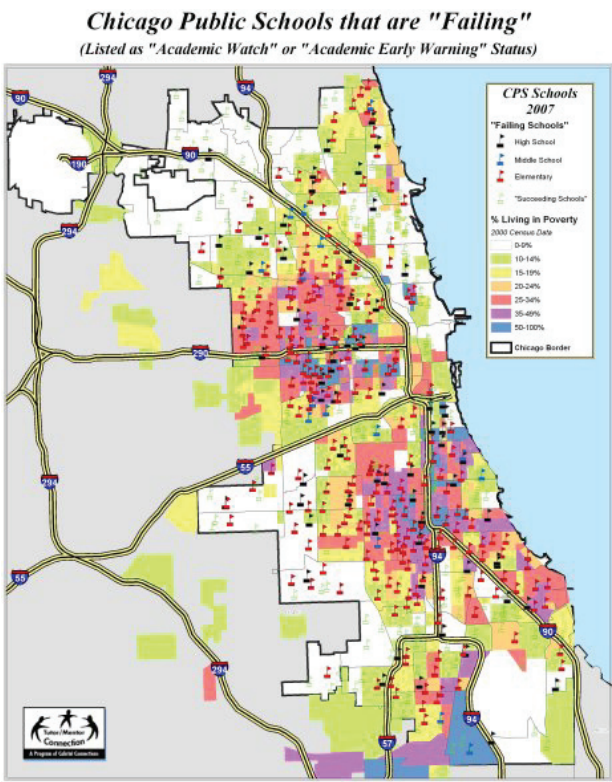
# January events draw attention to mentoring and volunteer service.

These On-Line Volunteer Volunteer and Program Search Resources can help tutor/mentor programs attract volunteers and donors to support the on-going engagement of volunteers with youth. Are you listed in these volunteer search engines?

Links on the right side are web sites where you can post a volunteer opportunity, and information about your organization. As leaders evangelize the need to support programs helping kids, ending poverty, or improving education outcomes, people will search these sites, by zip code to locate places to be involved. If you do not have listings in each site, you will miss these opportunities. These are no-costs ways to attract volunteers and donors.

- Network for Good | <http://www.networkforgood.org>
- ServeNet | <http://www.serve.net.org>
- VolunteerMatch | <http://www.volunteermatch.org>
- ChicagoVolunteer.net | <http://www.chicagovolunteer.net>
- Idealist | <http://www.idealists.org>
- Women on Call | <http://www.womenoncall.org>
- Chicago Tutoring and/or Mentoring Program Links | <http://tinyurl.com/2k227y>

Visit the LINKS Library at <http://www.tutormentorconnection.org> to find additional resources for building and sustaining volunteer-based tutoring, mentoring, education to career and service learning programs.



This map is one of many you can find at <http://mappingforjustice.blogspot.com>

The Tutor/Mentor Connection's mapping strategy is illustrated at <http://www.tutormentorexchange.net/mapping-the-programs.html>

## Maps can be used to help connect volunteers and donors with tutor/mentor programs in all parts of Chicago. Similar maps can have the same impact in other cities.

This map shows where poverty is concentrated in Chicago, and also shows the distribution of Catholic Churches in the Chicago area. As public leaders like President Obama call the nation to service and sacrifice, these maps are intended to help individual organizations become engaged in multiple locations where they are needed, not just brand name organizations with high public visibility.

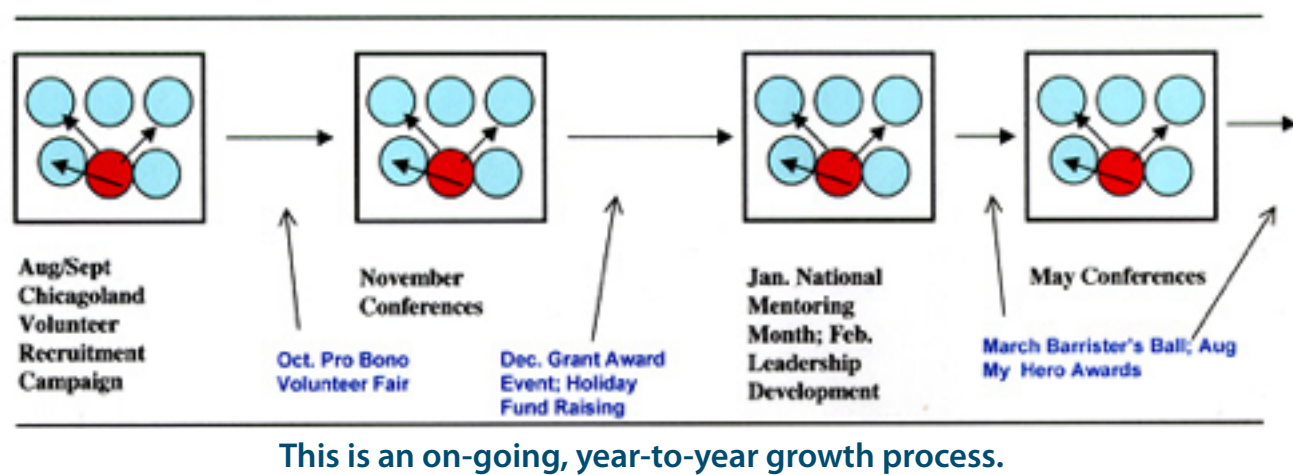
The resources in the T/MC library provide learning resources so potential volunteers and donors can expand their own understanding of where they are needed, and why volunteer-involvement in tutor/mentor programs is important. They can also build an understanding of ways to support the on-going operations of non profits helping kids in multiple locations.

