

Recognition Event - Celebrating 20 Years of Changing Lives!

The Lincoln TeamMates celebrated 20 years of changing lives on January 27th, with a Recognition Luncheon fundraiser and a Recognition Awards Dinner for TeamMates mentors and their students.

Will Shields was the keynote speaker for the event.

"Every time I come to Lincoln it's like coming home again," Shields said.

Shields, one of the original TeamMates mentors, was recently named the Walter Camp Football Foundation 2010 Man of the Year.

As Dr. Tom Osborne introduced Shields for the keynote presentation, he shared that Shields came to play for the University of Nebraska in 1989 and was a member of the team through 1992. He said Shields was a great player and went on to play for the Kansas City Chiefs for 14 years. Shields also went on to receive several honors including the Walter Payton Man of the Year award. Shields is a "very service oriented person," Osborne said as he also pointed out that Shields and his family started the Will to Succeed Foundation in 1993.

Being one of the original mentors, Shields said, provided a special opportunity to be a part of a unique program. As his keynote presentation progressed, he talked about choices, preparation and opportunities.

Choices are always changing. The importance of the choice becomes clearer with the result.



Will Shields was the keynote speaker for the January 2011 Recognition Luncheon and Recognition Dinner.

Choices give individuals the chance to go different ways, and because of those choices different opportunities arise. "I call it our paths. Then it comes down to our preparation.

If individuals prepare for certain things in life, that opens up opportunities." He said he grew up with a lot of single family homes in his neighborhood. He was fortunate to have both of his parents with him, but the issues he saw in the other households helped prepare him for the mentoring experience that he would take on as part of UNL's football team.

He and the other original TeamMates were given a unique opportunity to help shape and mold a younger person - to help them think more maturely at a younger age. He shared that the men-

toring process brought him an outside perspective.

As he began to make choices for his life he asked himself, "how do I blaze a path to make something different?" He made the choice to come to Nebraska because of the support system he perceived. He said the program planted the seed within him, that there is something more important, bigger and greater than himself.

He commended everyone attending and thanked them for their support of the Lincoln TeamMates program, a program that has tied together a unique family group with a lineage that he hopes will continue. The uniqueness of the program allows for a lifelong connection between the mentors and the mentees.

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Mark Your 2011

Calendar.....

- April 17th...Husker Day at UNL
- April 28thSpring Celebration at UNL
- April 22nd...Schools Not in Session
- May 27th...Last Day of Classes for Students
- May 28-29....LPS Graduations-Pershing Center, 226 Centennial Mall South; lps.org for schedule
- August 16th...2011-2012 First Day of Class for Students
- October 23rd...Talent for TeamMates Competition

Announcements and Kudos

Thank you to all the students and mentors who are participating in the Teammates service project : CARDS FOR MAX. Max, a boy with cancer, wishes to receive 1 million cards. LPS student TeamMates matches have sent him about 1,000 cards.

TeamMates thanks the Lied Center for Performing Arts for the exciting Night at the Lied on March 30th.

2010 Talent for TeamMates Competition winners, Sophia Wennstedt and Annemarie Schubert, performed as the opening act for fiddle champion April Verch.



Sponsored in part by United Way

Words from Walter



By Walter Powell, Lincoln TeamMates Coordinator

Reflecting on this past year, I was reminded of Charles Dickens' timeless classic *A Tale of Two Cities*. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..."

Best of Times: Serving the highest number (almost 900) of student ever.

Worst of Times: The need for additional mentors remain great, approximately 500.

Best of Times: We will have our highest number of graduating seniors (43) and 18 of these students will be awarded Lincoln TeamMates scholarships-this is more scholarships than all previous years combined.

Worst of Times: When students graduate, sometimes we lose some of our most experienced and committed mentors.

Best of Times: We have had more donations and planned giving by mentors than in previous years.

Worst of Times: It is becoming increasingly difficult to secure federal grants which has been a significant percentage of our revenue.

Best of Times: The 2010-11 TeamMates events received rave reviews. For example, the amazing display of talent performing at the Talent for

TeamMates competition, the TeamMates Recognition event with a great message to the students from the keynote speaker, the excitement and joy on the faces of our students and the looks of pride and joy of the faces of the parents and mentors as they watched their student receive the student achievement award.

