

## Champions of Mentoring

By: Dawn Capecci

### CFY has Grown

- 1989  
30 students
- 1999  
109 students
- 2007  
167 students

The drop-out rate in the Seattle Public School District is 29.2%.

98% of CFY's Program Participants stayed in school.

147 mentors participated, a 22% increase from the previous year.



When I first met Jennifer at the Chief Sealth Steps Ahead Launch course over 3 years ago she was a timid, shy girl who did everything in her power to go unnoticed. When we were matched, I was afraid of what our conversations would consist of - would she open up to me and actually talk? I was sure that I would have to be the one calling her each week to keep her committed and enthusiastic about the program.

I was SO wrong!

Jennifer calls me every week! Her enthusiasm for the program has kept me strong and engaged. If ever I get exhausted from long work hours or personal problems that interfere with my commitment to the program, she keeps me in check.

I look at her now and she is an active member of the Steps Beyond community and a key member in our family group, Evan's Eleven.

It has been so rewarding to be a part of her transformation. We are already talking about next year's program and how I can help with her

*(Continued on page 3)*

**It has been so rewarding to be a part of her transformation.**

## Staff

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Colby Wilk  
Program Director

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## Our Mission:

Community for Youth inspires and supports youth to identify and achieve their goals through mentoring, learning experiences, and participation in a powerful community.

## Dear Friends of Community for Youth,

Another school year is coming to a close. It has been a rewarding and satisfying year for us at Community for Youth in many ways thanks to your support, participation and generosity.

Our seniors are graduating from High School! This is a wonderful accomplishment and we are so very proud of them. The transformation that has occurred for many of them is amazing. As freshmen some of them seemed "shell-shocked" by life. Others were disengaged, tough, moody, brooding, and closed off to all communication and opportunity. Through the community and support in our programs, they have become confident, caring, engaged leaders who have a bright future ahead of them. They're off to 4-year colleges, community colleges and vocational schools next year.

We worked with 165 students this year and had 147 mentors supporting them. For the first time ever we were able to match all freshmen with their own mentor in two of our programs. We are grateful to our mentors who give so much of themselves and their time to this program. They are amazing individuals who make up an incredible community.

The board of directors has expanded this year and made good progress. The major goals of the board in 2007 were the Fourth Annual Wine Tasting and Dinner Auction and the development of our 5 year strategic plan. Both were ambitious endeavors and both were accomplished successfully. We will be focusing on strengthening and developing our infrastructure as we prepare to expand in the coming years.

To those of you who joined us at our wine tasting party, we appreciate your enthusiastic support and generosity. We are also grateful to the foundations who support our work. Thank you for believing in our programs and supporting our work. We appreciate your investment in our programs.

We will be gearing up for our mentor recruitment efforts in the coming weeks. Our goal is to enroll 90 new mentors in our programs. We will match them with the 90 new freshmen who will be accepted into our programs in the fall. Both prospective mentors and students are in for a treat. "One of the best experiences of my life", wrote a mentor. Please consider joining us!

Thank you for your support and for being a part of this community.

Warm regards,



Margy Bresslour

**It has been a rewarding and satisfying year at CFY.**

## Our friendship will last long beyond her years at Chief Sealth

*(Continued from page 1)*

Senior project. I can't wait to see her proudly get her diploma at graduation!

Our friendship will last long beyond her year's at Chief Sealth - I look forward to our future!

Jennifer and I were recently nominated for the "Champions of Mentoring" award. We were not sure what this entailed but it has turned out to be an amazing experience.



Lounge for the auction.

This was quite a show. One amazing "experience" after another was auctioned off and each item was purchased for over \$1000! The money raised will go directly to the Washington State Mentors Association to aide programs that mentor children in the state of Washington. Each of the "experiences" were awarded to a mentor/mentee team and I was anxiously waiting to see what Jennifer and I had won.

Finally the auctioneer says our names and then describes our prize - "Throw out first pitch and provide a catcher to Seattle Mariners home game during the 2007 regular season. Includes passes for four guests including pitcher and catcher on field and four box seat tickets to watch the game". This was the prize that Jennifer wanted to win!

The event was a great success and so much fun! Thank you CFY for nominating me and Jennifer. The Mariner's experience will surely be a once in a lifetime opportunity!

