



Washington Street Foundation

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2010, VOLUME 24

Life is... by Sadaf Aayar, 9th grade

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.

Life is beauty, admire it.

Life is bliss, taste it.

Life is a dream, realize it.

Life is a challenge, meet it.

Life is a duty, complete it.

Life is a game, play it.

Life is a promise, fulfill it.

Life is sorrow, overcome it.

Life is a song, sing it.

Life is a struggle, accept it.

Life is a tragedy, confront it.

Life is an adventure, dare it.

Life is luck, make it.

Life is too precious, do not destroy it.

Life is life, fight for it.

- Mother Teresa

This is my one of my favorite quotes because when ever I look back

at it, it inspires me...life is truly all of these things...

Life gives you opportunities through out your journey...

Life is full of beauty all

around...beautiful people, beautiful moments

Life is bliss, enjoying each moment

Life is a dream, realizing what you wanted all this time and achieving for it

Life has its challenges but its learning from those challenges

Life is a duty; you have duties, your duty towards school and family

Life is a game, learning the tricks and trades and learning to get better the second time around

Life is a promise, promises you make your self to be the best you can be,

promises towards your family wanting to give them a better life

Life is sorrow; it is those nights you cried yourself to sleep, passing through all the hardships

Life is singing at the top of your lungs in the shower

Life is struggle, starting from the bottom hoping to get to the top, facing those roadblocks

Life is tragedy, look it in the eye and confront it

Life is luck, find it for yourself

And I think she says it all when she says...

"Life is too precious, do not destroy it. Life is life, fight for it."

- Mother Teresa

Getting to Know Our New Mentor...

Michelle Delillo

I was born in California and grew up in New Mexico. I moved to Arizona about eight years ago and I love it here. I earned my BA from the University of New Mexico and my MC from ASU. I work as a high school guidance counselor.

Favorite ice cream? - "I love all types of ice cream but enjoy Ben and Jerry's cookie dough and strawberry cheesecake the best."

Something about you no one really knows? - "I have played softball my whole life and am an assistant coach at the school I work at. I am secretly addicted to honey and I put it on everything."

Favorite color? - "Blue and green."

Mitzi's Open House Grad Party



Sunday, January 2nd
from 2-5pm

Barry & Carmen's House

Mentor Training

Sun. Feb 27th at 2pm or Tues. Mar 1st at 6:30pm or Wed. Mar 2nd at 6:30pm

RSVP for one session to Ivy by Fri. Feb 18th

How it's Like to Live in the Desert

by Vianey Torres, 7th grade

So one day my mom told me that we were moving I didn't know when until a few days, later my mom says we're moving in two weeks. So for the next two week I played everyday with my friends because I knew we were moving far away. I asked my mom where we were moving and my older brother says were moving to the desert. I didn't believe him, but it was true. Finally that day came and my brother's friends came to help us move and we got a big truck to move everything. I was sad for leaving my home.

We drove a long time I feel asleep and then finally the car stopped and we were there. My brother was telling the truth we are in the desert. We spent a few days moving things here and there and unpacking and cleaning forever. And it was so hot.

Finally my mom let me play out-

side and I found out that there where lots of kids in my neighborhood to play with and in no time I had lots of new friends. I spent all summer getting to know them and hanging out. They play soccer and play games like me and they ride quads and we ride our bikes in the dirt. When it rains the frogs come out and we catch them and watch them swim in a bucket of water.

At first I didn't want to move the desert I liked my old house but now that I have so many new friends I like my new home.

Then summer ended and school stated and it was it the last place you would think to look in the middle of no where. This is the first year I have to ride the school bus to school and I'm the only person with my name that goes to that school. I've made so many more new friends and that the end of me living in the desert.

Kindergarten Buddies

by Jaffet Ortega, 6th grade

Hi, I'm going to tell you about our new system we have in our school called buddies. Buddies are when teachers assign kindergarteners to do fun activities with sixth graders. For example we help them learn their ABC's. I think it's really cool because we are role models to the kids. There is usually just one sixth grader and one kindergartener, but since there was an uneven amount of kids I'm paired up with another sixth grader, but still one buddy. I'm okay with that because now it's double the fun and our buddy has a role model to look up to.

