



# Washington Street Foundation

Newsletter

MAY 2010, VOLUME 22

*Annual Family Picnic - Group C & D, March 20, 2010...*



LET'S CONGRATULATE REGAN ON THE NEW ADDITION TO HER FAMILY, COUPER PHILIP.

## Mentor Training

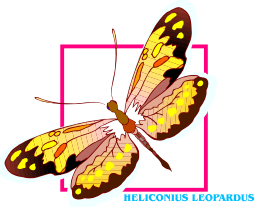
Sun. June 6th at 2pm or Tues. June 8th at 6:30pm  
or Wed. June 9th at 6:30pm.  
RSVP for one session to Ivy by May 31st



2727 W. GROVERS  
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## Glassblowing

by Jase Lalande, 6th grade

Hi my name is Jase and I'm Going to talk about the time my Mentor and me watched glassblowing. It was a Tuesday morning James his Daughter and I went to watch glassblowing. I wasn't sure what that was. It was very interesting! The guy showed us how he made his glass art. He had blob of melted glass on the end of a giant metal straw and he blew into the tube and the blob at the end turned into different shapes. The furnace he used to melt the glass was about 2,000 degrees! The shapes were so cool!

He made vases, wavy plates and more. The colors that were in the glass were cool too! There was red, yellow, blue and more, but the coolest thing was the size of the things he made. Just by blowing air through a tube he could make glass art in many shapes and sizes! So I hoped you liked my story.

## Getting To Do Soccer

by Angel Camacho, 9th grade



The day I started playing soccer I had no clue what so ever about anything; I knew the basics like the rules, kick the ball, stuff like that. The thing that got me to play soccer was my brothers, they played way before me and I got to learn more with just watching them. The first position I played was goalie, then I worked my way down to defense, then midfield, next was to forward, but now I just rather play where ever I was needed. Now people can say I came a long way, only two years in a half I started and I have received four trophies, and one medal. This year as a freshman in high school I tried out for the soccer team made it to varsity and got a good award.

## Hi...

by Jaffet Ortega, 5th grade

Hi, my name is Jaffet, and I'm eleven years old. I live with a family of four, my two twin brothers, and my mom and dad switch off. I'm the oldest of three. The second oldest is Samuel and the youngest is Jared.

I went to California for spring break. My aunt took my cousins and me to Universal Studios. My favorite ride is Jurassic Park. At first it's really calm showing dinosaurs eating and splashing water at you. But then the dinosaurs get mean like in the movie. The it goes higher and higher and it counts down from fifteen. Finally when it gets to one it shows this huge t-rex and it looks like it's gonna eat you, but instead you drop down super fast. When you get out your soaked. They also take pictures of you when you fall. All of mine looked the same, like a little girl looking at a spider.

I really like this program that I'm in because I want to go to ASU and become a doctor. I want to be a heart surgeon and save peoples lives. This program also lets me try new things and see new places. My family is really proud of me because I'm so smart and I want to keep it that way.

## Bobcat Town Experience

by Willow Herber, 10th grade

Last month I attended a camp called Bobcat Town. This camp was about becoming more aware of Prejudice, Racism, and Discrimination. This camp was not like an ordinary camp at all; we didn't play sports or do arts and crafts. Instead we had workshops. In these workshops we learned about the 5 Levels of Prejudice. In another we learned about the different stereotypes for races and how much they emotional affected people within those races. Another workshop that we had was Gender Night. What happened was that the Boys and

Girls split up; while they were split up we had to write down the stereotypes for the opposite gender and for our gender as well. That made us even more aware on how stereotypes affect people. One of my favorite parts of the camp was that at the end of each day we sat around a campfire and sang songs (not the traditional campfire songs, but motivational songs like "Unwritten" By Natasha Beddingfield). I had a lot of fun and I also learned a lot from Bobcat Town.