Worst of Times: These events provide opportunities for us to express our gratitude all that our mentors do and provide our students with experiences that they may not have otherwise. There were a significant number of mentors and students who were not able to attend any of the TeamMates events.

Best of Times: Having each of you as mentors-thanks for all that you do!!!

TEAMMATES™
MENTORING PROGRAM
LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Annual Spring Celebration Event to Honor TeamMates Seniors

Attention High School Mentors! The TeamMates annual Spring Celebration event will take place on Thursday, April 28th, 2011 at the University of Nebraska Student Union Auditorium (2nd level of the Student Union at 1400 R Street). This is an exciting year for the program because this year the TeamMates mentoring program will honor around 50 graduating seniors. This is the most the program has ever had!

The honors program will run from 9:30am-11:00am. Graduating seniors and their mentors will be recognized, TeamMates scholarships will be awarded, and a keynote address will be given.

We encourage ALL TeamMates graduating seniors and their mentors to attend this event along with any parents or family members who would like to attend. We also invite ALL high school



aged TeamMates mentees to attend this event. Busing will be provided for all students to the event.

Following the program, all TeamMates students and mentors are invited to an informational session provided by the UNL Admissions Staff, followed by a campus tour and lunch in Selleck Hall. Lunch will be provided for all students and mentors courtesy of TeamMates. WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!

Mentor Minute

Look for what is strong, not what is wrong! A TeamMate mentor may be one of the few, and sometimes the only caring adult in a student's life who supports the student unconditionally. This is because the mentor's role does not include grading, parenting or other specific expectations. Instead, mentors can be a positive role model who affirms the mentee's strengths and helps them find their gifts and passions. Mentors can teach mentees how to problem solve, think through choices and make decisions. Webster's Dictionary defines a mentor as "a person who helps someone be what he wants to be". It is a privilege to help a mentee have a positive self image, to dream and find a pathway to reach their goals. A trusting relationship between mentor and mentee offers a great opportunity to make a difference in the mentee's life.

Thank you for caring about your mentee and meeting with them consistently. You are appreciated!

SPOTLIGHTS

Business Committee - Thank You To Our Sponsors

The Lincoln TeamMates Mentoring Program celebrated the program's 20th Anniversary on January 27, 2011 with the TeamMates Recognition Luncheon, "Twenty Years of Changing Lives". This luncheon was made possible with the help of the TeamMates Business Committee members, TeamMates Business Partners and TeamMates Donors. Lincoln TeamMates would like to thank the following donors for their contributions to this event and for their support of the students and mentors in the TeamMates Mentoring Program.

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Decor Sponsor:



For more partner information, visit www.lincolnteammates.org

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Gold Sponsors:



Bronze Sponsors:



Colleges & Universities

The Colleges and Universities sub-committee meets monthly to discuss campus updates, goals, and upcoming events. Currently TeamMates is working with Kaplan University, Southeast Community College, Union College, University of Nebraska Lincoln and Nebraska Wesleyan University.

All campuses are working toward gaining more mentors, exploring fundraising ideas for more scholarships and gaining more exposure for the TeamMates Mentoring Program.

Student volunteers from Kaplan University are helping with data entry in the Lincoln TeamMates office. The committee is excited to have college students come and learn more about TeamMates. The college and university setting provides great opportunities for recruiting mentors not only from faculty and staff, but also from the student population.

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Table Sponsors: Lincoln Public Schools; Cornhusker Bank; Bob FitzSimmons Inc. & Baer Goff.

SPOTLIGHTS

Colleges & Universities *continued from page 3*

Each campus helped to spread the word about TeamMates Runza Day. As the committee looks forward to spring graduation, the College and University Committee is looking specifically at Teammate seniors who are graduating and attending colleges here in Lincoln. The committee envisions a future role for itself as a bridge between Teammates mentees as they leave high school and go onto college so they may have a "helper" transitioning to college.

Lincoln TeamMates has more than 40 high school seniors this year expected to graduate and move on to higher education. Eighteen of these graduates will benefit from scholarships funded by the TeamMates Mentoring Program.

