



Christian Association  
of Youth Mentoring

Advancing Christian Mentoring...  
one kid at a time

# CHRISTIAN MENTORING TODAY

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## *Calendar of Events*

### **September 14-16, 2006**

Basic Training  
New York City

### **September 28-30, 2006**

Basic Training  
Winston-Salem, NC

### **November 2-4, 2006**

Basic Training  
Lebanon, OH

For further details visit our  
website @ [www.caym.org](http://www.caym.org)



## **A message from the Executive Director...**

*Harold E. Orr*

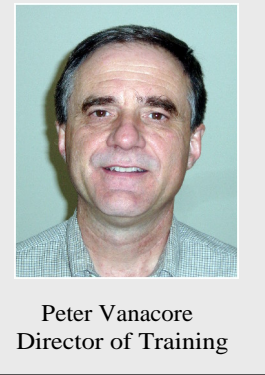
By now, most of us have seen the numbers; we've probably used them at one time or another in our promotional material. Children who are mentored are:

- 52% less likely to skip a day of school
- 46% less likely to start using illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to start drinking
- 35% less likely to become pregnant as a teenager

These statistics come from the Public/Private Venture study: "Making a Difference, An Impact Study of Big Brothers Big Sisters". Indeed, they certainly appear to show mentoring as *the* answer to the hopelessness that so many hurting kids experience.

We see it daily. Mentoring works! When a mature Christian man or woman demonstrates the loving spirit of our Heavenly Father, lives can be and are transformed. But there is a caveat to this statement. It's *safe* and *effective* mentoring that works. There are credible studies that conclude that the long-term effects of many mentoring relationships are, at best, minimal and indeed the results can be adverse. A relationship that ends abruptly without adequately preparing the mentee can be seen as just one more abandonment in the eyes of the child. Inadequate orientation of the new mentor can lead to unrealistic expectations. The list can go on and on.

The Christian Association of Youth Mentoring is dedicated "*To impact vulnerable youth with the love of Jesus Christ by equipping and supporting Christ-centered mentoring ministries.*" Mentoring that is safe and effective. Mentoring that incorporates proper mentor screening and training as well as ongoing match supervision. Mentoring that transforms lives and is God honoring.



Peter Vanacore  
Director of Training

## Men Wanted

Four of us spent the evening calling prospective mentors. You could hear desperate dialing followed by carefully worded appeals to people who had expressed interest in mentoring juvenile offenders. The phone in the next cubicle slammed down in frustration as a female co-laborer exclaimed, “I haven’t had a man in months!”

A wisecracking colleague broke the stunned silence, “I’m not going to touch that one.”

Most of us involved in mentoring ministry can understand the frustration. Good men are hard to find! It seems that there are two to three women ready to mentor to every man who gets matched with a young boy. Some programs are so frustrated that they’ve started matching women with males. Most of us just sigh and say, “That’s just the way it is.”

But it doesn’t have to be that way. Many of the men in our churches want to make a significant impact in their world. The problem is that they don’t see mentoring as a path to significance. Despite the gains women have made in our society, many men still think, “Women volunteer; men make money.” Money is the main path to significance in American culture – even American Christian culture. We value those who can make it, and look suspect on those who struggle to make ends meet.

So how do we convince men to act in a way that is counter to our culture?

Part of the answer lies in changing the bottom line. *“For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?”* Matt.16:26. The American path to significance is in “gaining” or acquiring as much of the world as possible. In the process I believe we can forfeit the abundant life that Christ promises those who follow Him.

So how do we change the bottom line? **Inspiration.** Inspire men to a greatness that lasts for eternity. Guilt and sad stories of needy kids move some hearts but drive others away. Inspiration says “you have a greater calling to significance” not “if you don’t mentor him, poor little Tommy will....”

I once had breakfast with a friend who had just completed the signing of the largest non-military contract in history. His company hailed him. He was dejected. With the challenge mastered, he asked me, “What can I do to make a difference?”

Do you need men? Inspire them to a life of significance based on a call to follow Christ into mentoring. Help them to make a difference in the life of young men.

“Inspire men to a greatness that lasts for eternity.”

# Youth Horizons

Believe it or not, a thriving mentoring program exists in the flatlands of America’s heartland. Youth Horizons Mentoring in Wichita, Kansas

has been called by God to create life long friendships between loving Christian adults and fatherless children. In my nine years as a mentoring coach I have regularly noticed that our community’s “at-risk families” do not lack support. In fact, these families are offered resources from almost every angle imaginable. Very low cost or free parenting classes are not hard to find. Committed teachers, counselors, social workers, coaches, and other helping agents serve our needy kids and families on a regular basis.

What is missing for these families are committed Christian adults who will go the distance. So many times these children need Godly role models who will bond with children and families past the school year, past the football season, or past the counseling session. Not to say that relationships with coaches, tutors, and counselors don’t ever extend past the field – sometimes they do. Not to say that these support services aren’t needed – they are. But most of the time ethical boundaries, time constraints, and small-mindedness keep these relationships from blossoming further.

I have found that fatherless children are sensitive to rejection because they have experienced so many “in and out” relationships” that offer temporary “flash in the pan” acts of service which may bless them, but will still leave them feeling discarded and not fully known or committed to.

*“Our children need that one woman or man who is going to be there for the long haul. That Christian role model who remains involved regardless of life’s transitions.”*

Our children need that one woman or man who is going to be there for the long haul. That Christian role model who remains involved regardless of life’s transitions. That one adult with whom they can make a heart connection, an emotional connection, a life-long connection. They need a mentoring relationship that develops into something that is best described as “family”. This is our hope and vision for all of the mentoring relationships we create and support. This is what made a difference in my own personal life.



**Adam Gragg**, Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist  
Mentoring Director at **Youth Horizons, Inc.** 316-262-8293

[www.youthhorizons.net](http://www.youthhorizons.net)

*Note: Youth Horizons Mentoring currently has 142 matches from 48 different churches in the Wichita area.*

**"There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone's life."**

Sister Mary Rose McGready

**"It's easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."**

Frederick Douglas

# **Bits 'n' Pieces**

**"Good is the enemy of great. And that is one of the key reasons we have so little that becomes great."**

Jim Collins, Good to Great

**Too often ministries are so busy raising their next dollar, they forget to thank donors for their last gift.**

Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability,  
Avoiding Common Fund-Raising Mistakes