

Our Commitment

A2Z mentoring program is a non-profit organization, operating in Mercer County for the past seven and half years. Means A2Z is born in year 2004 Mercer County.

A2Z aims to provide one-on-one tutoring and mentoring for needy, low-income, immigrant or refugee families with a history of welfare dependence and disadvantaged students from GRADES 1 through 12 by giving one and one-half hours per week of mentoring time. Our trained Mentors stress academic achievement in the core areas of math, reading and writing, but it is not just a second class room. A2Z goes beyond tutoring by providing these students with a mentor relationship. Students who participate in the program gain the skills and self confidence necessary for success. A2Z supports new ideas about how to engage children and youth in learning and new ways to bring together community-based systems that promote learning.

Mentors involved in the A2Z Mentoring Program are self motivated, self confident, and oriented community members who offer their time and expertise to help students gain confidence and self-esteem, and work for a better education. A2Z's mentors are responsible, interested, willing and committed to the students. By working together, mentoring creates a strong bond between the mentor and their mentee. A2Z's Mentors expose youth to new ideas and opportunities, allowing them to make better decisions in their present and future lives, therefore creating better citizens and future leaders.

From June 2010, A2Z has launched a brand new program. Now A2Z's volunteers are coaching and teaching needy children in the three areas: Chess, Music, and Tennis. Each program is offer free eight sessions with minimal registration fees. It has been received well by the community children and parents. Many of A2Z's mentees are referred by School teachers and counselors due to lack of family and community support, opportunities, and resources for consistent and organized study/learning.

A2Z Mentoring Program promotes the 8 C's:

Compassion ,Caring, Commitment, Consistency, Creativity, Challenge, Communication, and Confidence



BETHE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD
- MAHATMA GANDHI

A2Z Mentoring Program

Student/ Parent Testimonials

My daughter Kiani attends the tutoring program and her tutor is a great asset to Kiani gaining understanding in algebra. My only regret is that tutoring is only once a week. I pray that this program will grow so that children will be able to receive tutoring more than once a week because it is a great program. Kiani's comfort level while at the program is very high and that is a comfort to me. The staff (including the tutors) are also very kind. Your program is a blessing and Kiani will remain in the program for as long as she is eligible to do so. I hope that you and all of the A2Z staff enjoy your holiday weekend next week.

Thank You and God Bless You,

Nicicia Jenkins

A2Z Car Wash



A2Z's Car Wash at Valero Gas Station

By Nikila Venkat

On Saturday, September 11th 2010, the A2Z Mentoring Program held a fundraising car wash at the West Windsor Valero Gas Station, located near the Southfield Shopping Center. Fifteen A2Z mentors, along with many parents and supervisors, were present for the event. From 9 AM to 2 PM, the volunteers washed countless sports cars, SUV's, and minivans, making almost \$300 in the process. Other volunteers stood at the intersection,

advertising our car wash while at the same time spreading awareness about the program. In fact, many other car owners asked our volunteers about A2Z, and were very impressed by the hard work the volunteers and supervisors have put in to provide academic support for needy children. Thank to the volunteers, parents, and supervisors for their time and effort, and a special thanks to the employees at the Valero Gas Station for be so accommodating during our car wash!

New A2Z Session!!

By: Arjun Raghuraman

On December 2nd, A2Z Mentoring Program inaugurated a new chapter in Lawrenceville as part of its expansion strategy. After providing over seven years of tutoring and mentoring in the East Windsor/Hightstown and Ewing areas, Mrs. Mira Desai, the Director of the program, felt it was time to expand this unique one-on-one tutoring opportunity to the underprivileged and academically challenged locals from Lawrenceville. This program was launched in partnership with The Lawrenceville School which provided both venue and volunteers for the program.

The program showed promise for success as an initial group of 12 students and volunteers gathered in a classroom in the "Fathers" Building to start the beginning of a long relationship between mentor and mentee. After a brief orientation for the parents of prospective students, mentors quickly assessed their students and began their work without much delay. Mira Desai, thanked the volunteers and encouraged them to do their best to make the sessions both fun and enriching.