## Easter Sunday

by Kaycee Torres, 9th grade



Since the 6th grade, I have spent my Easters with my best friend, Adri, and her family. We usually go to the park and have a huge cookout from 7 in the morning to 9 at night. Her family contains a lot of little kids so we are usually the oldest. I have a lot of fun because we get to hide the eggs and we only look for the “money eggs” while the little kids go after everything in their sight. This year was different. We went to her Nana’s house with her immediate family and were just around each other all day. In the morning, we had a big breakfast. In the afternoon we dyed Easter eggs with the little ones. Later on, we hid them all in the front yard and took pictures of the little ones and their baskets full of eggs. Toward the evening, we ate dinner. Adri and I took a lot of pictures that day. I always enjoy going with her family for Easter and spending time with them. I am part of the family, even when I stand out, I’m called the “adopted white girl” =]

## A New Talent by Mitzy Soria, 7th grade



About four months ago. I was introduced to a dance company called Fiesta Mexicana. It is a folklore company that its goal is to teach kids Mexican culture along with cultures from all over the world. They also want to keep kids in school and to keep them busy and away from the streets. When I first started I was nervous and excited.

From what I could it was very easy. Once I got in everything changed. The steps were much more harder and

## Hello, My Name Is...

by Cameron Nutt 6th grade

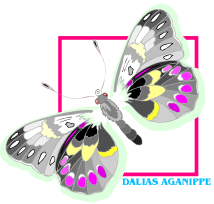
Hello, my name is Cameron Nutt. My birthday is February 10th. I am now 12 years old. I am a 6th grader at Roadrunner School. Next year I will be going to PaloVerde Middle School. My brother Tyler is there now, but won’t be when I get there. My mom went PaloVerde, when she was my age. She went to Roadrunner too. I also have a younger sister named Payton, and a younger brother named Dylan. They both go to Roadrunner too. I live with them and my grandmother. I spend every summer vacation in Kissimmee, Florida with my dad, grandma & grandpa at their house. I like going to the beach when we’re there. It’s a lot of fun! I try to do my best in school & was happy that I received the honor of being selected STAR STUDENT this semester. I like working on my laptop & playing video games. I have been in the Washington Street Foundation for two years now. I have had a lot of fun & have learned a lot too. My mentor Lori is great! We do lots of cool things together.

Thank you for all your support!

Barry,  
Your closing comments to the group today reminded me of my favorite poem from Ralph Waldo Emerson. Enjoy.

To laugh often and much  
To win the respect of intelligent people  
And the affection of children,  
To earn the appreciation of honest critics  
And endure the betrayal of false friends;  
To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others,  
To leave the world a bit better  
Whether by a healthy child, a garden patch  
Or a redeemed social condition;  
To know even one life has breathed easier  
Because you lived  
This is to have succeeded

Submitted by Russ Goodman,  
mentor



## Reading Is Fun by Linda Azlin, mentor

Reading is such a fun thing to do and it is so rewarding to help kids learn to read. I work at an elementary school as an office assistant and when I have extra time I have been working with the kindergarteners helping them with their reading. We practice their sight words (words that cannot be sounded out, but must be memorized by sight) and I test them on reading words and sentences. It is so exciting when they sound out the word phonetically and recite the word. They are so proud of themselves when they learn a new word.

They are also tested on reading short sentences. I am as excited as they are when they can read

the entire sentence by sounding out the words and using their sight words. They are getting such a good foundation for learning to read which they will need their entire lives. For those of you who have younger brothers or sisters, take time to help them with their reading or just read to them. You will both enjoy it.

I also volunteer for an organization through the schools called "Oasis Tutoring" which helps children who are having trouble with their reading. One or two children are assigned to each volunteer and we meet once a week to tutor them. We try to make reading fun with word

games, matching games, reading books they choose and working on their vocabulary. I look forward each week to seeing them again and helping them to improve their reading so they will learn to enjoy reading books.

You can travel to many places you have never been, experience exciting new adventures and meet many new characters just by reading a book. It has been said that those who can read and don't are no better off than those who can't read.

I challenge you (mentees) to turn off your television, computers, ipods and phones and pick up a book and read!

