

PROJECT: CARING & SHARING

Since 1981, Project: Caring & Sharing (PCS) has provided weekly food banks, clothing & personal hygiene items giveaways, health fairs, back-to-school giveaways, holiday food baskets and holiday toys giveaways to single heads of households, senior citizens and the working poor in the Pomona Valley, San Gabriel Valley and the Inland Empire. PCS, working in collaboration with various public, community and faith-based organizations, has recently expanded its services to encompass a more holistic approach to supporting families by offering a range of programs including afterschool tutoring and mentoring for foster youth and children of incarcerated parents; college prep and financial assistance programs; family support classes such as parenting, anger management, domestic violence and substance abuse recovery promotion; and re-entry empowerment programs for individuals returning to their communities from incarceration.

In Fall 2009, CCCSI and Project: Caring & Sharing, a private, non-profit 501 (C) (3) organization formed a new partnership which would concentrate on providing academic mentoring services to foster children who may have academic challenges, behavior issues, emotional trauma and/or may have a parent who is incarcerated.

Through its partnership with CCCSI, Project: Caring & Sharing offers an academic mentoring program on campus for foster youth between the ages of 8 and 14. Student volunteers (academic mentors) from Pitzer College meet one-on-one with their foster youth (mentees), twice per week for a total of four hours per week. Since the program's inception, a total of 30 Pitzer students have served as academic mentors (17 in the fall semester; 13 in the spring semester - four of those were returning mentors).

In addition to providing tutoring, homework help, and positive reinforcement, the mentoring program also aims to address the social and emotional needs of youth. The program goals are to see improvement in core academic subjects; to see a reduction in the number of unexcused absences from school; and to see positive changes in student behavior and attitude, anger management, self-esteem abilities, anti-social behavior and decision-making. Mentors are encouraged to interact with mentees through various activities, including board games and sporting activities. The mentors, under the direction of the program staff, initiated a movie night, poster contest, visited a performance at Victoria Gardens, and are holding a talent contest to conclude the spring semester.

The program services for the 2009-2010 semester included a series of workshops on issues that are relevant to the daily lives of elementary and middle school students. The first workshop was designed to help students understand and respond to bullying situations and empower the students to safely intervene in bullying incidents. As a result of the workshop, program directors were made aware of several incidents of bullying in the life of several of the mentees. School personnel were immediately alerted and have since intervened to ensure their safety.

The Academic Mentoring program staff visits the school of each mentee. The program staff meets with the appropriate teachers, counselors and administrator to gather information regarding the mentee's academic program for the semester. The mentors and their mentees were asked this semester to work together to come up with an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) which would help the mentee's improvement in core academic subjects; and to see positive changes in student behavior and attitude, anger management, self-esteem abilities, anti-social behavior and decision-making. The IEP was based on the information gathered from the mentees school as well as prior grade cards and progress reports.

The Academic Mentoring program uses evaluative tools such as a teacher survey to determine any change in the mentee's classroom behavior; the prior and most current grade cards of the mentee to determine any change in the mentee's academic performance; and a pre & post survey given to the mentors and mentees to determine the strength and relevance of the mentor/mentee relationship during the semester. We are pleased to see that there has been measurable improvement in the grade cards of many of the mentees. Also, the mentee's teachers are informing us that many of them are turning in completed homework assignments and their test results are also higher. We are in the process of preparing this evaluative information and will release the results as soon as all data is received for the 2009-2010 school year.

The need for this program is great but the effectiveness of the program is only as strong as the number of student volunteers (academic mentors) that we are able to recruit which is why we are seeking to develop similar partnerships with other local colleges and universities in the Pomona and San Gabriel Valleys to increase the number of volunteer student mentors. This will increase our capacity to service more foster youth. In the Fall 2010 semester, we anticipate creating a second much needed Academic Mentoring program for youth 14 to 18. The new Academic Mentoring program will include the academic enrichment component as well as providing life skills classes and a volunteer community mentor. Many foster youth in this age group is seriously at risk of not completing high school and will "age-out" of foster care. It has been reported that over 30% of incarcerated individuals were once in the Foster Care system.

Project: Caring & Sharing wishes to thank Pitzer College and CCCSI staff (especially Sandy Mayo) for the opportunity that has been afforded our Academic Mentoring program. We could not have provided the needed services to the children without the support CCCSI and we look forward to continuing our partnership. Our first year of operation for the Academic Mentoring Program has been a wonderful learning experience and we are anxiously awaiting our second year.

Free Life Skills Classes

1-909-438-1045



PROJECT: CARING & SHARING Academic Mentoring Programs Ages: 15 yrs. to 18 yrs.

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|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Money Management | Educational Opportunities | Employment Opportunities |
| Health Care & Safety | Housing & Transportation | Home & Food Management |
| Community Resources | Job Seeking Skills | Job Maintenance Skills |

This academic mentoring program is sponsored by Project: Caring & Sharing, a California approved non-profit 501 ©(3). This program is not affiliated with the L.A. County Department of Children & Family Services or any of its employees.

260 South Garey Avenue * Pomona, CA 91766 * E-mail: projectcaring@aol.com
For More Information Please Call 1-909-438-1045

Free Academic Mentoring

1-909-438-1045



PROJECT: CARING & SHARING Academic Mentoring Programs Ages: 8yrs. to 14 yrs. & Ages: 15 yrs. to 18 yrs.

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| • | FREE ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION: Math, Language Arts, Science, Etc. |
| • | FREE MENTORING SERVICES |

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TUTORIA GRATUITA

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PROJECT: CARING & SHARING Academic Mentoring Program

- **TUTORIA :**
en Matematicas o Lectura/Escritura
- **TRANSPORTACION GRATUITA:**
Puede Ser Examenes
- **Tutoria:**
Lunes y Wednesdays

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