Having worked in Hightstown and East Windsor before, she also expressed her joy for the opportunity to aid the Lawrenceville community. The A2Z mentoring program is open for the locals twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 P.M and 8 P.M. With the aid of Lawrenceville schools resources, Mrs. Desai hopes to expand the scope of the program by offering tutoring in art, music, and even sports. The dedication of its volunteers, commitment of its students, and high standards for quality assures A2Z enduring success at Lawrenceville.



The Lawrenceville School



“ChangeMaker” Award

By: Sahana Jayaraman

Organized by VolunteerConnect, Community Connections was a gathering of volunteers from all over Mercer County. Taking place at the Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in Titusville, New Jersey, it took place on Wednesday, October 27th from 6 to 8 pm. Volunteers of all ages enjoyed dinner and light music with their families as they were honored for their work with non-profit organizations as recipients of the Mercer ChangeMaker Award. Around 50 volunteers received the ChangeMaker Award including A2Z's Volunteers of the Teen Committee (Nikila Venkat, Jamie Shah, Ankita Gore, and Sahana Jayaraman) and some of its supervisors. Recipients of the award received a certificate and had their picture taken upon with the head of Volunteer Connect, Adrienne Rubin.

Community Connections also presented its very first “Founders” Award to Mr. Craig Lafferty, the retiring President and CEO of the United Way of Mercer County, who is also Ms. Mira Desai's great friend and mentor.

In addition to having the pleasure of listening to Mr. Lafferty speak as a recipient of the award, A2Z also had the privilege of meeting and speaking to him personally. As he told us about his experiences and the importance of helping others, he was also grateful that A2Z was involving and encouraging many younger members of the community to help others. It was an honor to hear him say that he knew the future was in better hands because the younger generation was using its time to give back as well.



Top: A mentor receiving a “ChangeMaker” Award

Bottom: The mentors that received an award with Mira Desai



Additional Activities

By: Akul Bali

Since June 2010, A2Z Mentoring Program has started brand new extracurricular programs in music, chess, and tennis. All these programs are run by A2Z mentors and are for children from low socioeconomic backgrounds. Each program is offered for eight sessions with minimal registration fees. They have been received well by children and parents in the community. Also, to facilitate the growth of these extracurricular programs and help more children,

A2Z welcomes donations of chess sets, tennis rackets, tennis balls, and musical instruments (all donations must be in good, working condition). A2Z's volunteers are proud to be helping children in the community and would appreciate more support for these programs.



A2Z Gives Back to the Community

By: Rohit Palayekar

In this holiday season, while we cherish our blessings, why not reach out to the less fortunate in our community. With our joint effort, we can collect food for our neighbors at St. James Affordable Community in East Windsor. There are about 110 residents there and it would be great if we can collect at least 5 items per resident. We can collect non-perishable food items like canned food, pasta, cereal box, beans, rice, powdered milk etc. We will be more than glad to purchase the food with your generous donation of money, if any of you are short of time to purchase the food. Any amount you feel comfortable will be of great help. Last day to bring in the donations is 18th Dec. We will sort and pack the donations on December 23 at 3 PM and we will deliver this to them on Christmas Eve. Let's all join together to make this a joyous and giving holiday season.

Happy Holidays!!!!

Future Events

1) Fundraising and food collection for the Hightstown Church (December 2010)

2) National Mentoring Month Celebration (January 2011) 2. A2Z has organized a event to recognize all their Volunteers "National Mentoring Month Celebration (January 15, 2011 @ the Plainsboro Library 2011)

3) A2Z will start Winter/Spring session from January 6, 2011 at the East Windsor/Hightstown, Ewing and Lawrenceville, Mercer County, NJ



To find the location, time and date of the program please visit:

www.A2Zmentoring.org

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for A2Z Mentoring, please contact Mira Desai at:

Telephone: 609-213-8674

Fax: 609-333-0730

E-mail: a2z@a2zmentoring.org OR a2z.program@gmail.com

YOU CAN VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:

www.a2zmentoring.org

DONATIONS

Aim for A2Z's funding comes solely from donations and grants.

YOU CAN HELP!

To make a donation, please make a check payable to "Aim for A2Z, Inc."

And mail to:

P.O. Box 32, Pennington, NJ, 08534

Aim For A2Z is always seeking corporate sponsorship

For information call: 609- 213- 8674

* Aim for A2Z Mentoring Program is a non-profit 501(c)(3) Organization –all donation are tax- deductible.