## Lets Fly to Sedona by Bruce Trushinsky, mentor

Wouldn't it be fun to jump in an airplane and go anywhere? Well, we can with the proper preparations. Planning your flight is a very important part of the process. Just as you would if you were planning a road trip, you need to carefully consult maps and layout a plan to get to your destination. For this discussion, we are taking a quick trip from Deer Valley Airport to Sedona. There are many things to consider when planning a trip, but we are going to focus on the route, or direction of flight and what goes into this part of planning.

First we need a special map. In the world of aviation we call this a Chart. On our chart, we start by drawing a line from Deer Valley Airport, from where we are starting to Sedona Airport, our destination. We will be using a special tool called a plotter to draw our line. This toll helps us to find our true direction by laying out our course line. Our chart has lines of Latitude and Longitude just like the map or globe that you see at school.

The chart and plotter will help me to acquire three kinds of courses. These courses are called

true direction, magnetic direction, and a compass heading. True direction is aligned to the true North Pole. You find this by using lines or latitude and longitude. Magnetic direction is aligned to the North and South Poles, magnetic poles. A small correction to our calculations is needed here, **also found on our chart called isogonic lines, look it up.** The third course is compass heading. Compasses need to be corrected for errors called deviations. Every airplane is a little different due to equipment installed and style of plane. Therefore, a special compass correction card is installed to give the pilot an accurate magnetic direction to fly.

Our next step is to put the numbers that we got from our chart onto our navigation log and this will give us a blueprint for our flight. Below is a sample of one of these logs.

These logs can be a little confusing to someone

that is not used to seeing them. Actually, since the weather is so beautiful out today and the skies are clear we can just skip these steps and jump in a plane and fly to Sedona by following the highways on the ground. Although it is perfectly acceptable to fly by way of the roads you still must know how to prepare a flight plan from the charts.

Although it takes quite a bit of training to become a pilot, it has been well worth it. I decided at a young age to follow my dreams of becoming a private pilot. It just proves that if you follow your dreams they can take you anywhere you want to go, even Sedona for lunch. I hope that sharing my experiences might encourage others to act on their dreams too.



Check Points (Fixes)	VOR		Course (Route)	Altitude	Wind		CAS	TC	TH	MH	Dist	GS	Time Off	GPH		
	Ident	Freq.			Dir	Vel									-L	-E
					Temp.	TAS	WC	+R	+W	+/-	CH	Leg	Est	ETE	ETA	Fuel
Deer Valley DVT	115.6						A			359						
Sedona SEZ	113.85		013	11500	360	17	120	011	-2	-12						
	123.0															

## The Paws Of Life by Gina Trotter, mentor

You could certainly say I am a dog lover. Since I was a child I have brought strays home with me and either kept them or found a good home for them. My husband and I have two dogs that we have raised since they were puppies, and they are now 11 and 13 years old. We also have an adopted dog and a foster dog living with us, making it a 4-dog household. It is a lot of work having four dogs, but they bring so much joy to our lives that it is worth it. They love to go for walks, ride in the car and above all like to go to the dog park. Fortunately my mentee, Angel, is also a dog lover. She is especially bonded to Lupa, our adopted dog who sleeps with her when she stays the night.

There are a lot of reasons I love these four-legged creatures, but I thought sharing some favorite quotes would better describe why I feel they are so deserving of our praise and adoration. Enjoy.

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated" --- Gandhi

"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true to the last beat of his heart.

You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion." --- Unknown

"To err is human, to forgive, is canine." ---Unknown

"Our perfect companions never have fewer than four feet." ---Colette

"Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, when doing nothing was not boring - it was peace."

---Milan Kundera

\*And my favorite:

"My goal in life is to be as good of a person my dog already thinks I am." - Unknown

My wish is that we learn from our canine friends, and find time to add "paws" to our lives...living in the moment, loving unconditionally, and being grateful for whatever is given to us.