Our buddy's teacher is named Ms. Neil and my buddy's name is Aiden. He is really cool. The last project was cutting out letters,

and they had to say the letters and a show a motion to go with it. For example, if it was the letter S then they sound it out and wave their hands in a wavy motion. It was super funny. They're really learning a lot. They know how to write their names and know all their ABC's. My buddy said he likes his teacher very much.

I really like this program because it teaches them the basics, and they learn how to not be shy. A lot of the kindergarteners were really scared because they were surrounded by so many homogeneous kids, yet now they are starting to talk and come out of their shells. I just hope that these kids grow up to be smart and intelligent kids when grow up.

It's Right Behind Us

by Sajid Camacho, 7th grade



On September 18th, Bruce picked me up so we can go to Group C's

foundation meeting. Before that we were gonna get a bite to eat so we both decided to have Dunkin Donuts. So we were looking for one for about 10 to 15 minutes when finally we gave it a rest and stopped at McDonalds. When we were finished eating we went to the car and when we were in he looked in his rear view mirror to back up the car and then out of nowhere he looks at me in astonishment and says, "It's right behind us." I say, "What's right behind us?" He says, "Dunkin Donuts!" And there it was Dunkin Donuts.

When I Grow Up

by Rosa Martinez, 7th grade



When I grow up I want to be a pediatrician who travels the world to places like Africa, Haiti

and Chile to help the sick children. To me this job, opportunity would be amazing! I'm smart, love kids, and have plenty of patience! This is my dream job and I know I have to work hard and keep our commitment to WSF. My grades need to be kept up and I have to do my job as a student and give 115%! I want my own car and house someday and I am going to work my hardest for it.

The Stresses of Junior Year

by Courtney Laycock, 11th grade



What can I say, it seem like junior year began to attack me over the summer! It got its hooks into me with all of the summer work that built up like and monster and controlled my final days of summer vacation, when in reality, who are we kidding, I never had one. The summer of the **FIRST** year I could drive, supposed to be a blast, well mine turned into school all over again. I began summer College classes in early June, attending Monday through Thursday from 9 to 2. Then after school, I would zip over to work and work 6 to 8 hour days, come home, go to sleep, wake up **SUPER** early and complete my homework for the classes that I was to endure that morning. The first Human Communications, the hardest class ever for an impatient person to sit through. Then Computer Instructions Class, a class that did not really have a large effect due to the fact that I am not computer savvy whatsoever. The days were tedious, but I knew I had to sit through them for five weeks in order to get a grade that I deserved. When July rolled around and I was finished with summer school, I finally had to take a look at my History and English summer assignments. (YIKES). Two very large very boring assignments were put

before me, and I was expected to have them done within three weeks! I finally had to kick myself into gear to get going on them. I worked on the assignments in my spare time, and when I wasn't working on those, I was at work, 40 hours a week, and the rest devoted to homework and minimal sleep. Then school rolled around, and **SURPRISE, SURPRISE**, we got an extra week to finish the assignments. Needless to say, I was not a very happy camper. But I felt accomplished that they were done! School kicked into full gear by the second day of school. I ended up getting seriously sick and missed 4 days of 5 for my first week of school. I figured then that it was going to be a rocky ride. I was put onto the Varsity Volleyball team, something I had been looking forward to, and ended up having to quit. L Due to my grades being more important than a sport, I had to succeed in school rather than sports. The year drags on, and I have been having to discipline myself to do homework in classes. It is a tough schedule to maintain, and needs to be monitored. Now I am working 25 hours a week, going to school on Saturdays, and completing my 10 hours of homework nightly for my core classes. I am being stretched to my limits and have to force myself not to give in, because **IT** will be worth it in the long run, and that's all I have to remember. Stugo also plays a **LARGE** role in my life right now. Everything is revolving around **PROM!** The biggest event of Junior year (well besides getting elected for Student Body President!). This year I have a larger group under me than normal, and they do not always tend to agree with me. In fact they

love to drive me bonkers and disagree with everything I do. Thus, I have had to learn to be more outspoken with them and take a little more authority versus being so passive. Its hard to fare with since half of them are my really close friends, they feel like I am on a power trip. And I'm not, I just know how to get things done, and time is never on our side, so crunching takes place and that stresses me out even more. I deal with so many people at work and at school sometimes I don't know how to handle myself. I have to learn to have patience and realize that it is not their faults that I am stressing all the time over school, work, prom, **STUGO**, homework, **EVERYTHING!** Things get done, and when the year is over, I can honestly say, Junior year is **BY FAR** the hardest year in a high school career and needs to be taken very seriously. Even if you don't take AP classes and work and go to college all at the same time, it still plays a large role into where you will be accepted. Build your resumes, make yourself look good, help the community, but mostly achieve the goals you hope to achieve and **HAVE FUN!** Because not having fun makes you crazy, something that I am always on the cusp of.



