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## The Power of Positive Human Relationships

Dear Friends,

Caring and compassion are the core values of human services. Volunteers who care and who choose to give of their time, talent, and treasure to serve and support others in realizing their potential is central to the work of Community Family Life Services. **Personal growth and transformation happens through the power of positive human relationships.** The significance of being with another person, seeing their strengths, affirming the possibility for their highest good, and communicating this is magnificent.

Through a positive relationship with a caring mentor, individuals and families are able to connect to their personal power and are then able to realize their positive attributes and abilities. This is the heart of human services...supporting others to live their best lives!

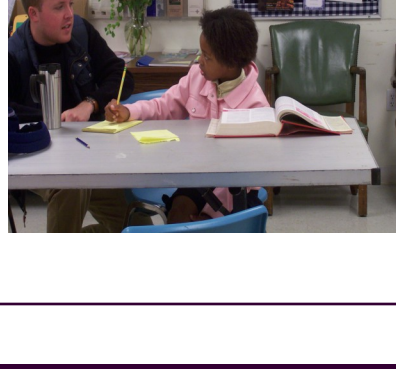
At Community Family Life Services, our *Volunteer Mentoring Programs* for children in the foster care system and our *Family-to-Family Mentoring* for families who are living in under resourced communities offers mentors the opportunity to make a profound difference in the lives of others. Our trained mentors are in relationship with children and families and create extraordinary opportunities by offering a listening ear, encouragement, or having an authentic and powerful conversation that allows a child or a family to transcend challenges that they are experiencing. This in turn helps the mentees see themselves in a new light and ultimately experience success and mastery.

I thank you all for your ongoing support and I invite you to learn more about the power of positive human relationships through mentoring in this issue of CFLS' Community Call.

In Service,

*Claudia*

Claudia Thorne  
Executive Director



## CFLS Success Story: Family-to-Family Mentoring Program

*"I have spent much of my adult life being a parent and now grandparent, and I care more about this than anything except my faith - of which I consider taking care of people a large part. I have always been eager to help those who have "less" and who need and want help so I promoted the tutoring of children in transitional housing for nearly 30 years. After that effort had to end, I still wanted to be involved as a friend and resource for families trying to get out of homelessness, and the mentoring program at CFLS is exactly the right vehicle for this. It allows me to make much deeper contact with one (or two) families and to contribute what I can in the way of experience and talent and resources on behalf of the betterment of an entire family. I want to share my knowledge and abilities and resources, and I much prefer to get to know personally the people for whom I do this. I will continue this for as long as I am able. Thank you to CFLS and its great staff."*

- Christine de Fontenay, mentor

These encouraging words, directly from a mentor, say more than a book on mentoring...

The Family-to-Family Mentoring Program is a valuable resource for families living in under resourced communities or who are receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Family-to-Family provides positive mentors as role models to support and strengthen family relationships and empower families to realize their own potential for success. The mentor (or mentor family) will lead by example as she/he helps the mentee family to embrace the tools and skills needed to become self-sufficient.

Mentors meet with the mentee family on a regular, bi-weekly basis. Consistency and reliability are vital to establishing trust with the mentee family. Setting and keeping regular meetings with your mentee family establishes a standard of respect and reliability for your mentee family. Mentors are matched with a family of similar interests and hobbies.

Support and resources for mentors are available.

This is a "fun" program focused on caring for and supporting the mentee family. The mentor sees the family as whole and not needing to be fixed. As a result, the family responds in kind. However, a case manager is available to provide support to the family to address deeper service needs and more serious challenges that the family may be experiencing.

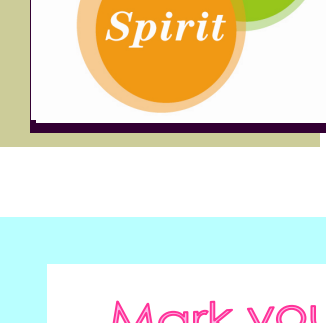
Families experiencing challenges are excited to know that people are willing to join them on their life journey for a while. We need your willingness to answer their call for support and engagement.

If you would like to get involved or receive more information, please contact Gabriele Tibbs at 202-409-7496, or e-mail to [gtime44@comcast.net](mailto:gtime44@comcast.net).

Thank you.



**"It allows me to make much deeper contact with one (or two) families and to contribute what I can in the way of experience and talent and resources on behalf of the betterment of an entire family."**



### Mark your Calendars

Dear Friends,  
CFLS would like to thank you for your time, talent and treasure. In appreciation, we invite you to celebrate at our 2010 summer

**Volunteer Appreciation Ice Cream Social**

Please join us for a delicious ice cream treat and a meet and greet!

When: Friday, July 30 2010  
Where: 305 E Street, NW  
Time: 3:00pm—6:00pm

Please RSVP by Tuesday, July 20  
Contact Kelly Barry at [kbarry@cflsdc.org](mailto:kbarry@cflsdc.org) or call (202) 347-0511 ext 415

### Social Media Connections

Dear Friends,

**CFLS is now on Facebook!**

Please become our Facebook fan.

If you like to "Tweet," follow us on Twitter.

Check out our YouTube video for a quick highlight of CFLS and inspirational success stories!

Be sure to pass it along to your friends!