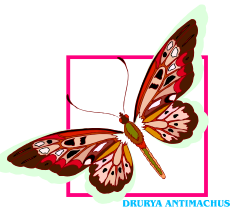
## Ivan by Tania Ibanez, 11th grade

Ivan Ibanez is a 19-year-old teenager, moving into his early adulthood.

Ivan is not your average adolescent. Ivan is one of a kind, he is a child at heart. Ivan Ibanez is my only brother. I can go on forever describing my brother but I would not have enough paper for this. My brother means more than words can describe. He is two years older than me and a boy, yet we get along like little first grade school girls. My brother and I grew up with our parents. We loved to watch Power Rangers on Saturday mornings and catch it once in a while in the morning before heading to school. After school, we would engage in our Pokemon cards and collect as many as we could. We did everything together, and were closer than anything. As the years passed on, we united more and

more. When he moved into junior high I was alone in elementary school. However, I loved to hear his stories about his days and the different tasks placed in his way. I loved to hear my brother happy and if he was happy, I was happy. Next, I moved on to middle school but he was already a freshman in high school. Once again, I was walking down the hallways alone and eating lunch without my best friend; however, his stories kept getting better and better. After two years we finally reunited in the same school, and even though we didn't have lunch together it was nice to have somebody there to guide you through the day and smile at you. Another two years flew by and his graduation was right around the corner. That day like no other he made us all proud. Graduating with honors

and being able to conduct the band through the ceremony will be an unforgettable memory for all the family- especially me. Watching my brother do his thing and see him do something he loved made me want to be just like him. Studying my parents face made inspired me to do what he did. My brother is not just my best friend but he's my role model as well. Now that he's in the marines made me realize that my brother not only chases his dreams, but accomplishes them. He made me see that anything we want in life we are able to achieve it. Ivan Ibanez is not your typical adolescent. I am proud of my brother. Even though I miss him every day that goes by, I know he's happy. That's what keeps me going because if he's happy, I am happy.



## When I Grow Up, I Want To Be...

by Rebecca Waldron-Miller, mentor

*Do you want to be a doctor one day and a teacher the next? Me too. I'm a 'grown up,' and yes, I do have a job, but that doesn't stop me from dreaming about my next career and setting goals so that my dreams can become a reality.*

*I start with all the things that I love, because if you are surrounded with the things that make you happy, you'll be happy. I spend countless hours researching the things I'm interested in at bookstores, the library, and on-line, accumulating information and molding my ideas. You'd be amazed at the books, magazines, and blogs that are out there, (often available for free) filled with inspiration on any topic you can imagine. For example, I love weddings, and I'm very organized and I think I'd be an excellent wedding and event coordinator. So I just got a book on event planning to see what it entails.*

*The inspiration I collect in books, magazines, and on-line help to spark new ideas and off I go dreaming again. I make files of all my favorite ideas, so that I can revisit them at any time. I recently started sewing (thank you Project Runway and the rise of homemade crafts), so I have a ton of items in my "Some Day I'd Like To Make*

*This" file. I'd love to become an amazing seamstress and sell all my homemade treasures on the Internet. So I sign up for sewing classes and I research on-line tutorials on how to make my favorite things.*

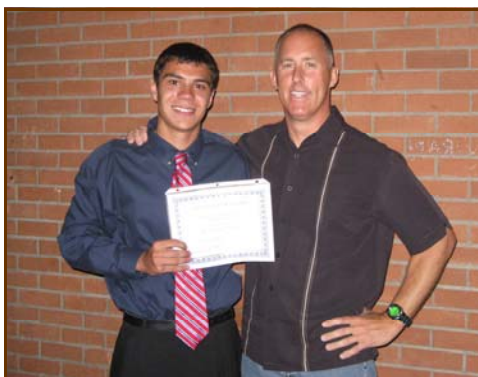
*Some ideas get tossed after researching: I no longer want to own a restaurant because the hours are too long, and I'm not that good of a chef! And some ideas grow: I'm still dreaming of that perfect little store that sells (enter current obsession here: clothing, jewelry, bicycles, fabric & yarn, the homemade treasures I mentioned I'm going to start sewing, etc). I spend a lot of time talking with friends and family members about my ideas for my next career. They offer encouragement and guidance to help me continue weeding out the bad ideas and stay focused on how to achieve the good ones.*