MITZY SORIA AND HER ROBOTICS SCRIMMAGE TEAM. THEY CAME IN SECOND OF THE NINE MIDDLE SCHOOLS WHO ENTERED.

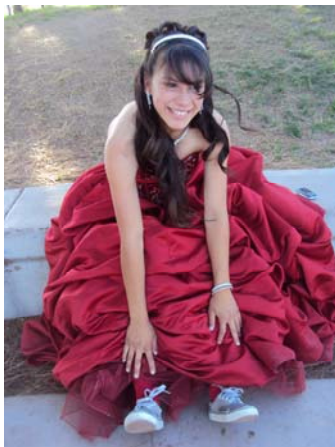
Turning Quince...

by Angel Camacho, 10th grade

The one unforgettable day was on May 15, 2010, it was the celebration of my Quince.

I was very excited and everyday kept passing making it almost the day of celebration. My parents thought I deserved one so they helped out with planning which was a very good thing because I needed the most possible, thanks also to Gina that helped out planning took about almost a year. Many people when they hear a quince the only thing that pops up is the party, but there is much more into that. A Quinceañera is a celebration of a fifteenth birthday, coming from Latin America. This birthday is celebrated differently from any other birthday, as it marks the transition from childhood to womanhood. The celebration, however, varies significantly across countries, with celebrations in some countries taking on, for example, more religious overtones than in others. The celebration

goes a little like this: wake up get ready go to a church for the father to give you his blessing, but mine took place at the salon or a banquet hall. The priest gave me a speech of what it means to be a young lady and what is expected. After there is a party where my family and friends come. I got excused from the meeting that Saturday because of everything that was going on that day. I saw many people from Washinton Street there like Russ, Phillip, Elizabeth, Gina of course, and Ivy and many others. I had fun, but when it was over I was glad and happy the whole planning and anxious waiting was over but it was worth it.



Esperanza Rising

by Meyla Milian-Sanchez, 6th grade

On September 4th, a lot of us girls in Group D met at Sarah's house (Mina's mentor). We had our very first book club meeting! The book we all read was Esperanza Rising. This story is about a girl who lives in Mexico she has everything she could ask for, her life was perfect. But one day her dad goes far into his land and is killed by bandits. This turns Esperanza's life around. She faces challenges and learns a lot throughout the book. She is forced to move to Los Angeles and work at a camp or else she will be sent off to boarding school by her uncle who has just proposed to Esperanza's mom. Anyone who hasn't read this book I encourage you to read it because it is a very heart filled exciting book.



My 13.1 Mile Journey by Andrea Petrof, mentor

Sometimes in life you just have to dive in, accept a challenge and run with it...and in my case I RAN! In August of 2008, an opportunity to do something I had never done before was presented to me- run the PF Chang's Half Marathon in Phoenix. For many this seems like an ideal way to stay fit, for me, who has hated running since I was in junior high, it was a "bucket list" item I wanted to check off. So I started training- I had a schedule to follow with certain miles that needed to be completed each week- on non-run days- I was to do weight training and other cardio activities.

Two weeks into training I broke my pinky toe, a little hard to place a shoe on a broke toe and run!!! I spoke to my running coach and he asked that I train on the elliptical for a few months until my toe healed. I felt this truly set me

back, especially since I had friends who were training as well and they were racking up miles on the street that I could not do. I did what I could until the day had come.

My adventure began at 7th Ave and Thomas on a cold January morning. True professional runners surrounded me- decked out in high-tech running gear- I felt defeated already. We were spaced out into corrals based on per minute miles. Needless to say it took us over a half hour to ever "start" the race. When I crossed that starting line, a new energy overtook me. My goal was to run a mile, walk a mile. Running with my friend Carrie, she pushed me and I found myself running and running- I ran 6 straight miles before I couldn't do it any longer. I had to stop- my feet were sore, my breathing heavy- I HAD to walk.

