



Mentor Tutor Connection
Helping students achieve their potential and thrive

2019 COMMUNITY REPORT



Mentor Tutor Connection

Helping students achieve their potential and thrive

Our Mission: To enhance academic and life skills for students through individualized volunteer tutoring and mentoring

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Celebrating Strong Communities and Bright Futures

By Executive Director Carol Olson and Board President Sally Chaves

On October 10, MTC celebrated 23 years of grassroots community building to create brighter futures for local students. The stories shared throughout the evening illustrated MTC's impact in our local public schools as tutors and mentors support students' academic, social, and emotional growth.

Christie Bruce, a teacher at Crittenden Middle School in Mountain View, shared that the academic support, guidance, and encouragement that MTC tutors provide is critical for the middle schoolers in her program, all who aspire to be the first in their families to go to college.

Next, Vicki, a local high school student, shared that she didn't know what to expect when she was first matched with her mentor, Andrea, but that she quickly felt at ease. Speaking directly to Andrea, she added, "You have guided me to believe that anything is possible if I put my mind and soul in it. I love every minute I spend with you!"

"It is a wonderful opportunity to 'be here now!' I get to help lighten the load."

-Andrea, Vicki's Mentor



Lastly, keynote speaker Rita Hitching described the role mentors serve during the critical period of brain development — the teen years. She explained the process as a sort of 'use it or lose it,' when connections are made across brain regions influenced by the environment the young person is in, the choices they make, and the experiences they have.

"A mentor is a form of scaffolding 'like a stake for a young tree' while it grows. The role of the mentor is indispensable during this critical period of brain development."

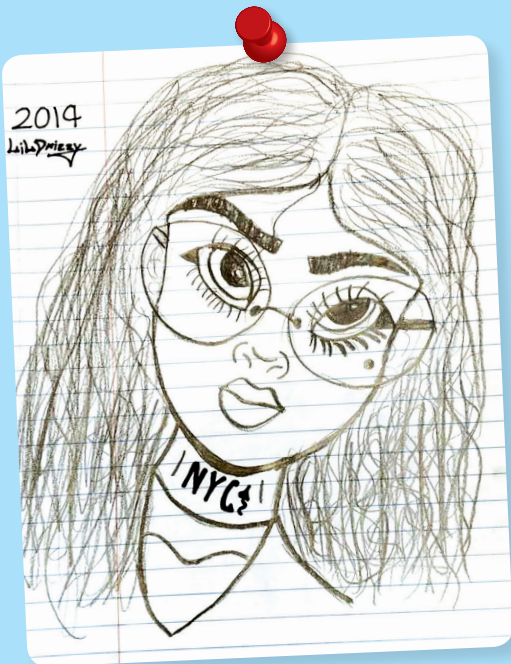
- Rita Hitching, TeenBrain.Info

The evening was filled with laughter and appreciation as we shared stories and celebrated MTC's network of support. Last year, MTC tutors spent over 2,300 hours with their students and mentors spent over 4,200 hours with their mentees. It is by spending time together- and the relationships that result- that makes this work meaningful and impactful. We are grateful to our supporters and volunteers who help us build brighter futures every day.

NEW TUTOR TRAINING LAUNCHED

In September, MTC launched our first **New Tutor Training (NTT)** to a group of 14 volunteers eager to begin tutoring students. Attendees of this inaugural training learned how to engage reluctant learners by giving students choices and adding levity to a potentially stressful learning situation. They learned that when students are hesitant, it may be that they feel far behind and are overwhelmed by their assignments. MTC tutors can then help students break down the problem, take a few steps back, and find small successes.

The presentation emphasized that just knowing someone cares about their progress can build the student's self-esteem and over time re-engage them in learning. Attendees were reminded that MTC staff is here to help, so please stay connected!



Top right: Kimble Smith. Photo by Jocelyn H. Saiki

Top left: By Graham Middle School 8th grader. "Portrait of Daniela Nagel, who wishes she was from NYC" Daniela Nagel is a Graham Middle School Staff member.