*I have a lot of ideas on what I'd like to be when I grow up (many more than I mentioned here) and yes, my ideas change often, but I set goals for myself and I spend time researching and working towards those goals. I have no doubt that one-day my dream (whichever one I pick) will become a reality. Do you dream of what you want to be when you grow up?*

## As My Time Winds Down... by Anthony Davis, 12th grade

As my time winds down here with WSF and even high school, happiness and a bitter sweet goodbye is ready to roll off my tongue. I have had many great experiences and learned many life lessons but its time to pass the baton on to the younger kids as I prepare to take my leave. Of course, I'll be back and be around at some of the meetings, but within these next couple of months I'm going to experience major changes, the most exciting of which is going to college at Arizona State University where I'll obtain my degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences, than later going to the police academy where I'll ultimately become a police officer upon completion. If I leave anything to remember me by, I want all the kids to know that every situation has a Brightside to it, like the saying goes, "For every dark night, there's a brighter morning." Times get hard for everybody and

those who choose to fight through the struggles will be the happiest of everybody. Nobody is ever handed everything life, and every-



ANTHONY RECEIVES HIS 20K COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AT MOON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL ON MAY 10TH.

body must be prepared to bust their chops to get to where they want to be 10 years from now, some students even longer. I believe I've made it through the struggles that have been placed before me, as I

believe I will continue to blow through any struggle set in front of me. I see myself with such a bright future and I have my mentor along with the other mentors and the program as a whole to thank for. I wish the same success to everybody else that appears after me and I hope all the students realize how blessed they are to be in such a wonderful program. A college education might have been near impossible without it. Like I said, my times almost up with you all and I pray we keep in touch. It isn't a goodbye between me and this program because you all were like a second family. Just don't expect anybody to fill in my place because I am, well you know, ANTHONY DAVIS. That was a joke; I'll miss each and every one of you on my new journey. In the famous words of Dr. Seuss, "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

# Our Seniors Visit ASU West

by Laura Libman, mentor

Since our seniors had already passed their AIMS exams, they had no classes on February 23rd, so I arranged a visit to the ASU-West campus, where I attended school not so very long ago. First, I picked up Mariela Ramirez, then Anthony Davis and then Briana Davis. Briana is my mentee, and though she is a sophomore, I wanted to her to come along too. Alisa Duderija met us there.

We all enjoyed a nice lunch at the cafeteria. I think the students were surprised how many options there were! We sat upstairs and picked a table that they named their WSF table for next year. It's a quiet table where they will look for each other next year. We walked thru the student center after lunch and saw the student lounge, where students can play pool or foosball or ping pong, then passed the student government and club offices.

Next, we met with Jenna Graham, our best go-to friend at ASU-West. She is the one who knows everyone on campus and is there to help us. She assisted us with the application process and answered all our questions. I know Jenna from when I went to school there. Then Jenna walked us to the dorms, which I think was the highlight of everyone's afternoon.

The dorms are much bigger and better than when I went to school! Now they have kitchens and walk-in closets, small living rooms, wireless internet and a swimming pool. The rooms looked very cool, decorated with IKEA

furniture, so now I think all our seniors will want to live in a dorm. If that's true, start joining clubs and applying for scholarships now! It will cost an

extra \$7,000+ a year for dorm and meal plan, but well worth it, I think.

I took them to meet my friend Stephen Des Georges, the Director of Public Relations and Marketing for ASU-West. He told Mariela about some of the students in her pre-med program who have been winning research awards. Then we met another friend of my

mine, a professor, Elaine Jordan, who is teaching a course on American Terrorism, who chatted with Anthony who wants to be a Criminology major about IT and computer terrorism.

