

Community Friends



mentoring

June 2009 Newsletter

Fish Your Local Waterways this Summer!

June marks the end of the school year, and in our program's case, the beginning of the summer fishing season! There are several exciting events this month we would like to highlight and encourage our matches to consider attending:

Saturday, June 20th is the Little Anglers Fishing Derby sponsored by Lake Champlain International, Inc., as part of the annual weekend long Father's Day Fishing Derby. The LCI Little Anglers Derby will be held at the Windermere Way State Boat Launch in Colchester. Registration is from noon to 1 pm. This is a free event open to kids 14 years and younger. Kids should bring their own equipment and bait, and prizes will be awarded at the end of the event. You can also still register for the annual Father's Day Fishing Derby. For more information about either of those events, visit <http://www.lciderby.com/fundraisingderbies.shtml>

The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife is also sponsoring many kid friendly fishing activities this summer, most of which are free. For more information about these events, visit <http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/>.

Finally, if you would like to be able to fish this summer with your mentee, but he/she does not have equipment, please call or email one of us and we can help get some equipment to you. 488-6651 or catherinesh@howardcenter.org.

Grant Mania

Have the staff members of Community Friends Mentoring seemed a bit distracted this spring? Funding is the key in 2009, so the program has written or collaborated on thirteen different grant applications since January.

Luckily the federal stimulus package included opportunities for mentoring programs, as have four of U.S. Justice and Education Department projects. Several local organizations have come together to apply for these large and highly competitive grants. With the help of HowardCenter's Development Office, grant requests have also been sent to a number of private foundations with a mission of supporting children's services. Decisions regarding these proposals will be arriving throughout the summer, and with luck, Community Friends will even be able to grow.

In the meantime, the program will not be just sitting back and waiting for news. Our annual appeal letter will go out to program supporters this summer and CFM will be participating in the Race to the Top of Vermont fundraiser at the end of August (see article). Mentors and others can help with this effort by pointing Community Friends towards any leads on grants or groups looking to take on a fundraising project. Thanks for your patience and your support.

Just a Reminder

Don't miss out on Community Friends' annual water balloon fight and potluck BBQ! There is still time to RSVP for our Summer Picnic at Oakledge Park. Come kick off the summer by joining us on Sunday, June 14th from 3-6pm for an afternoon of fun and food. All that's needed is your buddy, swimsuits, towels and a dish to share. Let us know if you and your buddy would like to come and we will organize the food sign up. RSVP by emailing or calling Pfarmigan: pabbott@howardcenter.org or 488-6652.

June - For most of Chittenden County, the last day of school is June 11th.
Dates: - Catherine and Kristen will be on vacation the week of June 22nd.

Fun things to do this month!

Friendly's Free Cone Day

Sat 6/6, 12-5pm

Visit any Friendly's & indulge in one of 26 ice cream flavors for free.

Kids Pirate Festival

6/6 & 6/7, 10am-5pm

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
Participate in exciting pirate-themed activities & crafts, watch live performances. Vergennes.
\$10 adults, \$6 kids.

www.lcmm.org or 475-2022.

Vermont Days

6/13 & 6/14, 8am-6pm

Celebrate summer's arrival by fishing for free on the 13th. Or visit any state park, state-owned historic site or the VT Historical Museum for free. www.vtstateparks.com

Strawberry Festival

Sat 6/20, 11am-4pm

Sam Mazza Farm, Colchester
Welcome summer with strawberry shortcake, fudge, jam or chocolate-dipped berries. Pony rides, face painting, games & a petting zoo.
www.sammazzafarms.com or 655-3440.

Green Mountain Chew Chew Food & Music Festival

6/26-6/28, 11am-9pm

Enjoy Vermont's finest flavors, music & family fun at Burlington's Waterfront Park. \$2 adults, \$1 kids.
www.greenmountainchewchew.com or 864-6674.

Wagon Rides @ Shelburne Farms

Sat 6/20 & 6/27, 1-4pm

Experience a 20 minute ride through the woods & fields in a horse-drawn wagon while seeing the farm from the original designer's perspective.
\$5/person. 985-8442 or www.shelburnefarms.org

Summertime ... blues?

It goes without saying that Vermont is a wonderful place to be in the summer! What with music festivals, farmers markets, mountains to explore and no school for kids, it would seem this would be the best time ever to have get-togethers with your mentee. While it's true this *is* a great time to get outside and try new things, our experience has shown us that with families more relaxed about bedtimes, overnights and last minute trips to the lake on a hot summer evening, scheduling meetings with kids can sometimes be a challenge. What to do? Our advice is to be especially vigilant during the summer months to call ahead with reminders about meeting dates, understand that there might be mix-ups, stay cool, be as flexible as you can about changes and have a great summer.

Race to the Top Fundraiser

Would you like to raise money for your favorite mentoring program and break a sweat with a solid exercise regime at the same time? Did you miss out on all the spring walk-a-thons and bike-a-thons? Do not despair; the perfect opportunity is anxiously awaiting your participation! Community Friends is gearing up for a new kind of fundraiser this summer, one that involves Vermont's highest peak, fantastic views and walking, running or biking. On Sunday, August 30th we will join the Catamount Trail Association and other Mobius affiliated mentoring programs for the 3rd Annual Race to the Top of Vermont Fundraiser.

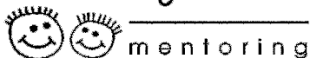
Participants may choose to either race or walk the 4.5 mile course which climbs 2,550 vertical feet to the summit of Mount Mansfield Toll Road in Stowe. After enjoying one of the most spectacular views in the Northeast, all participants are invited to attend the post-race BBQ and collect their free tech (breathable, moisture-wicking) shirt. In addition, for the avid competitors prizes will be awarded in each division.

CTA requires a \$30 (\$40 for non-members) entry fee, but all additional funds raised will support Community Friends directly. What could be better than getting outside to enjoy a final summer day while supporting Community Friends? Registration is open to anyone and everyone, so we invite you to grab a few friends, family members or co-workers and get moving. Whether you participate by yourself, with your mentee or your neighbors, it is time to spread the word, start finding sponsors and then get walking or racing. For more information and to download a registration form, visit www.mobiusmentors.org.

Summer Activities

With summer on its way, are you and your mentee itching to get outside? If so, consider checking out the 2009 Venture Vermont Outdoor Challenge. Sponsored by the Vermont State Parks, the challenge encourages participants to explore the great outdoors. Going fishing, building a fire and planting a tree are only a few of the many activities which will earn you points towards the ultimate goal of 250 and free day entry into Vermont State Parks for the rest of the 2009 season and the entire 2010 season. All you need is a camera and the official scorecard which can be found by visiting http://www.vtstateparks.com/pdfs/venture_vt.pdf.

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