Service Clubs

The search for M&M's continues... The Clubs and Service Group Committee is a part of the Lincoln TeamMates Board that works with local groups involved with service within the community. They continue to work with local Kiwanis chapters giving informational presentations in hopes of securing additional "M&M's"..... Mentors and Money! The Committee is happy to come to any service club meeting and present general TeamMates information and inspiration. If interested in scheduling a group presentation, please contact Lincoln TeamMates. The committee will be happy to schedule a New Mentor Training session that's convenient for the group.

The Lincoln Area of Retired Personnel. Recently presented a check to the committee. The Clubs and Service Group appreciates the LARP's generosity and is happy to again be a recipient along with

a number of other community agencies. The committee makes regular appearances at the Champions Club when the Oscher Life Long Learning Institute (OLLI) friends have an open house. Two committee members are involved in the Downtown Rotary Club #14 and spend a TeamMates Minute actively reminding all members of the natural fit between a service club member and being a mentor. Please assist the committee in its recruiting efforts. Mention your involvement with TeamMates, and be on the watch for people you believe would be a caring, consistent friend to one of the youth in TeamMates!

Faith Based Committee

The first quarter of the year is a busy one for the Faith Based Partners and the Faith Based Committee.

During four Sundays in January and two Sundays in February, staff held a TeamMates Sunday at the Faith Based Partner's congregations.

The Faith Based Committee has a goal of hosting 12 recruiting events each year and mentor-recruiting goal of 13 mentors per month. The TeamMates Sunday is one of the primary ways to recruit new mentors. There was 100 percent participation by the partners in the TeamMates Sunday recruiting events. More than 70 applications were given out to prospective mentors to complete. Several have been returned and some of the new applicants have already completed training. Nearly half of the Teammates Mentors mention a faith-based affiliation. Each Faith Based Partner organizes its TeamMates Sunday to best dovetail with its overall mission, however, the committee has found that inviting existing mentors to be present at the recruiting table during TeamMates Sunday, enhances success. Prospective new mentors are more likely to stop and chat if they see a friendly face. They also like to hear the

first-hand the experiences of a fellow church member.

The Faith Based Committee hosted partner representatives on March 31st for the spring partner appreciation and planning luncheon.

The finale of the 2010 Talent for TeamMates Competition took place on March 30th at the Lied Center for Performing Arts. The winners of the 2010 event, Sofia Wennstedt and Annemarie Schubert, performed prior to the performance of fiddle champion April Verch. This exciting night kicked off the preparation for the 2011 Talent for TeamMates Competition which will take place on Oct 23, 2011.

Graduation Initiative Grant beginning Fall 2011

TeamMates is excited about being a part of this grant that was awarded to Lincoln Public Schools.

Lincoln TeamMates will be providing 60 mentors to be matched with 9th graders at North Star, Lincoln High, and Northeast. Each school will have 20 TeamMates matches. The goal is for these matches to remain in place until the student graduates from high school. There will be other community interventions to support these students in their educational efforts and we know mentoring can make a positive impact as well.

TeamMates is looking for a few good mentors! Sixty to be exact! These mentors and mentees will use the Strength-Finder surveys to pinpoint their strengths. This information can be used to focus on strengths-based mentoring which will be crucial to these students. To learn more about this grant or be a part of it, please call the Lincoln TeamMates office, 402-436-1990

Tips for Mentoring Over the Summer!

If you plan to meet with your TeamMate, be sure your Plan to meet Outside of School form is completed and turned into the TeamMates office.

IDEAS for staying in touch:

Find out if your mentee attends summer school and make arrangements to meet them at school.

Give your TeamMate a few self-addressed, stamped envelopes for him/her to write you a letter.

Send your TeamMate a postcard from somewhere you travel over the summer.

Give your TeamMate a disposable camera so they can document their summer fun and share it with you when school is back in session.

Attend an activity your student will be attending over the summer and attend as a spectator.

An occasional phone call or email may be appropriate, depending on your relationship.

Fill out "journal sheets" and share them when you get back together.