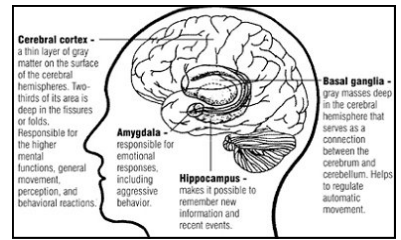
We also visited my old boss, Kathy Grant, at the Student Success Center (Tutoring Center). She was awesome and spent a lot of time answering questions, giving Mari, Anthony and Alisa advice and told them to come by whenever they needed her. We also saw the fitness center, kind of like a free gym, for the students, and visited the library. The weather was perfect for wandering campus.

I had a fabulous time with Briana, Anthony, Alisa, and Mari! I don't think anyone is too nervous about starting college now. I think they are too excited to get started! I'm excited for them!

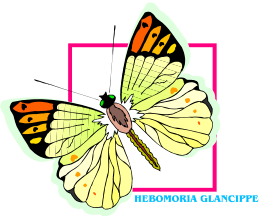


# The Moment I Found My Passion

by Brooke Lofton, mentor



I was a sophomore at Scottsdale Community College and I had NO idea what I wanted to do with my life. I took these career placement tests and none of them seemed to spark my interest. It was just a regular night and I was watching an HBO special on teens and drunk driving. All of the teens had traumatic brain injuries from the accidents. For most people, the left side of their brain is where language is housed, so many of them lost their ability to speak. This lady came on the TV and her title was “Speech Language Pathologist”, which is a speech therapist. She worked with the kids to regain their communication skills back. I had no idea there was even such a thing! Right then I knew that's what I wanted to do. Not only do speech pathologists work with traumatic brain injuries, they work with people who have stutters or lisps, babies born with mouth and throat deformities, stroke victims, and so much more. So now I am at ASU getting my degree to be a speech therapist and I absolutely love what I'm studying! Moral of the story is **DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!** And do something you have a passion for. Don't ever settle.



## The Gift of Mentorship

by Mike Lofton, mentor

A number of years ago I was blessed to have found an organization called Young Entrepreneur's Organization (YEO). It was an organization formed primarily to help young and hopeful business professional develop in their careers. I wasn't too sure if I belonged in this group because nearly everybody seemed to be much smarter than me. As it turned out, they probably were smarter than me but what I had that they lacked was curiosity. Don't get me wrong, I was no dummy but I wasn't too sure of my abilities so I remained curious as much as I could, thinking that somebody might be able to give me the answers to life's questions. Well, a couple of years into my YEO experience I was given the opportunity to be mentored by a much wiser business professional than myself and I jumped at the chance! You know this mentor of mine as Barry Libman. Barry and I would meet each and every month for about an hour or two to discuss what was on my mind then we'd go to lunch together. These were, and still are some of my most favorite times spent learning how to develop into a more complete human being. What's funny about my learning is that Barry rarely, if ever, gives me the answers I'm searching for. Instead, he asks question after question and sometimes he even draws out what he thinks I'm trying to discover.....but he rarely tells me what to do, he just stays curious until I finally stumble upon an answer for myself. It must be kind of comical for him sometimes when I struggle but he stays patient and lets me

arrive at my own conclusions. At the end of almost every meeting Barry says, "Thanks Mike, that was fun and I've learned a lot today!" I never understood why he felt he had to say that.....until I became a mentor. The truth is that I learn as much or more mentoring my student Moises as he may be learning from me. What I've learned from being mentored, and ultimately becoming a mentor to one great high school student and two young business men, is that teaching is a great way to deepen my knowledge and expertise. The simple act of teaching, not telling somebody what to do, but teaching them by asking curious questions is a great way to learn my craft even better than I already know it! The gift of mentoring is curiosity. When we're curious, we reveal possibilities for ourselves that aren't visible when we are certain that we already know something better than we really do. When we stay curious we loosen up our interpretations about what the future holds for us and we evolve as human beings. So, if you're a student and you're reading this, I know that you already get this and that's exactly why you're learning and developing so fast right now. It's us mentors that I'm more concerned about. Sometimes we, as mentors and adults, feel this tremendous amount of obligation to produce answers when we should really be staying curious instead.....and that's the gift I'd like to present to all of my fellow mentors and all of our wonderful students!