## Alki Bonfire By: Krista Rillo

Every May Community for Youth students and mentors head to Alki Beach for an evening of fun. The annual Alki Bonfire activities are a time for past and present students and mentors to play, eat, and enjoy each others' company. There are always a few exciting games of volleyball happening and you can pretty much guarantee that the football game between students

and mentors will entertain the crowds. For those who prefer a more relaxing time, there are plenty of chairs and beach blankets available. By 7pm, you can count on a roaring fire where all enjoy roasting hotdogs and snacking on s'mores. This is an event is loved by all.



## Thank you donors!

**Thanks to each of you who made a gift to Community for Youth during our 2006-2007 fiscal year. We are grateful for your support!**

### Gifts of \$5,000 and above

Anonymous  
Steve Boyd  
Jonathan Mark

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Brian Fung  
Sara Thompson & Richard Gelinias  
Chris & Carmella Gellos

"CfY became my motivation and inspiration to expect more from myself and reach beyond my goal."

-CfY Student

"I've gained a community to be a part of, skills to use in my life, and satisfaction from contributing to the lives of the incredible students in this program."

-CfY Mentor

Kevin Dennis Hamilton  
 Donald Hanika  
 Henry Happell III  
 Brandy Harmia  
 Nicholas Andrew Hawley  
 David Hawley  
 Anthony Cittadini & Brenda Heckathorn  
 Charles & Kristie Herrick  
 Michelle Hill  
 Roger & Judith Hillis  
 Heather Howard  
 Barbara K. Hunsinger  
 Richard Hunter  
 Damon Agnos & Katie Hurley  
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 Priscilla Fitzhugh & Kenneth Johnson  
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 Cindy Johnson  
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 Mary Trute  
 Nathan Edwards  
 Brooke Ingalls  
 Harold Pelton  
 Jennifer Morales  
 Lynn Morgan

I like how  
 they didn't  
 give up  
 on me  
 - CFY Student

Nicole Matthews  
 Ruby Buenavista  
 William Chang  
 Dr. Andrew Harris  
 George Hodges  
 Juan Miranda  
 Steven Mortenson  
 Mary Schleer  
 Rickie Byers  
 Kathleen Calderone  
 Patrick Chiu  
 Paul Golding  
 Laurene Honeyman  
 Kathleen Jones  
 Joseph Patterson  
 Roger Riffell  
 Dorothy Russell  
 Veronica Simental  
 Steven Strech

*We sincerely apologize for any omissions or mistakes in categorizing the amount of your contribution.*

## Wine Tasting held January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007

By Brian Neville

This past January, Community for Youth held the most successful fund raising event in our 20 year history! The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting and Auction brought more than twice the net proceeds than in 2006, raising nearly \$100,000 or fully 20% of the organization's annual operating budget. Even more importantly a



substantial number of our guests were first time attendees and this was their inaugural exposure to the amazing programs that Community for Youth conducts to improve the lives of Seattle area high school students and the mentors who work with them.

Among the highlights of the evening was the Rainier Beach HS drum group as most guests were sitting down to dinner – incredibly talented musicians from one of the three Seattle public schools our programs operate in. They got the crowd fired up and set the stage for enthusiastic bidding during the live auction portion of the evening.

We also heard moving testimony from several people most impacted by these remarkable programs, including Angela Luani, a mother of one of the students in the program. She was initially very skeptical, but as she witnessed profound and positive changes in her daughter she became convinced and is now one of Community for Youth's biggest advocates. In fact, her daughter Mersadies and her mentor Jen Newman were recognized earlier

this year by Governor Christine Gregoire as the Washington State Outstanding Mentor of the Year!

The success of this year's Wine Tasting and Auction was a direct result of our generous corporate sponsors (who's contributions covered all costs associated with the event so every dollar contributed by attendees went directly to the organization), the three Washington State wineries who donated wine for the event and were the signature of the Wine Tasting element of the evening, and the thousands of tireless volunteer hours that went into organizing and putting on this event.

We are already excited about the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Wine Tasting and Auction as planning is under way for another incredible evening in January 2008!