Carrie took off and my lone adventure began. 7.1 miles to complete all by myself. Every mile marker, a group of people stood- cheering me on, handing out water, energy gels and drinks. My body was sore- it hurt, my feet were numb, my knees ached, but I kept on trucking! It was almost easier to run then to walk, so I jogged.

Just as I crossed over Mill Ave Bridge- I hit an emotional roller coaster- I started to cry- tears of joy, of pain, of exhilaration and exhaustion. I was doing it. I ran the last mile like I had never run before- searching the crowd for family and friends. I crossed the finish line- not with the best of times- but I crossed it- and in doing so felt this amazing sense of accomplishment. I checked that item off my bucket list! Now what shall I do? Skydive?

Fairy Tale

by Kaycee Torres, 10th grade

I was on my way to my New School. I had to leave my old one because my Mommy got a new job.

On my way I forgot what street to turn on. It was either turn left on Rosemary, or right on Passionfruit.

Standing in front of Passionfruit a boy came behind me asking if I was lost.

He had bright green eyes, a smile with bright white teeth, & dark brown hair.

I told him I was new and he decided to walk me to school & told me he would show me around. At school he asked for

my name. "Priscilla Luperico," I told him. And he replied with his huge smile, "Nice to of met you, my name is Milo Casanova."

His name was already gorgeous like him.

Later on at lunch he found me sitting at a bench, away from the crowds.

"Priscilla, I know I do not know you, but would you like to go out to the movies this weekend?

I could show you around this new town." I of course accepted the offer.

HAPPILY EVER
AFTER. THE END!

Over my 2010 summer...

by Elizabeth Ramirez, 9th grade



Over my 2010 summer, I spent some time away at Sky Y Camp. I was a bit nervous to know that I would be far from my family yet I was comforted to know I'd have Angel by my side.

At camp I felt a bit home sick, but I was relieved that Angel was there to relax me. She is such a great friend! When I was terrified of sleeping in the yurt, knowing there was mice inside; I was shocked that Angel slept on the floor to make me feel better. I was so glad to have such a friend- "I love you Angel!"

Sky Y was such a great experience. I learned to play ultimate Frisbee and of course Angel SMASHED the guys at the game. I also had the experience to ride the giant swing. It was so terrifying to jump off a 40 foot pole, but I'm so glad I tried it! It's something I will never forget!

The best part was going to Chancy Ranch and spending half of the day riding a horse - "Blackie". Also meeting such great people, we were like family for just one week.

Our yurt became so close knit by staying up late during the night having conversations about personal things. We even made our own version of the song "California Girls" to "Sky Y Girls". The 1st day of camp I couldn't wait to go home, but on the last day, I wish we could have stayed longer together.

"Thanks Berry!" for allowing us to having such great life experiences!

Eighth Grade by Mirina Higginbothan, 8th grade

After seventh grade had ended, I got really scared for the future because eighth grade would be coming really soon. All my eighth grade friends would warn me every-day during the summer, all saying the same thing, "Don't go to eighth grade!" That would frighten me. All summer I did some awesome things, but back in my mind I was still thinking of the horrifying eighth grade.

Eighth grade arrived faster than I expected! I was so nervous! As I was on my way to school, I was thinking, "Would my friends be there? Are my teachers mean? Will I have a lot of homework?" Those thoughts were racing through my mind. When I finally got out of the car, all of my friends came running at me! It was crazy! We all talked for a while then the bell rang. As I walked up the steps to my class, I noticed a lot of new people. There were so many!

I got into my first class, which is science, and already this teacher is in a bad mood. She seemed really cranky. Later I found out she's always that way. I didn't like her at all and to this day she's my least favorite teacher. At least I had a lot of friends I got to sit next to.

Second period was probably the best. My best friend was in that class with me. It is P.E. I have that class on A days. On B days I have drama. That class is kind of fun. It's not the best. All we do is present non stop in that class. It

gets kind of annoying after awhile because all you do is act for an hour and seven minutes. How boring!

My third period class is math. I love math! Also my friend since preschool is in that class. I don't sit next to him anymore, but we had some good times in that class. The teacher is kind of cool. I had him last year in my aspire class. Although, this teacher gives out a lot of homework and we have to write a lot of notes. It drives me crazy! Luckily his class is pretty easy. Besides now I sit next to some really smart girl, so she helps me when I'm stuck.