## *Dog Parks* by Kari Brill, mentor

*I recently rescued a playful boxer puppy from Paw Placement, an adoption agency here in Phoenix. Though I walk my puppy at least three times daily and play with her constantly, I also know the importance of socializing her with other dogs. I took my dog, Kona, to the dog park at Steele Indian School Park once, but left within minutes because of how small the area was and how rocky the landscaping was. Improving this dog park is very*

*important to me, so I decided to find out who I needed to talk to in order to make the necessary changes. After contacting the state legislature, I found out that I should reach out to the city council members and the Parks and Recreation committee. I researched other dog parks in the area, took photos of the other dog parks and their amenities and wrote a letter to a handful of decision makers. Surprisingly, every single person I contacted*

*responded within a week! Even with the recent budget cuts, the law makers I spoke to are going to look into upgrading the park by extending the fence and adding grass to the off-leash area. I'm crossing my fingers that the changes we discussed will actually come to fruition. Wish me luck!!*

## **It Is Not How You Start, But How You Finish** by Brigid Dineen, mentor

After all the hard work and fun of high school comes a chance to continue your education in an environment that will give you the freedom to chart your own course academically, socially and emotionally. In college you experience freedom from your parents, freedom from the oversight of your teachers and counselors and the freedom to decide what classes you want to take, what friends you want to have and how you will respond to all the new challenges that come with your new found freedom.

After my parents dropped me off at college my freshman year, I set about getting my social life started by meeting my roommates, teammates and classmates. I had not given much thought to my classes since I had worked hard in high school, had good study habits and felt confident that academically I would be just fine even though I was taking a total of four classes, two of which were Advanced, against the advice of my advisor. As the semester started I had already found a group of people that 20 years later still

remain close friends, attended classes regularly, listened intently and completed my assignments. As the semester wore on the work load increased, the concepts got harder; I enjoyed my freedom more and suddenly realized I was struggling. I kept my struggles to myself and did not reach out to my professors, friends or advisor. My grades continued to go south and so did my attitude. For the first time in my life I began to doubt my ability to succeed academically and emotionally I withdrew instead of sharing my frustrations about my inability to balance tough classes with my new found freedom. The semester ended and I flew back home. Shortly after returning home my first semester grades arrived. I knew they would be bad and they were. I was placed on probation. I was embarrassed, mad at myself and felt like a failure. My parents were shocked and disappointed. I succeeded socially, but I failed to adjust academically and emotionally to all new challenges that arose as result of my new found freedom.

The next semester I vowed to

do better. I finally went to my Advisor and talked about my struggles last semester. I listened to his suggestions, reduced my class load to a more reasonable level and met individually with my professors before classes began to get an idea of what would be expected of me in the next semester. I told my friends that this semester it would be more studying for me and less fun. Slowly, I regained confidence in my academic abilities and emotionally I began to respond better to the challenges that arose during the course of the semester. I did not go from D's and C's to all A's the next semester but rather as time wore on and as I continued to balance all the demands of college, my grades improved. Four years later I graduated with high honors and as a result of this experience I gained an inner confidence that drives and comforts me to this day. So while sometimes your new endeavors may get off to a rocky start, it is important to remember that it is not always how you start but how you finish.

## **Becoming A Mentor** by Laura Blakesley, mentor

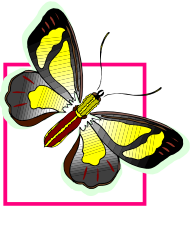
When Barry first came to speak about WSF to the teachers at my school, I was inspired. I couldn't believe all the great things that WSF had to offer these kids. After he spoke, I called my boyfriend Pat and we decided to apply to be mentors together. I had no idea what a rewarding journey it would be.

