

June 2011



BAM Blast

The Be A Mentor E-Newsletter

Greetings!

At Be A Mentor, summer is a time to reflect on our progress during the school year, to celebrate the successes, and to analyze our program. For this, we need your help. Please complete our survey so that we have a clear picture of what is happening in the lives of the mentors and mentees who we serve.

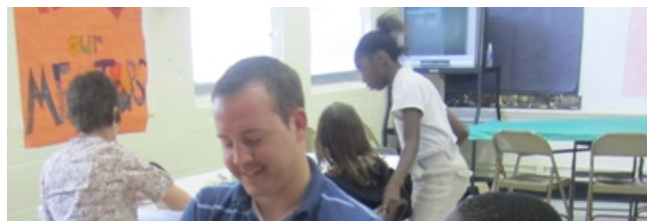
Thank you!

Heather Fields and Cammie Camp, Program Coordinators
Jerry Young, Founder

Be A Mentor School's Out Survey

Be A Mentor

is proud to report that we have placed 75 active mentors with our partner schools and programs from January-May 2011! We have



Quick Links

[Be A Mentor website](#)

[Be A Mentor School's Out Survey](#)

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already started recruiting mentors for next school year, and we want to know about your experiences. All of our mentors have been faced with triumphs and challenges, and the "School's Out Survey" is Be A Mentor's way of learning about these experiences in order to better serve our mentors. Please take the time to complete this survey, as it is invaluable to next year's Be A Mentor programming. Everyone who completes the survey will be entered to win a \$50 grocery store gift card! Click [HERE](#) to begin the survey.



Be A Mentor and General Engineering Laboratories: Partners in Mentoring



Be A Mentor has a track record of matching mentors from local companies to students in partnering schools. One of the most successful examples of this model is St. Andrews School of Math and Science in West Ashley and General Environmental Laboratories, an environmental analytics lab close to the school.

This partnership grew out of a conversation between Be A Mentor founder, Jerry Young, and GEL

CEO Jim Stelling. Jerry was talking about how rewarding mentoring has been for him, and Jim mentioned he was looking for a volunteer opportunity to offer his employees. Jerry suggested that Jim and his employees become lunch buddy mentors. Jim loved the idea, and GEL generously donated funds to help jump start a program at St. Andrews.

Conveniently, Wendy Gainey, St. Andrews's guidance counselor had wanted to start a lunch buddies program for years. Mrs. Gainey just didn't have the time to recruit and train the mentors. Be A Mentor approached the school and offered to help found the program. Be A Mentor held a training and orientation for the GEL mentors and Mrs. Gainey matched them with mentees based on common interests. GEL originally placed 12 mentors at the school, but since the program has boomed! Three additional GEL mentors and 15 other mentors from throughout the community have been matched, for a total of 30 mentors at St.

Andrews.

Both the students and mentors feel the program is extremely beneficial. Mentor Erin Haubert says "I love that my mentee has started playing her recorder for me!" and GEL CEO Jim Stelling is having a blast, commenting, "I think I get as much out of this as the kids!" There is a definite sense of workplace camaraderie among the mentors, adding great pride to the GEL office.

Mrs. Gainey has seen positive changes in her students as well. "The kids are always so excited for their mentors to come." says Wendy. Being a science school, the GEL mentors fit right in. Several mentors helped their mentees with their science projects, allowing them that extra bit of assistance that other students often get at home. Teachers have also seen a positive change in some of the students' behavior.

The pairing of GEL and St. Andrews has been an mutually rewarding one. BAM recently hosted a lunch for the GEL mentors. Ideas for improvements and plans for next year were shared, and everyone can't wait until the 2011-2012 school year to start!

Please consider helping your business become a Business Buddies partner. We have schools all over the Charleston area who could use your help!

**Complete the
survey, win \$50 in
groceries!**

If you complete the survey by July 31st, you will be entered to win a \$50 grocery store gift card. Please take a few minutes to take our survey today!

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