



# A2Z MENTORING PROGRAM

*“Be the change you wish to see in the world”  
-Mahatma Gandhi*

*“Learning is the pathway to a better life.”*

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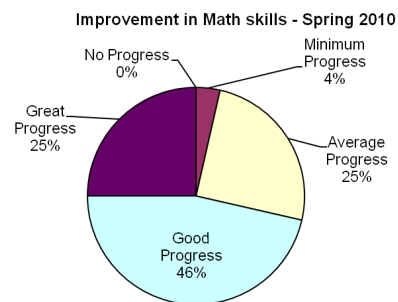
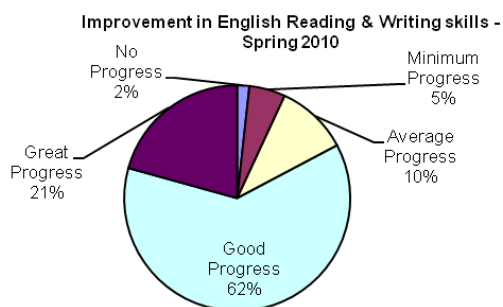
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For over 6 years A2Z has been involved in educating children of low-income families all across Central Jersey. Our mission is primarily focused on offering disadvantaged and needy children of low-income families a chance for a proper education. A2Z is an organization that thrives on its students as well as our volunteers. This organization offers deprived elementary, middle, and high school students a chance to broaden their horizon and open doors that were once closed. A2Z is a one on one mentoring program in which our volunteers not only mentor their students but also show them that learning can be fun. The program not only helps disadvantaged children, but also enables high school mentors to develop a community spirit, a giving mind-set, a leadership experience and an opportunity to work with a diverse group of students.



A2Z Mentoring Program promotes the 8 C's: Compassion, Caring, Commitment, Consistency, Creativity, Challenge, Communication, and Confidence.



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## Student/Parent Testimonials

My name is Silvio Guzman. My three children attend the A2Z program, one attends the Kreps school and she is in sixth grade, second is in third grade and third child is in first grade both attend the Walter C Black. All three are getting help in reading and getting help with their homework. All three have improved their grades in school. All three will be attending the A2Z program for next year and I am so glad for the A2Z.

**-Silvio Guzman**

My children started coming to the A2Z mentoring program since September of 2006. Arlis is in eighth grade and attends the Melvin H. Kreps Middle School. My daughter, Ashley, is in third grade and she attends the Perry L. Drew Elementary School. Both of my children love the A2Z mentoring program. This program helps my children have a good relationship with the mentors. They are both improving in their grades. In the future, my children will still be attending the A2Z program. It is a wonderful program that helps everyone in the community.

**-Auria Valverde**

Alexis Jaya. Walter C. Black. 2nd grado. Desde que empersaron. Si, es de mucha ayuda me gustaria la es-  
critura tambien si podrian ayudarle. Si es de Buena utilidada progresado. Si a mejorado, me gustaria que le  
ensenarana analizar los libros de lectura y resonir. Si le gusta hir a A2Z, y esta contento con su mentor. Si  
esta enterada la maestro.

**-La Madre de Alexis Jaya**

## Mentors' Testimonials



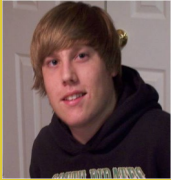
### **Nikila Venkat (President of Teen-Committee)**

After three years of participating in the A2Z Mentoring program, I can now safely say that mentoring has been the most memorable and rewarding experiences of my life. Every week, when I go to tutor my child, I am amazed at not only how quickly my kid can be motivated to learn, but also how much I gain out of the process. A2Z Mentoring Program is a truly an excellent volunteer organization that transforms students who are struggling in school into intelligent, hard working, and motivated learners.



### **Jamie Shah (Vice-President of Teen-Committee)**

Ever since I started volunteering at A2Z, I have always been delighted to see the amount of kids I have helped and truly made a difference for. Whether I am teaching my students how to face the horrors of long division or how to decipher tricky vowel sounds, the joy I see in their faces when they realize that they have just learned something new always makes my day special. Mothers come to me after sessions and tell me how much their child has grown to love coming to A2Z every week. I believe that in order for a student to learn, he or she has to be happy where they are.



### **Steven Katz (Treasurer of Teen-Committee)**

I have had the privilege of being apart of A2Z mentoring for the past two years and it has been nothing but a pleasure. It is really satisfying to watch a child progress as he participates in our weekly tutoring sessions. This is a great program that works on developing a child's intellectual skills, as well as a child's social skills. I have been able to build a strong relationship with my student and watch him progress in math, as well as English. A2Z mentoring is a truly fantastic program that benefits both the student and the mentor.



