



Ignite Youth Mentoring Accomplishments of 2011

We would like to thank all of our supporters for such a fantastic start Ignite has had. Here is a year in review list to look back and be thankful for all those who helped us accomplish a great number of things our very first full year as a 501c3 non-profit. We have many blessings thanks to you and our mighty God!

- **Successfully raised \$115k (donations and pledges) to launch on Jan 1, 2011** as a stand-alone non-profit agency.
 - Continued to raise funding necessary to exist (currently holding \$80k in reserve)
- **Grown from 23 to 60 current running mentor matches**
- **Increased partnerships significantly throughout our community:**
 - From 12 to nearly 30 church partners (presenting Ignite annually and receiving funding from 6 of these churches) (we presented to more than 7000 church members this year).
 - Grown to more than 60 youth/family agency partnerships, deepening all these relationships
 - Continue to deepen partnerships with all area schools (more than 50), training counselors from almost every school on how to refer kids to our program
 - Deepened our standing in the community through our growing partnership with the Benton Franklin Counties United Way (serving on their Community Solutions team, speaking on behalf of this movement throughout the community, and receiving referrals and significant promotion from them.)
 - Connecting to local government officials; receiving endorsements from mayors, city councilmen, state representatives, police chiefs, fire chiefs, juvenile justice, school superintendents, and many more.
 - Executive Director selected to serve on community teams/boards, including:
 - Leadership Tri-Cities, class 17
 - United Way's Prepared By 20 Speakers Bureau
 - Richland FOCUS alliance, Vice President (current acting President)
 - Tri-City's Men Ministry Executive Team (speaker at Iron Sharpens Iron conferences)
 - TCGIVES member (Tri-City gang prevention and intervention team)
 - Also serving in these alliances: Kennewick FOCUS, Tri-City Faith Community Network, United Way's Health and Human Services, and other annual teams.
 - Have presented to all area Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs as well as 3 city Chambers of Commerce and 2 BNI groups (receiving funding, mentors and various support through these presentations/relationships)
 - Started partnerships with both area Colleges (CBC, WSU Tri-Cities) allowing us to attend all events on campus for free, developing "interactive career tours" for our mentor matches, are planning future parent and mentor helps seminars provided by schools, will be promoting our program on campus, and are working towards internship opportunities.
 - Partnering with many businesses: receiving sponsorships for events and fundraisers, making presentations to company staff in seeking mentors and awareness of mentoring, receiving in kind donations (tax filing, office furniture and equipment, mentor match activity tickets, and more).
 - Blue Wood Ski Resort (free skiing and rentals for mentor matches), Essence Photography (all Ignite photography needs and prints for free), MAACO Auto Body (donation of car and leadership to complete car rebuild project for mentor matches), Ranch and Home (donation of

room use and annual BBQ and outdoor sports events), Tri-City Americans and Sterlings Savings Bank (60+ hockey game tickets), Quality Sign Services (free signage) and many more.

- **We have quickly become recognized throughout our community as a key resource** and “go to” for families and agencies. (We regularly hear from business leaders, citizens, churches and kids that they have heard of us and are excited about what we are doing).
- **We have received quality media coverage** by our area newspapers and TV channels (10+ stories about us publicized this year).
- **We have held firm as a “Faith Based” agency, drawing significant support instead of closed doors.** We are being promoted by city leaders and school district officials (even on TV). We have had only 1 secular agency not let us present to their team. We have received excited support from many churches in our area, but some are still closed to us (usually “too busy”, and with one pastor saying that “I don’t see a need for mentoring youth in our community” - and after 6 of his members came to an Ignite Mentor training and were excited to get their church plugged in).
- **Staffing and Volunteers:**
 - Increased Board of Directors from 10 to 15 and established Executive Team, Hired a 20 hour Office Assistant, plugged in a 15 hr. per week intern from Fuller Theological Seminary, put to work 4 office volunteers (some being students), secured a growing volunteer team of more than 40 people (including Screeners, Supervisors, fundraising team members, newsletter editors/writers, church liaisons, etc.), work with kids needing community service.
- **We developed our quarterly “Better Mentor Workshops” to help equip our existing mentors** and are working with various community agencies to help teach in these trainings on specific subjects. The Boy Scouts are seeking to have their leaders attend these classes to better equip them in “mentoring” their kids in the program.
- **We have been awarded numerous select regional grants** (many where we are the smallest/newest agency receiving funding – compared to the likes of Boys & Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, etc.). Our latest two coming from Three River’s Community Foundation (awarded in 2010 and 2011) and Women Helping Women Fund Tri-Cities (where we were named as a recipient during their annual luncheon with 1000 people in attendance and guest speaker Maalok Compton-Rock (Chris Rock’s wife, her speech addressed the great value of mentoring).
- **Designed and carried out our first ever fundraising event** – our annual “Golf Buddies” miniature golf event, teaming community kids with volunteer adults. We raised nearly \$8000 and received well over \$2000 of in-kind donations and prizes. We had 90 participants with over 30 volunteers and spectators.