



# Mentor UPDATE

Hello,

## Long-term Mentoring Relationship Generates Mutual Benefits and Rewards

When describing a mentor, Oprah Winfrey may have said it best, "A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself." This quote certainly embodies the relationship between our mentor Andrew K. Marsh and Jason F, Andrew's long-time protégé who is now a junior at Freedom High School.

### Jason's Story:

Looking back to his grade school years, Jason expresses surprise to realize that Andrew Marsh has been giving him guidance and encouragement since the third grade. Jason says for over ten years "Mr. Marsh has helped me and listened to my problems...and he is someone that I can talk to because he won't judge me or anything." Mr. Marsh has endeared himself to Jason not only as a mentor "but as a friend and part of my family."

When Jason received word that he was chosen to have a scholarship he "didn't know what to feel" because as he puts it, he had "no idea what a scholarship was." Later he came to realize that receiving a scholarship was an honor and that "not that many people have an opportunity to get one."

Jason has begun thinking about career choices in the area of technology because he "loves working with computers and other electronics to see how they work." On a very practical level, he sees computer technology as a growing field and one that will thrive and survive down turns in the economy.

There is no doubt in Jason's mind as to the value of having a mentor. In his own words, "I think if there were more mentors out there that children would have less stress and become a better

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## Mentors Needed

Have friends or colleagues who would make an amazing mentor? Send their information to [Julie Rocco](#) and she will contact them!

## Reminders

Early Release Days for 2009-2010:

- April 21, 2010
- May 5, 2010
- May 19, 2010
- June 10, 2010

## Contacts

[Barbara Dick](#)

person because they know that someone is there for them."



#### Andrew's Story:

Right from the beginning Andrew saw great promise in Jason. He saw his new mentee as a child who came from "a supportive family, with limited resources." He describes Jason as "always neatly dressed, one of three children...and the only boy in an intact family of five." He saw Jason as being "very bright and articulate for his age...and extremely polite."

Andrew was at Jason's side throughout his years at Mort Elementary and Buchanan Middle School, and now continues to mentor Jason at Freedom High School. Andrew feels that his being employed as a Community Service Officer with the Sheriff's Office was a plus in his ability to guide Jason toward the "right road" and Jason's acceptance of his warnings about the dangers in giving into negative peer pressure. There is no doubt Andrew fostered in Jason the value and clear understanding that education is the "key to success."

With regard to benefits Andrew has realized in being Jason's mentor, he says mentoring "has enriched my life considerably." Now, as a grandparent he is "keenly aware of the need for children to have positive reinforcement." He has experienced great joy in seeing Jason "strive for his goals, confident that they are achievable."

Most importantly, Andrew wants to encourage "everyone to become a mentor." From his personal experience Andrew believes "children are our greatest legacy, and indeed, it does take a village'."

To reflect on Oprah's words, "A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself." Don't you think this perfectly describes Andrew and Jason's relationship? Where could you find a more valuable win-win combination?

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Let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Whether you have been a mentor for many years or just joined the program, we are excited to have you as part of our mentoring team.

The Foundation and your students are more than grateful for your dedication and the honor you bring to the title "MENTOR."



In celebration of National Volunteer Week, the Foundation wishes to express to you on its behalf and on behalf of your mentees how much your time and your dedication is appreciated and respected.

## One of Our Mentees Shines Beyond Our Own Accolades

One of our very own scholarship participants, Valeria SC, is one of

two students from Middleton's Air Force Junior ROTC who were selected to attend the Aerospace & Technology Honors Camp at the University of Oklahoma, June 5-10, 2010

Students selected represent the top one-half of one percent of over 110,000 AFJROTC cadets - worldwide. In Hillsborough County, only five Air Force cadets were selected from over 800 cadets, and two were from Middleton! This makes five years in a row that MHS has had at least one cadet attend the Honors Camp, and the first time in three years that two MHS cadets were selected. Travel and stay is free - about a \$4,000 value.

Congratulations to Middleton's outstanding AFJROTC Unit and to Valeria for being selected to attend this prestigious camp--once again demonstrating the caliber of our mentees. Those of you who have a military background will especially appreciate the hard work and dedication Valeria needed to be eligible for such an outstanding opportunity.

*If your mentee has been recognized for an outstanding achievement, please let [Julie Rocco](#) know so we may acknowledge the success of our students.*

## KnowHow2Go

Your mentee has been awarded a scholarship to pursue a postsecondary education and may seek your guidance in identifying the right path to take. An essential component of navigating the educational terrain is debunking college myths.

Check out this Know How2 Go website link to participate in a ten question quiz that takes only about 5 minutes to complete. You may be a little surprised at your own results and may find areas you might want to become more familiar with as you continue to offer assistance to your mentee.

[http://www.knowhow2go.org/seniors\\_quiz.php](http://www.knowhow2go.org/seniors_quiz.php)

## It's Time to Take a Break!

Spring Break begins April 12 and ends April 19, 2010, and your "mentee" will NOT be available for visits. A good conversation starter upon returning from break might be, "What did you do during Spring Break?" and then be ready to respond to answers, such as:

- "Not much, just laid around the house." --Tell me about your home.
- "Went to the beach and hung with friends." --Tell me about your friends.
- "Listened to music and played my video games." --What kind of... music, games, etc. do you most enjoy? Why?

## Important Dates

Spring Holiday/Non-Student Days . . . . . April 12-16, 2010  
Students Return to School . . . . . April 19, 2010  
Conference Day/Non-Student Day . . . . . April 30, 2010  
Memorial Day/Non-Student Day . . . . . May 31, 2010  
Last Day of School/End of Fourth Grading Period/2nd Semester. .  
June 10, 2010  
Teacher Post-Planning . . . . . June 11-14, 2010



Sincerely,  
The Mentoring Support Team  
Hillsborough Education Foundation