Fourth and six period is really boring. I have this teacher who smiles too much, but yells a lot. She's really annoying! The class is language arts. Fourth period is academic lab which is kind of like study hall. That's the easiest class to pass.

Finally, seventh period is social studies. That class is kind of boring. I have some friends in that class. We do a lot of projects. That's the only best part of the class. Also we don't have any homework. That's good too because I get a lot of homework in math. Bleh! Although, this class has a lot of pop quizzes. Thank goodness I listen and pay attention!

So eighth grade isn't that bad. My eighth grade friends over exaggerated. Ha, and you guys were scared!



Why Read?

by DJ Burrough, mentor

Life

by Jorge Manzanares, 8th grade

Life is like a game

Every game has rules

If you follow them you could win

If you don't you will lose

Life is like a roller coaster

It has its ups and downs

One day you're at the top

And the next your at the bottom

Life is like a big math problem

It's complicated but can be solved

You can solve it and understand it

Or let it trouble you inside your head

Life is like a path

The trip is long but can be reached

You could follow it

Or you could stay where you're at

Life is what you make of it

Washington Street Foundation mentees hear a constant drumbeat to read. The call comes from your teachers, parents and mentors.

But why read?

Reading has value because there are only so many ways to understand this world you live in, and reading is one of the most powerful ways:

First-hand experience - You can learn by doing something yourself. You can learn, for example, to play a sport, like tennis, by putting a racquet in your hand, getting out on a court and hitting tennis balls. Through trial and error you will learn what works and what doesn't.

Watching and talking to others - You can learn by listening and observing people who really understand the topic you are interested in. Just talking to Rafael Nadal—the top ranked tennis player in the world—talk about how he approaches playing tennis and watching him play would make you a better player.

Reading - You can find a myriad of books about almost anything you can think of. For example, there are thousands of books about tennis from every imaginable perspective (a quick search on Amazon.com turned up 8,855 titles); books from umpires, coaches, players, books about the history of the biggest tournaments, books about how to serve better, how the equipment gets made and how to teach yourself to play. In his autobiography "Open" you can find out how Andre Agassi, one the best players ever, approached the game and what was going on for him through his top years in the sport.

Even when you read only for entertainment you learn something about this world, even if the book is about wizards and takes place in a fantasy world. From the characters you might learn about how to deal with a bully, or what courage looks like or how it feels when you don't relate to your parents.

Beyond learning a subject or how to do something, reading provides you the chance to see the world from a completely

different perspective that you can't learn about any other way.

Think about it. Do you really have any idea of what's going on with most important people in your life, your: mother, father, brothers and sisters, teachers or friends. Even if you followed one of those people around all day, and watched them closely, you still wouldn't fully understand what it is like to be them. But if you read, you have insights into people and can learn how they think, what motivates them, the emotions they are experiencing and why they do what they do. In reading, you can begin to understand how someone can live a life completely different from your own.

Reading gives you that perspective. And when you have other perspectives on the world other than your own, you are vastly better equipped to deal with people, to handle new situations (because you'll have read about similar ones) and to solve perplexing issues in ways that work for everyone.

So read.

Books that most influenced me...

*The Hobbit - This book by J.R.R. Tolkien follows the amazing journey of hobbit Bilbo Baggins as he unwillingly joins a crusade to slay a dragon in a faraway land. I've probably read this book 40 times.

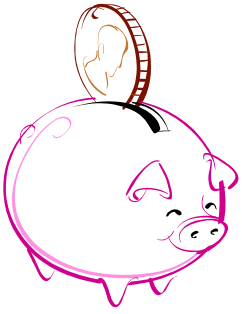
*Catcher in the Rye - Authored by J.D. Salinger, this is considered one of the classic works of American literature. It's about Holden Caulfield, a cynical adolescent, who has just been expelled from his prep school and who is disillusioned with life. Another book I've read dozens of times.

*The Fountainhead - A more serious book, written by Ayn Rand, follows the story of Howard Roark, a young architect who fights to keep his artistic and person vision in a world that wants him to conform.

*The Razor's Edge - Written by W. Somerset Maugham, this book tells the story of Larry Darrell, who after a trauma of fighting in WWI sets off to find some transcendent meaning in his life.