## Thank you Mentors!

Nadia Abu-Zahra  
Percy Allen  
Regan Anderson  
Alex August  
Jason Axley  
Kumar Banerjee  
Scott Bilikas  
Pierre Bradette  
Matthew Bradsher  
Megan Bradsher  
Vicki Bran  
Rhonda Bright  
Tess Britton  
Deborah Brown  
Amy Burgunder  
Mollie Caka  
Stephanie Camp  
Jon Canan  
Dawn Capecci  
Katherine Carlson  
Paul Casey  
Sandra Cheng  
Vishal Chowdhary  
Erin Clifton  
Marcus Clifton  
Caleb Cox  
Christina Cunningham  
Amie Davis  
Erin Davolt  
Jeff Davolt

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Pradip Dhara  
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Kevin Lee  
Huat Chye Lim  
Cindy Lin  
Ed Mancebo  
Brenden Marshall

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Wale Martins  
Maribel Martinez  
Carolina Marx  
Alan McConnell  
Marilyn Milberger  
Conrad Miller  
Jaci Miller  
John Montoya  
Jennifer Morales  
Lynn Morgan  
Maggie Morris  
Barbara Nelson  
Jen Newman  
Jamie Nigaglioni  
Sally Okeefe  
Jessica Opersteyn  
James Padilla  
Dan Peters  
Rachel Pigott  
Kuba Poraj-Kuczewski  
Leslie Price  
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Cindy Roberts  
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Michele Williams  
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Eunice Yang  
Stella Yong  
Dyane Zurn

## One Student's Story

By: Taylor Buchanan

I just can't explain in words how much Community for Youth has done for me. Every time I've needed something or expected something from the program I got it! At first I thought, this is just a program to have fun at and all of my friends are going, so I thought it would just be a good ole fun time. But now that I look back on it and realize what the program offered, I really needed it in my life. I've changed so much. I have followed my goals that I set for myself and really stuck with them.



I love this program inside and outside and now that I'm in it, I can't imagine how the outcome of my life would be if I wasn't in this program. I thank everybody who had a part in helping me change my life around, and getting new ways! I love CfY with a passion!

I liked that I can always have somebody to talk to and know what I am saying.

-CFY Student

Every minute you invest is given back five fold!

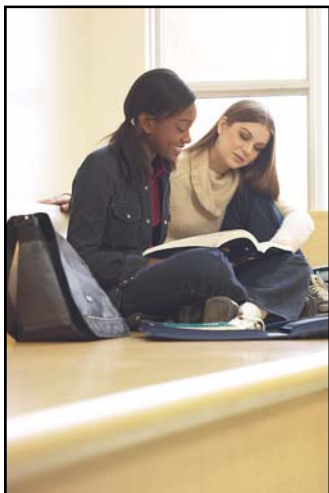
-CFY Mentor

## Be a Mentor!

All you need is a little time and a desire to make a difference

By Shannea Patterson

Community for Youth's Steps Ahead program is seeking adult volunteers to work one-to-one with Seattle public



high school students who are having difficulty in their academic and/or personal lives.

Young people benefit from the guidance of a supportive adult. Having

an adult mentor during high school can mean the difference between staying in school or dropping out, between making good choices or not.

We ask volunteer mentors to make a commitment to one school year of regular weekly contacts with a student. Mentors receive on-going training, support and guidance.

"This has been one of the best experiences of my life." – comment from a mentor. To learn more or take the first step, please contact us at: 206-325-8480 or [info@communityforyouth.org](mailto:info@communityforyouth.org).

Steps Ahead has shown me how to set goals and achieve them and make better relationships with the people I care about most

-CFY Student



## Thank You Foundations and Sponsors

### Foundations

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We teach our  
mentors and stu-  
dents to recog-  
nize their word as  
their power

## Your Word

By Colby Wilk

Most of us have been hurt by another person who said they were going to do something and didn't. When people do not keep their word, we build resentment, feel disappointed, and frustrated.

Some people have been so damaged by others not keeping their word that they learn to expect disappointment. They conclude that this is how life is and how people are. Some internalize the experience of being let down to mean that they are not good enough, are bad, or are not worthwhile.

When you have a casual relationship with your word you create mischief for yourself and others. Others do not trust you, do not give you opportunity and you do not believe in yourself. When you do not follow through on your own promises to yourself, you do not know yourself as trustable.

If you look at your life, I bet the area where you are less than satisfied is where you are not keeping your word. What if you did? Who would you be?