Here we are, two years later and my husband Pat and I have a family together. He is now our group leader and we get to share this experience with each other every month. I really enjoy seeing the kids every time we get together and hearing about everything they've been doing. . .even if we have to pull teeth to hear their stories. I love getting those calls from Rosa

and hearing about her week or getting random text messages. I love going to her house and talking to her family. Rosa's family has been through a lot in the past few years but despite everything they have been through, they continue to be so giving and selfless. We could all learn something from them.

Being a mentor means being a part of something much bigger. I became a mentor because I wanted to make an impact on someone else's life, but I had no idea mentoring would have such an impact on mine. I'm supposed to be the mentor and help change someone's life, but instead, that someone has really changed mine.

# Washington Street Foundation



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

(new group changes will take effect for the June 19th meeting)

## GRADUATES

STUDENT	COLLEGE	STUDENT	COLLEGE
Martha Castro	N/A	Y-nhi Nguyen	Scottsdale Culinary Institute
Mitzi Miranda	ASU West	Israel Soto	N/A
Carlos Sanchez	N/A	Ivan Ibanez	N/A

### GROUP A GROUP LEADERS: MIKE LOFTON & LAURA LIBMAN

STUDENT	MENTOR
Alex Chavez	Joe Libman
Anthony Davis	Lee Williams
Briana Davis	Laura Libman
Alsa Duderija	Monika Cheang
Willow Herber	Vicki Guffey
Tania Ibanez	Teresa Guella
Courtney Laycock	Regan Schwartz
Moises Lopez	Mike Lofton
Maricela Ramirez	Gloria Hernandez

### GROUP B GROUP LEADERS: JON COURY & AUDRA BOYD

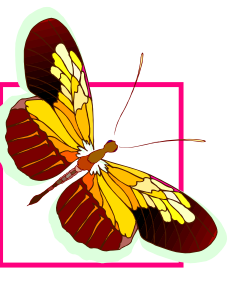
STUDENT	MENTOR
Sadat Aayar	Audra Boyd
Nereyda Erbes Borquez	Susan Atkinson
Angel Camacho	Gina Trotter
Hector Miranda Castro	Linda Triolo
Adam DeVerger	Scott Steinhagen
Philip Gough-Stone	Russ Goodman
Aaliyah Jefferson	Debra Bokich
Avery Lomayestewa	Andy Chen
Tiler Weeder	Brigid Dineen
Destiny Nasr	Andrea Scott
Elizabeth Ramirez	Danette Cheney
Jennifer Tolentino	Nora Hannah
Kaycee Torres	Andrea Petrof
Aaron Vargas	David Dodge
Rakell Verdugo	Ildi Schmidt

### GROUP C GROUP LEADERS: JOE LIBMAN & PATRICK BLAKESLEY

STUDENT	MENTOR
Sajid Camacho	Bruce Trushinsky
Armando Durazo	Ryan Jensen
Tequasia Harris	Brooke Lofton
Dannien Higginbotham	Patrick Blakesley
Mirina Higginbotham	Kari Brill
Giselle Jaramillo	Linda Azlin
Jorge Manzanares	Renee Brodt
Guadalupe Martinez	Kimberley Grant
Rosa Martinez	Laura Podzius
Francisco Solis Valdez	Joe Carella
Mitzy Soira	Yvonne Struckey

### GROUP D GROUP LEADER: BARRY LIBMAN

STUDENT	MENTOR
Lizbeth Olague-Sillas	Becca Waldron-Miller
Felipe Alvarez	Anthony Polk
Michael Baldenegro	Sean Carson
Jerry Hernandez	Linda Liguore
Jase Lalande	James Roberts
Vinder Lopez	DJ Burrough
Mariah Martinez	Leticia Scearce
Meyla Milian-Sanchez	Sarah Salmarsh
Cameron Nutt	Lori Madrid
Jaffet Ortega	Charlie Sonneborn
Alyssa Ramirez	Tassi Herrick
Mina Rodriguez	Sarah Goddard
Vianey Torres	Erron Boes
John Truong	Lynne Bridgewater



HELICONIUS VININA