What is a Savings Account...

by Charlie Sonneborn, mentor



What is a savings account and what do I do with it? This is the question my mentee and many other mentees asked when we set up savings accounts for the children years ago.

We had a presentation that explained what they were (an account to put money in that would grow with interest until needed), how

they worked (each month you would receive a statement and see the interest growth and any deposits you made to the account) and then set up the savings accounts at a Bank. We then all set goals on what we would buy with the money once we saved enough. My mentee and I determined that he wanted a computer, so our goal was to try to save enough money to buy a computer.

Now, how do you make the savings account really work for you? You make it work by putting money into the savings account (a deposit) on a regular basis into your savings account at the Bank. This does not have to be a great deal of money, but a deposit every few weeks or once a month. A plan we had worked

out with my mentee to accomplish his computer goal was the following:

1. He would help me with yard work once a month and I would pay him some money for the help at \$25 a month;
2. He would clean up the dishes and kitchen each night after his mother/father cooked and get paid \$10 a week (\$40 a month);
3. He helped his dad with the yard work each week and made another \$10 a week (\$40 a month);

By using the above examples of how to earn money to save it through work, my mentee was on target to buy his first computer in about 6 to 7 months. Our plan was he would have saved between \$600 and \$700 dollars, reaching his goal to have enough money to buy the Computer!

Make a plan to earn money, do the work and get paid, and make it a habit with your mentor or parents to go to the bank each month and put the money in as a deposit. That way you can make a withdrawal (take the money out of the bank) to purchase what you need once you hit your goal.

Black Friday by Kari Brill, mentor

Black Friday is the day when stores are said to "come out of the red and into the black," meaning it's the first day of the year that the stores make a profit. Shopping on Black Friday is a tradition my mom and I participate in every year. The process starts on Thanksgiving morning when I go to the gas station to pick up two papers (one for me and one for her). The paper contains all of the Black Friday ads that we sort through and mark up to determine our shopping list and timeline for the following day's festivities. Surprisingly, this year many stores were open on Thanksgiving day and some opened as early as 12:01 AM the following morning. This year, my mom and I began at Walmart just before midnight, made a quick trip home to drop off our purchases, went

to Kohls at 3:00 AM (QT was handing out donuts and coffee. Thanks QT!) and then finished up at Target around 5:45 AM. Some people think we are crazy for fighting the crowds each year, but for 50-70% off everything it's totally worth it!!

Here are a few Black Friday tips for you next year:

- Always make a list or lists. I've evolved from a written list to an Excel spreadsheet that I can sort by giftee and by store. The list also keeps me from overspending on each person and making sure I have everyone accounted for.
- Make sure to map out the stores with the big ticket items. Store maps are available on their websites and typically show where the large items are going to be located on Black Friday

(they are not always where you think they are going to be).

- Create a timeline. Make sure you are at each store with ample time for the items you want.
 - Shop in pairs. The lines at stores like Kohls, Target and Walmart can be pretty ridiculous. Have one person stand in line while the other one shops, then switch...but make sure to have the majority of your items in your cart when you get in line so other shoppers don't get upset.
 - Bring snacks. Black Friday shopping can take a while....make sure to bring food and water/coffee with you so you don't have to stop.
 - Even if some people don't, remember to be nice to everyone. A smile can take you a long way :)
- Happy Holidays!!

Why I Love My Dog by Renee Brodt, mentor



1. She isn't critical.
2. She doesn't care what kind of food she eats (as long as she gets to eat).
3. She is always happy to see me.
4. She loves to go for a walk, but doesn't complain if I'm too busy.
5. She likes to be with me, even if I'm grumpy.
6. She doesn't care what I wear, or what I look like.
7. She thinks everyday is a good day.
8. She loves the grandkids and their Play Doh.
9. She lets me dress her up and take funny pictures.
10. Our house is never empty or lonely when she is here.

“Take it One Day at a Time!” by Regan Schwartz, mentor

How many of you have ever had someone tell you to just “Take it one day at a time?” How did it make you feel? Angry? Relieved? Emotional? Recently I have been doing a long curriculum unit with my 8th graders that focuses on real life experiences, situations we have to deal with on a daily basis, and looking into your past, present, and future. Most teenagers cannot look past the hour, let alone look back at the events that have changed their lives or ahead to even life in high school. My curriculum consists of some specific activities to try and challenge them to look at these.

