

Lead Mentor Program 2010-2011



Pathways for Exceptional Children's Lead Mentor program offers leadership and career training along with exciting opportunities to develop new programs, work with professionals and government officials, and be involved at the forefront of Pathways, an innovative and fast-growing not-for-profit child-centered organization. Lead mentors will also be heavily involved in advocating to propel New Jersey as a leader in inclusion of people with special needs. To become a part of this program, mentors must apply, be interviewed and selected by a panel of Pathways representatives. The Lead Mentor's term is a minimum of one year going from

September to September. Lead Mentors can reapply each year for another term. We accept a maximum of 10 lead mentors each year into the program. All children, both with and without disabilities, including those living outside of Montville, are welcome. To apply, mentors must be entering 6th grade or above, have completed the mentor training and volunteered as a mentor for a minimum of 10 hours, and be committed to fulfilling the following requirements of the program:

Lead Mentor Responsibilities:

- 1) Lead Mentors will attend Pathways leadership meetings bi-monthly. Attendance at these meetings is **mandatory** to ensure goals are accomplished and projects are completed on time.
- 2) Lead Mentors correspond via **email** when completing projects and scheduling meetings. You are required to check your email regularly and to reply as requested.
- 3) Lead Mentors will assist for a minimum of once a year at Pathways for Exceptional Children's Mentor Training Workshops to train new mentors.
- 4) Lead Mentors are responsible for writing one or more articles per year for Pathways' monthly mentor newsletter and/or other forms of public media.
- 5) Lead Mentors will be involved in directing and organizing at least two Pathways' public events per year, such as fundraisers, workshops, public speaking /field trips, and/or conferences.
- 6) Lead Mentors will help train and supervise new mentors in programs for children with special needs for a minimum of 5 hours per year.

Lead Mentors who are active in this program are eligible to be nominated for the "Lead Mentor Award," as detailed on the next page. This award may be given annually in recognition of extraordinary capabilities, efforts and performance in Pathways' Lead Mentor Program.

Please fill out the application form provided if you wish to participate in this program. The form must be postmarked no later than September 15, 2010.

Pathways for Exceptional Children Lead Mentor Award

The Award:

Pathways' Board of Trustees implemented the Lead Mentor Award in March 2005. A maximum of \$1,500 in the form of scholarship funding is allotted each year toward this recognition award for one Lead Mentor or a maximum of two Lead Mentors at \$750 per person if selected. The award is to be presented to the Lead Mentor upon his/her graduation from high school.

To Qualify, the nominee(s) must have:

- 1) Served as a Lead Mentor for a minimum of 12 months.
- 2) Demonstrated active involvement with the training and recruitment of new mentors.
- 3) Helped to improve existing Pathways programs through not only offering innovative ideas and input, but also helping to actively implement these ideas into these programs.
- 4) Displayed leadership and advocacy qualities that show initiative, enthusiasm, and a passion to inspire others to gain a greater understanding of children with special needs. These qualities must demonstrate quantifiable social change. For example, promoting more people to volunteer and get involved in community service with Pathways, or coordinating a special event that helps to promote Pathways' mission.
- 5) Displayed commitment and dedicated time to special events and fund raising activities run by Pathways that created a measurable increase or remarkable impact beyond what would normally be expected from similar events in previous years. *Example: The Lead Mentors nominated in the previous year tripled both the number of registrations and amount of money raised for the walkathon from the prior year. They also increased the number of t-shirts sold from 150 to 2,500.*

The Nomination Process:

A Lead Mentor may be nominated by one or more representatives of Pathways for Exceptional Children involved in running the Mentoring Program, Recreational Programs, and/or Lead Mentor Program. This nomination will take the form of a letter of recommendation detailing how the nominee has displayed the qualities outlined in the above criteria. The representative initiating the nomination will present it to all Pathways leaders and/or officers, with maximum of two Lead Mentors selected. The Lead Mentor(s) nominated will be eligible to receive \$1500.00 (one selected) or \$750 per Lead Mentor (two selected), which may be used only for college tuition and/or career-based training. If no one is nominated or selected who meets the "Lead Mentor Award" qualifications, the award will not be given that year.

Distribution of Scholarship Funds:

Scholarship award monies will be distributed upon graduation from high school when the mentor attends college and or occupational training/vocational school. No payments will be made directly to the student or family. The scholarship award is to be expressly used by the Lead Mentor for his/her training or education that will assist toward developing a professional career. A Lead Mentor can win the award more than once while actively participating in the program if nominated and voted in by the Pathways leaders and/or officers. Awards won prior to a Lead Mentor's graduation will be held and paid out upon graduation from High School. If a Lead Mentor does not use the scholarship monies within one year after graduation from High School, all award monies will be forfeited to Pathways for Exceptional Children. Any deviations from the above rules must be approved by the Pathways Board of Trustees.



How to Apply for Pathways' Lead Mentor Program:

All Applicants (new and returning)

1. Fill out the application below.
2. Write an essay a minimum of one page. Based on your understanding of the Lead Mentor program, write about what you feel you have to offer, such as ideas and personality traits, to this program.

- Include qualities you possess that would make you a great Lead Mentor and an example for others to follow.
3. Attend an interview, which will be scheduled after 9/15/10 once all applications have been received and reviewed.

New Applicants Only

Submit one letter of recommendation from an adult 18 years or older (other than your immediate family) describing your ability to be responsible to your commitments, as well as qualities of character you may possess, such as kindness, acceptance of differences and/or devotion to helping others.

All applicants (new and returning) must complete the application form below and send by 9/15/10 to Pathways Lead Mentor Program, 4 Cherokee Court, Montville, NJ 07045

If you need special accommodations to meet the requirements of this application process or have other questions about this program, please call Melinda Jennis at 973-334-9240 or email mvtpec@aol.com.

Pathways Lead Mentor Application 2010-2011

Mentor's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Town, State, Zip _____

Phone: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

School attending in Fall 2010: _____ Grade entering: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Put a check by all Mentoring Programs you have participated in:

Home-Based Buddies Recreation Program Life Skills Program School Program Other _____

PHOTO RELEASE: Photos and videos may be taken at Pathways programs and events to be used in newsletters, websites, brochures, flyers, presentations, newspapers or magazines. Parent or guardian: please indicate how your child's photo and name can be used in conjunction with our program by checking the appropriate boxes below and signing your name at the bottom. You may notify Pathways in writing at any time if you wish to make changes.

- I give Pathways for Exceptional Children permission to publish my child's: photo/video , full name , first name only , in conjunction with related Pathways events in: Newsletters , Websites , Brochures/Presentations , Local Weeklies , Town Publications , Daily Newspapers .
- I have read and fully understand all details related to the Lead Mentor Program as described on the three pages of this form. I give my child permission to participate in Pathways for Exceptional Children's Lead Mentor Program.

Parent/Guardian Permission (print name) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____