



TRUSTED MENTORS

Support. Stabilize. Succeed.

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY!



Trusted Mentors is proud of the accomplishments of our mentees and of our organization! This summer letter tells the story of two of our mentees. You will see the value of their determination and how the support of a mentor can truly make a difference!

As an organization, Trusted Mentors is growing. The Indianapolis Foundation presented us with the Visionary Award for our “outstanding work” with hundreds of ex-offenders and at-risk adults every year. The results of our efforts are making a positive impact on the community!



We are also making strides in serving more adults with a growing staff. Craig, Rachel, Ed, Carolyn, and Manon are committed to helping more adults in an effort to provide the community with productive citizens.

And, we’re moving offices! Although, we’ve been proudly located on Virginia Avenue since 2009, Trusted Mentors is ready to embrace this exciting change and move on to the next chapter in efforts to serve more mentees. Thank you for your support, it makes a difference!

Jeri Warner

Jeri Warner • Executive Director, Trusted Mentors

WE’RE MOVING!

As of June 1, 2017, Trusted Mentors temporarily moved into Office 6 at the PIN Bureau, 325 S. College Ave, 46203. This co-working space will provide a solution as we work to get into a permanent office space in the King Park neighborhood by early fall (September or October) once construction is completed.

Here are some important details during these transition times:

- Our phone number and emails will remain unchanged.
- We will not have a fax number, but you can scan and email information.

- Mail sent to the old address will be forwarded.

We’ve enjoyed our 8 years on Virginia Avenue

and look forward to our next steps. We want you to know that we’ll continue to make matches and train new mentors so that we can help people stay housed and out of prison. We will be sure to keep you updated on our next steps!

PS – Moving comes with unexpected costs. If you would like to help us cover these costs, we would greatly appreciate your support!

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TRUSTED MENTORS INTRODUCES NEW LIFT AWARD

At the Second Annual Empowerment Luncheon held on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, Trusted Mentors introduced the **LIFT Award**, designed to recognize those who LIFT themselves to new heights. In this inaugural Award, Trusted Mentors awarded Vernisha and Randy.

Vernisha met her mentor, Barbara, shortly after graduating from the culinary training at Second Helpings. Vernisha faced challenges with her housing, daycare, and parenting her daughter all while trying to make ends meet and start a new life for herself and her daughter. Thanks to her incredible mentor and her determination, Vernisha is now managing the bistro of a flagship Kroger store, has purchased a late model car that provides reliable and efficient transportation, and sees her credit rating continue to rise every month.



Randy met his mentor, Mark, while finishing his 21-year prison sentence at the Indianapolis Re-entry Education Facility. Within a month of release, Sodrel Trucking hired Randy as a mechanic. Randy's mechanical skill set, an outstanding record of work while at IREF, and enthusiasm for the opportunity earned him the honor of being the first ex-offender to be hired in Sodrel's long history. In his three years with Sodrel, Randy has so impressed the leadership that they have asked him to lead a project to establish a formal program to recruit and hire more ex-offenders into their company. He is now married and a homeowner.



Trusted Mentors LIFTs up Randy and Vernisha for their success at going above and beyond in rebuilding their life. Thanks to dedicated mentors and quality training from Trusted Mentors, Randy and Vernisha are just two of the hundred of success stories we see every day.

Trusted Mentors also presented the **Community LIFT Award** to the Indy Chamber for their leadership to LIFT up our community with greater access to transit, leading the

Transit Drives Indy campaign. At Trusted Mentors, we know all too well how transportation influences access to jobs and other needed resources. Because of the Indy Chamber, our mentees have greater access and opportunities within this city.

Working together with mentors and community partners, Trusted Mentors is bringing support, stability, and success to hundreds of lives in Indianapolis through positive and meaningful mentoring relationships.

THE DIFFERENCE A MENTOR MAKES

Young adults like Erykah and Samantha, who both experienced foster homes as children, have formed an invaluable relationship thanks to Trusted Mentors.

Erykah credits her Trusted Mentor, Samantha, for inspiring her to go to college, reviewing her essays, and ultimately, helping her get accepted to Indiana State University. Erykah is excited to start this fall! And, Erykah looked beautiful at prom. None of this would have been possible without Trusted Mentors and Samantha.



What does Samantha think? *"I am honored to be in a mentoring relationship with Erykah through Trusted Mentors. She has taught me a great amount about myself, and we have been able to grow together, both personally and professionally, through our fruitful discussions on life, friendships, school, and more. We are truly blessed to be a part of Trusted Mentors and would not have had the opportunity to build such a wonderful friendship if it were not for the program."*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**The Gala 2017 – Presented by Indy Telcom Center
Themed: Miami Vice/Back to the 80's**

Friday, September 22, 2017

Crane Bay Event Center

551 W. Merrill Street • Indianapolis, IN 46225

7 PM VIP Reception • 7:30 PM The Gala

VIP Reception & Gala \$125 • The Gala \$100

Corporate tables available

TheGalaIndy.org