Recognition Event (continued from page 1)

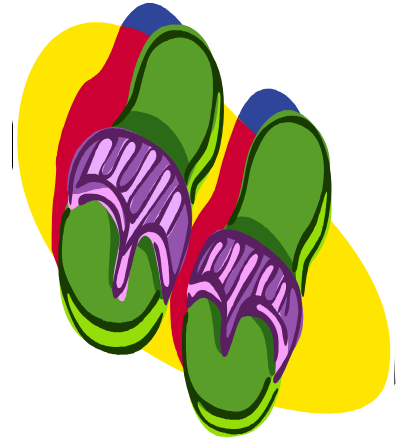
The luncheon also featured presentations of the **Carmen and Tony Messineo Community Involvement Award**. This award recognizes a business, a faith-based partner, a club or service organization or an individual that has made extraordinary contributions to the TeamMates Program and has helped inspire young people to reach their full potential through the generous giving efforts. **Recipients were: Gus Dornbusch, Kiwanis Governor, the Ethel S. Abbott Charitable Foundation, Gordmans, and the Daniels Fund.**

The Recognition Dinner featured inductions to the **Mentor Hall of Fame** which included: **Juris Grinbergs, Nancy Osborne, Jon Paolini, Anna Peacock, Amanda Podwinski, Cheryl Reynoldson, Robin Spindler, and Janice Stege.** The Student Achievement Award was awarded to mentees who make an effort to improve attendance, improve grades and decrease discipline referrals.

2011 Student Achievement Award winners: Brian A., Ashley B., Scott C., David G., Tre H., Chad H., Aaron L., Shawna M., Whitney M., Erika N., Tyreshia O., Marla O., Bryan P., Odaliz S., MaKayla S., Jack S., and Brandon W.

The Decade of Difference award was given to individuals who have been mentoring within the TeamMates program for more than 10 years. The following mentors received the **Decade of Difference Award: Jason Anderson, Murph Brown, Ginger Dager, Don Dahlquist, Janet Danielson, Gene Eubanks, Randy Hampton, Joanne Hubbard, Sheri Jablonski, Steve Kepler, Glen Knosp, Jon Miller, Howard Parker, Anna Peacock, Shelley Pesek, Portia Reed, Jim Schiefelbein, John Schram, William Stevens, and Paul Van De Water.**

JOURNAL TOPICS IDEAS



Something new I tried this summer:

An interesting person I met:

What I did that was fun:

A book I read:

What I did on the days I was most "bored":



5901 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

Lincoln TeamMates
Phone: (402) 436-1990
lincolnteammates.org
Email: lincolnteammates@lps.org

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Our mission: "...to POSITIVELY IMPACT the WORLD"



Ryan Hardin and Cody
MARCH TEAMMATES OF THE MONTH

Ryan Hardin and Cody meet weekly at Irving Middle School. Cody is in 8th grade and this is the second year of their match. They are both very interested in sports and like to play basketball during their TeamMates time together. Ryan is a sophomore at UNL. His major is athletic training. He's been able to work

alongside the trainers at University of Nebraska sporting events and this semester he's working in injury prevention care through Campus Recreation.

Cody is very interested in University of Nebraska sports, especially the football program.

Cody reads about NU sports in the newspaper and on the Internet. He also reads Huskers Illustrated, plus in addition to his contact with Ryan, Cody has friends and some family members also interested and knowledgeable about the programs.

"If something is going on with sports at UNL, Cody knows about it," Ryan said with a smile. "He keeps tabs on the NU football team."

Cody said he wears Nebraska clothes every day and hopes to play football when he goes to high school. He's enjoyed playing

club football and was the quarterback on his team.

Cody likes to hear about Ryan's student experiences and Ryan has taught him the rules of basketball and how to shoot baskets.

Both view sports as providing life lessons. Ryan believes athletics is a perfect representation of how life works. In sports there are highs and lows and it's how individuals respond between the two that makes the difference; life is the same way.

Ryan knew he wanted to become a part of the Lincoln TeamMates mentoring program after visiting the TeamMates information booth during the Big Red Welcome week when he first came to the University.

"I had an awesome childhood. I wanted to share that with someone else and make a difference in their lives," Ryan said.