At Community for Youth we teach our mentors and students to recognize their word as their power. When you make a commitment to yourself and keep that commitment, you trust yourself. If you commit to work out, eat less, do your homework and you do it, even if you don't want to, you believe in your ability to do what is hard. You learn you can count on yourself.

When you keep your word to others, you gain their trust; they extend trust to you and give you opportunity. In our programs, students and mentors learn not to have a casual relationship with their word. They learn to carefully consider whether they can and will keep their word before making promises, agreements or commitments.

Many of our students have been let down repeatedly and expect their new mentor to do the same. It takes a while for students to believe their mentor, someone they are not even related to, will do what they say - will not give up, will be there, will have their back. It is the role modeling of a mentor being their word that in many cases inspires youth to develop a sacred relationship with their word.

# Get Involved: Ways to Volunteer

## Be a Tutor

Tutors work with Community for Youth students in math, foreign language, English and other skills to reach their academic goals. Adult volunteers commit to a minimum of two hours a week (Monday-Thursdays, 2:30-4:30 pm) at one of our schools. No experience or experience necessary. Tutors are trained and supervised.

Please contact

CfY at (206)325-8480

[info@communityforyouth.org](mailto:info@communityforyouth.org)

For more information

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

## Office Support

Join us in our downtown office. We would welcome your help in:

- Data-entry, program evaluation and research.
- Call potential mentors and references.
- Design thank-you notes.

## Event Assistance

Support Community for Youth fund-raising efforts in many different ways.

- Procure/prepare auction items
- Data-entry
- Create Decorations
- Day of Event Support
- Be a Table Captain

## Recruit Your Friends

Do you know someone else who would benefit from volunteering? Do you belong to a community group where we might be able to do a presentation on our programs and need for volunteers?

Please help spread the word about the need for community involvement in supporting our city's most challenged youth!



## Wish list

- 1/2" Binders
- Office chair
- Meeting Space for 65 people
- 2-drawer filing cabinet
- Office Supplies: Photo paper, Printer Ink, large Post-It Boards, Name Tags, pens, paper
- Snacks for workshops and activities: granola bars, bottled water, other non-perishable goods or catering for a scheduled event
- Digital Camera (3)
- Printers (4)
- Office Cabinet
- Portable presentation easels
- Sturdy, collapsible hand-truck

To donate please contact us at (206) 325-8480.

**Steps Ahead & Steps Beyond helped me to be me**

**- CFY Student**

**I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to be involved in such a loving supportive and powerful community!**

**- CFY Mentor**

## 2007 Outstanding Mentor of the Year, Jen Newman

The month of January is designated National Mentoring Month. During the month of January, a focus is given to recognizing mentors and drawing attention to the need for mentoring around the country. Each year a mentor is selected in the State of Washington as the Outstanding Mentor of the Year. This year, one of our own, Jen Newman was selected. Her student, Mersadies Sanders, wrote the letter of nomination.

*Having someone like Jennifer Newman in my life is like having one of those little angels that sits on your shoulder to guide you. I've known Jen for over a year and already I consider her one of my best friends. She is honest, loyal, considerate, kind and very energetic. She's also very funny and keeps me laughing when I need it the most. Since I've met Jen, I've learned to keep my mind focused on the positive prospects of life rather than festering on the negative. She's taught me to always be honest even when it's hard and that I don't need to change myself to please a crowd. Thanks to her, mine and my mom's relationship has improved ten-fold. And it's funny because she has never interfered with my family problems; but instead just opened my eyes very wide to see all my possibilities. She's helped me set realistic goals and plans to reach each one of them. Because of my mentor (of the year : ) ), I feel like my mind is more focused, my spirit more at peace and when I'm feeling down, I know that on my shoulder is that little angel named Jennifer Newman.*

- Mersadies Sanders  
Letter of Nomination  
Written and submitted by Jen's  
mentee,  
a sophomore at Cleveland High  
School.



Back Row (left to right): Harla Tumbleson, Director of SOAR; Jim Marsh, WA State Mentors Director; Jen Newman, Outstanding Mentor of the Year Award Winner; Tim Randolph, Juvenile Rehabilitation Mentoring Program; David Eisner, Corporation for National and Community Service CEO

I liked that  
I can al-  
ways have  
somebody  
to talk to  
and know  
what I am  
saying.

- CFY Student

THANK YOU!



For mailing  
the newsletters and  
invitations!

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FOR YOUTH

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