We did an activity called the “Toast for Change”, that makes students fill in different word prompts like “I believe” and “I remember.” It makes them dig up the situations that have troubled them in the past, focus on what they can change about the present and set goals for the future. It made me realize the extreme dynamics that quite a few of my students deal with on a day to day basis. To many, school is a sanctuary and a place of peace and safety. To others, it is their worst nightmare. Sitting in a classroom at a desk and doing work is the last

thing on their mind. The results just blew me away and many times I felt as though I was the student and they were my teachers.

Another one of my favorite activities is that I am helping a friend of mine, B-boy Sentrock, and ASU to develop a curriculum in schools that involves art and breakdance. It is called Sound in Color. The project is 8 weeks long, one day a week. Each week the students learn the 5 elements of breaking and they learn the basic moves. Although we all can barely move after a class, I have never seen my children grow so much in such a short time. As the project goes on, the students learn how to combine the different moves to make a “set” and add their own personality. We will then prime a canvas and the students will write some of their goals, dreams, beliefs, and troubles that they have gone through on the canvas. Once this is complete, we will have a DJ come out and we will paint our hands and feet and dance on the canvas. The concept is to teach the student to “Leave it on the dance floor,” and walk off either with a clear mind or the encouragement from their peers to achieve their goals in life. We

will be creating 4 canvases that will be on display at ASU.

Lastly, we have been writing in journals for several months about things that are going on in our lives and using it as a tool to relive stress and get through things. It leads us to think about the future and so we created “Bucket Lists.” I encourage mentors and mentees to sit down and create bucket lists. You will be surprised by the many things that they would like to do before they die.

In my eyes, academics is only a part of the education that we should be providing for our children, especially teenagers. I have intertwined core academics into the many projects I have been teaching, but I have also tried to get them to look at their life and realize that they are in charge of it. Although they hear over and over again to just “take one day at a time”, they really should be “looking at life they have lived, the life they are living, and the life they have left to live!”

**If you are interested, check out Shadoe and Sentrock – Sound in Color on You tube.



Why I Wanted to Become a Mentor

by Erron Boes, mentor

I primarily believe a mentor becomes a mentor in their effort 'to give back', which is inclusive of a dozen or so underlying reasons. Nonetheless, it was for me to see that someone is given an environment where their options in life were considerably more abundant and of better quality than mine.

To use a baseball metaphor, life has an interesting way of throwing curve balls at you, and as independent as the pitcher is to you in his/her pitch so are the curves in life. One does not have any control in the decision making of a pitcher, rather the batter assesses the direction and makes a determination/choice of committing. Unfortunately, sometimes, most times, kids aren't given the option of having a choice and in which case they make the best of it..... that's often tough for a kid.

As a kid we didn't understand a curve ball from a slider from a fast ball, they almost always looked the same... we couldn't call it. The harsh criteria we set for ourselves were whether, and how well, we hit the ball. But unlike



baseball, outcomes in a kid's life aren't so clearly correlated.

I can't recall the hundreds of times that life through me curve balls. And I don't think I struck out, rather it seemed, I remember getting sorely hit by the pitches. I remember wishing that I had someone (beside my parents) who could help guide, even coach me through the sprints, stops and curves of my younger life. Ironically, it seemed the more determined I was in pressing on the more enigmatic the path became. I could have used a lot more guidance.

Being a part of Vianey's life means that he will have the benefits of a coach and guide. He won't have to struggle as much with the different pitches, but more importantly, he'll recognize the significance of being in the game. I love being a part of Vianey's life; he is a great kid with a fantastic spirit. Now, if I were really good at baseball I would end with a great Yogi Berra quote; fortunately though, I got better at life and less so with baseball. (In fact, I played soccer - like Ney NeyJ)

ABC's of Being a WSF Mentor by Jody Kent, mentor



Foundation and to being a mentor. Audra Boyd is a dear friend of mine and has inspired me with her stories about being Sadaf's mentor for years. So, when I heard a replacement mentor was needed, I jumped at the chance to be Destiny Nasr's new mentor.

While I know it has been a big change for Destiny as she gets to know me and has a new mentor in her life, it has also been a huge adjustment for me becoming a mentor. This past weekend was my first wedding anniversary—marriage is truly one of the biggest adjustments in life—and we received a beautiful card

I am new to the Washington Street

called the ABCs of Marriage. That card inspired me to consider and write the **ABCs of Mentoring**.