Bottom left: Drawing by Graham Middle School 8th grader



Connecting with Art

By Jocelyn H. Saiki

When systems engineer Kimble Smith started volunteering with Mentor Tutor Connection he relied on his love for math and science to help young students with their studies. However, this year as he returned to Graham Middle School as an MTC tutor, it's his love of art that provides a special connection to a talented 8th grader.

The student's teacher noticed drawings on all of his schoolwork, so she reached out to MTC for a tutor who could support not only the students math and science skills, but also encourage his passion for art. Kimble Smith, who also loved to draw as a kid, can relate. "We draw together," says Kimble, "and it helps." Kimble's love of art and his compassionate, kind demeanor made for a perfect match to support the young artist focus on his classwork.

In his weekly tutoring sessions, Kimble uses art to support learning in other areas of the curriculum. Together, Kimble and his student break down math problems with

visuals — to help make abstract math concepts tangible. For science, the student created several drawings to illustrate natural selection. "The scientific facts stick with him more because he uses his art," Kimble says.

The student's confidence has grown, and he now owns a sketchbook — courtesy of Kimble. Kimble understands that the path to learning for this student is directly through art, and he will continue using their shared love of art to make those academic connections throughout the school year. Kimble is an example of the hundreds of thoughtful volunteers who exemplify why "connection" is in our name.



Mentor Tutor Connection:

The Impact We've Achieved Together

5 YEAR CUMULATIVE
GRADUATION RATE

96%

OF MENTORED
SENIORS (118/123)



97%

OF MENTORED
SENIORS
GRADUATED
(28/29)

2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR

185

NUMBER OF
VOLUNTEERS

TUTORS: 84
MENTORS: 101



488

NUMBER OF
STUDENTS SERVED

TUTORED: 376
MENTORED: 112



Our volunteers are in
19 schools in the three
Districts in MV and LA
we serve:



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS: 12
MIDDLE SCHOOLS: 4
HIGH SCHOOLS: 3

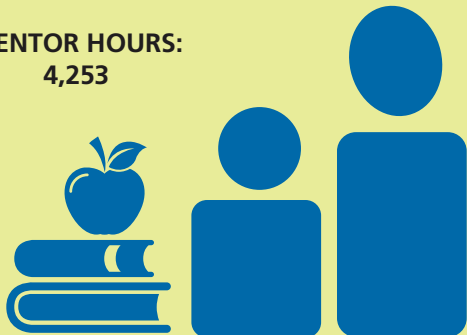


TUTOR HOURS:
2,385

6,638

ANNUAL HOURS
VOLUNTEERED
WITH STUDENTS*

MENTOR HOURS:
4,253



THE STUDENTS WE SERVE

AGE

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: 44%
MIDDLE SCHOOL: 33%
HIGH SCHOOL: 23%



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

ETHNICITY

ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER: 12%
HISPANIC: 83%
OTHER (CAUCASIAN,
AFRICAN AMERICAN, OTHER): 5%

PRIMARY LANGUAGE**

SPANISH: 73.5%
ENGLISH: 15%
OTHER: 11.5%



100% of our mentored students would recommend our program to a friend*

Honor Roll of Donors

JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

We appreciate our donors whose generous financial support funds our programs to help students achieve their potential and thrive!

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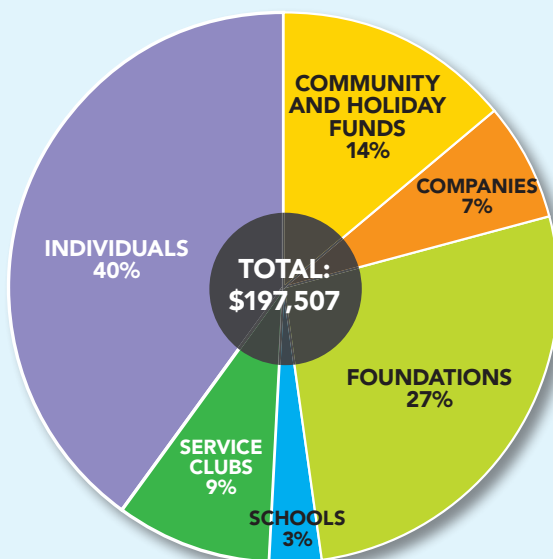
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