While this information is available everyday, the T/MC hosts a May and November leadership conference in Chicago to draw people together, and raise visibility for tutor/mentor programs. At <http://www.tutormentorconference.org> you can learn about the conferences and become involved in the planning so that these have more benefit to you and your own organization. If you're in another city, and holding your own conference, we encourage you to connect around the same goals, and to link your speakers and volunteers via on-line forums such as <http://tutormentorconnection.ning.com>.

On the conference site you can see the agenda and list of speakers, and find an attendee list which you can use to contact and network with participants in the months between this conference and the next one in May 2009. <http://www.tutormentorconference.org/ArchiveRegistrationList/>.

Since other conferences on mentoring, service-learning and volunteerism are taking place throughout the country at different times each year we encourage you to post information about your own events in the Links Library at <http://www.tutormentorconnection.org> as Friends for Youth has done at <http://tinyurl.com/9z4b6o>.

# President's Report - the PUSH and PULL of Idea Sharing and Influence Networking



We will have a new President by the time most of you read this newsletter. HOPE abounds.

I have received numerous invitations to contribute ideas on blogs and on forums like Change.gov which claim that my voice will be heard by the new administration. I think this is great. I wrote about this on a recent blog article at <http://tutormentor.blogspot.com/2009/01/give-your-ideas-to-new-administration.html>. I encourage you to use these sites to share your own ideas and to vote for those ideas which you feel are important. This is a fantastic use of the internet.

However, how does one idea from you, or me, stand out in a crowd of millions of citizens. How do we get to be heard when others are spending millions of dollars to get the attention of the new administration? How do we share complex ideas in sound bytes?

We don't. One of the sections of the Tutor/Mentor Connection library focuses on ways to manage knowledge and innovate new solutions to old problems. If you don't bookmark any other section on the T/MC site, I encourage you to bookmark this section and browse the links and articles regularly. The link is <http://tinyurl.com/8xss4s>.

This section of the Links Library is just one set of web sites that I encourage you to browse and incorporate in your own thinking and strategies for helping kids in poverty move through school and into 21st century jobs. We've created graphics like this planning calendar and posted them on a section we call Tutor/Mentor Institute for several years. Hopefully, some of you found those. However, the web page hosting those ideas was pretty difficult to look at. Thus, we've created an new web site to share our ideas which you can view at <http://www.tutormentorexchange.net>.

## What does this have to do with President Obama and getting attention for your ideas?

Today millions of citizens are doing a day of Service. President Obama and Vice President Biden are among them. However, solving complex problems requires consistent effort from many people and many resources over many years. The calendar above shows how we stimulate this on-going process each year with key events that we organize, or that we help other people, such as the Lawyers Lend A Hand to Youth (<http://www.lawyerslendahand.net>) organize. If enough of us collaborate on similar events at key times each year, we can help youth organizations get volunteers as school starts in August, and get donations as people are more generous in December. In May we can use maps to show where tutor/mentor programs already operate and to encourage potential partners in each part of Chicago to help support these programs, or to help new programs grow where more are needed. We can point to web hubs such as <http://www.tutormentorconnection.org> where links connect our ideas and our organizations. When any of us have the public spotlight, we only need to point to these hubs, to be supporting the work of the entire network. This will lead to 365 days of service supporting youth in high poverty neighborhoods all over the country.

I am constantly learning from the ideas of others. The links on all of these web sites represents just some of the places where I've found interesting information, and which I'm sharing with anyone who visits our sites. One link that I hope you're read is one focused on "web evangelism". <http://www.internetevangelismday.com/medium.php>

This article shows how organizations can use their web sites to share complex ideas, because a web site PULLS people to it who are already interested in what is on the site. As I'm writing to you, I'm also writing thank you letters to people who made donations to our Cabrini Connections, Tutor/Mentor Connection Holiday Fund. In each letter I'm saying "I hope Obama and his advisors find the T/MC web sites and use the ideas in their own leadership."

If you use a blog, web site, or other on-line forum to share your ideas, your strategy, your own vision for America, you have chance that your site will be discovered, and will become the beacon, that others, including the President, follow for bringing HOPE to disadvantaged people in America, and in the world.

We'll be writing blog articles this week to expand on these ideas. I encourage you to read this invitation to blog with us: <http://tutormentor.blogspot.com/2009/01/messages-to-president-elect-obama.html>

Please consider this newsletter and invitation for you, and people in your network, to connect with the Tutor/Mentor Connection in strategies that help you maximize your own efforts to help kids in Chicago and other cities move through school and into jobs and careers.

If you would like to know more email [tutormentor2@earthlink.net](mailto:tutormentor2@earthlink.net) or call 312-492-9614.

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