Absolutely trust that you can and will make a big difference

Be a good friend

Compromise

Discover new things together and about each other

Encourage your mentee in what's important to her/him

Feel excitement and joy about what's happening in your mentee's life

Guide rather than instruct

Have enthusiasm about your mentee's life and future

Inspire one another

Joke and laugh together

Keep confidences

Listen and be fully interested

Marvel at the little things

Nurture all that's possible

Overcome problems together

Play and enjoy your time

Quiet your mind in order to hear what she/he is really saying

Remember what inspired you

about becoming a mentor and stay inspired about little things

Say how proud you are of your mentee often

Tell her/him why they are so important and impressive (because they are!)

Understand and care

Value your time because someday it will be gone

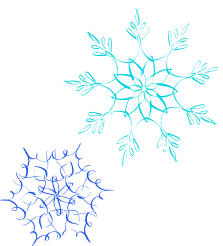
Wish upon stars with your mentee...cultivate her/his biggest dreams!

X-press what's possible in your mentee's future and the wonderful life they can create

Yes!—say YES much more than no

Zestfully engage in conversation and friendship

Washington Street Foundation



Our current students, mentors, group leaders
and graduates....

GRADUATES			
STUDENT	COLLEGE	STUDENT	COLLEGE
Martha Castro	N/A	Y-nhi Nguyen	Glendale CC
Mitzi Miranda	ASU West	Israel Soto	N/A
Carlos Sanchez	N/A	Ivan Ibanez	N/A
Alex Chavez	Southern Nevada CC	Anthony Davis	ASU West
Alisa Duderjia	Paradise Valley CC	Mariela Ramirez	ASU West

GROUP A GROUP LEADERS: MIKE LOFTON & LAURA LIBMAN	
STUDENT	MENTOR
Rakell Verdugo	Ildi Schmidt
Briana Davis	Laura Libman
Kaycee Torres	Andrea Petrof
Willow Herber	Vicki Guffey
Tania Ibanez	Teresa Cuella
Courtney Laycock	Regan Schwartz
Moises Lopez	Mike Lofton
Tiler Meeder	Brigid Dineen
Adam DeVerger	Scott Steinhagen
Angel Camacho	Gina Trotter

GROUP B GROUP LEADERS: JON COURY & AUDRA BOYD	
STUDENT	MENTOR
Sadaf Aayar	Audra Boyd
Nereyda Eribes Borquez	Susan Atkinson
Mitzy Soira	Marialaura Boldini
Hector Miranda Castro	Linda Triolo
Amando Durazo	Ryan Jensen
Philip Gough-Stone	Russ Goodman
Avery Lomayestewa	Andy Chen
Tiler Meeder	Brigid Dineen
Destiny Nasr	Jody Kent
Elizabeth Ramirez	Danette Cheney
Aaron Vargas	David Dodge

GROUP C GROUP LEADERS: JOE LIBMAN & PATRICK BLAKESLEY	
STUDENT	MENTOR
Sajid Camacho	Bruce Trushinsky
Mariah Martinez	Michelle Delillo
Tequasia Harris	Brooke Lofton
Damien Higginbothan	Patrick Blakesley
Mirrina Higginbothan	Kari Brill
Giselle Jaramillo	Linda Azlin
Jorge Manzanares	Renee Brodt
Guadalupe Martinez	Kimberley Grant
Rosa Martinez	Laura Blakesley
Alyssa Ramirez	Tassi Herrick
Vinder Lopez	DJ Burrough

GROUP D GROUP LEADER: BARRY LIBMAN	
STUDENT	MENTOR
Lizbeth Olegue-Sillas	Becca Waldron-Miller
Felipe Alvarez	Anthony Polk
Michael Baldenegro	Danielle Johnson
Jerry Hernandez	Linda Liguore
Jase Lalande	James Roberts
Meyla Milián-Sanchez	Sarah Saltmarsh
Cameron Nurt	Lori Madrid
Jaffer Ortega	Charlie Sonneborn
Daisy Mendoza	Caren Stiehl
Mina Rodriguez	Sarah Goddard
Vianey Torres	Erton Boes
John Truong	Joe Carella