### **Nishanth Galla (Secretary of Teen-Committee)**

My student and I learn from each other; it is not just the mentor teaching. The bond between the mentor and the student is based on friendship. By coming to A2Z, my student receives the gift of knowledge. My student Mike manages to come to A2Z even when he is sick and when it is raining. This passion in my student encourages me to attend these sessions every week because I know I am making a great impact on someone's life. A2Z allows me to give back to the community by helping the future generation of kids.



### **Akul Bali (Project Manager of Teen-Committee)**

I have been volunteering at A2Z for over a year now and it has been an enlightening experience for me. To see a child truly enjoy learning about something new makes me feel like I actually made a difference in the child's life. All the students I have mentored come from different backgrounds with a wide assortment of interests, but what they all have in common is unbound potential. Some excel at math, others at English, and to help them all discover their strengths and weaknesses is a rewarding experience.



### **Ankita Gore (Project Manager of Teen-Committee)**

Mentoring the children as part of the A2Z program has been a great experience. It is always rewarding to help the students understand and master concepts that they were previously having difficulties with in school. When I talk to the students' parents after the mentoring sessions, they are always grateful and happy to see the improvements that their children are making, and it makes me joyful to see those smiles on their faces.



### **Aditi Gore (Project Manager of Teen-Committee)**

Going to the A2Z Mentoring sessions each week was a lot of fun. My mentees and I both had many things to share with each other every time, and they weren't always about studies. I mainly had the opportunity to teach two students and I became great friends with both of them in no time. Our friendships made my mentees feel more comfortable during our sessions and they felt like they could share anything with me and ask anything that was on their minds. My mentees and I shared a great bond and I am grateful towards A2Z for allowing me to make a positive change in their lives.

# Adopt-A-Beach Program

On Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, eight A2Z volunteers drove down to the Asbury Park Beach to participate in a beach cleanup, as a part of the Adopt-a-Beach Program. Every year, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection allows volunteers to “adopt” one of New Jersey’s many beaches, thereby removing any harmful materials from the beach that threaten the local environment while keeping the coastline beautiful at the same time!

Together, the volunteers spent two hours picking up all sorts of debris from the beach, including paper/plastic bags, food wrappers, beverage cans and bottles, and other left-over trash. All of the volunteers shared a large sense of pride and accomplishment after witnessing the difference they had made to the Asbury Park Beach . It turned out to be a very fun day!



## DONATIONS

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

**YOU can help!**

*To make a donation , please make 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 A 2 Z Mentoring Program is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization - all donations are tax deductible.**

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## Students Improve through Tutoring



### Fall 2010 A2Z Mentoring schedule, time and location

**Hickory Corner Library (EW TWP)**

Thursday 6:30-8:00 pm

Saturday 9:30-11:00am

Saturday 11am-12:30pm

**Twin Rivers Library (EW TWP)**

Wednesday 6-7:30 pm

Thursday 6-7:30 pm

Saturday 9:30-11:00am

**Ewing Library (Ewing TWP)**

Tuesday 6:30-8:00 pm

### MEETINGS

A2Z Conducts Meetings and Training four times per year in Local Libraries

## END-OF-THE-YEAR CELEBRATION



## Future Events-2010

- ◆ Volunteer Training/Meeting –September and November 2010
- ◆ Supervisor Training/Meetings –September and November 2010
- ◆ A2Z's Car Wash: September 11th at Valero Gas Station in West Windsor.
- ◆ A2Z Open House: September 12th at Hickory Corner Library in EW from 12p.m. to 4:30p.m
- ◆ BLACK Concert: October 29, 2010  
Time: 8:00pm to 11:00pm  
Place: Robbinsville High School, Robbinsville, NJ

## A2Z Contact Information

*If you would like to become a member of the A2Z family, please refer to the information below.*

*For the Students/Volunteers Registration:*

**Telephone: 609-213-8674**

**Fax: 609-333-0730**

**Email: a2z.program@gmail.com**

The A2Z Annual Ceremony was held on June 13, 2010 at the Plainsboro Municipal Center. We are very grateful to Councilman Kamal Khanna and Councilwoman Diane Ciccone for attending the Ceremony and congratulating all A2Z mentors for working hard in making another year a success. A2Z recognized their 80 volunteers by giving them certificates for their great community services provided from July 2009 – June 2010.. The A2Z Family tearfully bid farewell to graduating A2Z seniors: Kunal Desai (ex-President), Nikita Gupta (ex-Vice President), Naveen Galla (ex-Project Manager), Tanika Raychaudhuri (ex-Secretary), Maria Vincent and Shreya Agarwal; and wished them lots of luck for their upcoming years.

