January is National Mentoring Month. We celebrate mentoring because that is who we are and what we do! A quote from Shawn Hitchcock says, “A mentor empowers a person to see a possible future, and it can be obtained.” The African proverb says that “it takes a village to raise a child.” We believe a child who has a mentor can reach the sky!
In 1984, Matilda Cuomo created and implemented the New York State Mentoring Program, the nation’s first statewide, unique, school based, one-to-one mentoring program to prevent school dropout. The program was met with success and continues to operate. The White Plains Youth Bureau, in partnership with the White Plains Greater Council of Community Services, organized the city’s first mentoring program in 1988. The program was passed on to the White Plains Youth Bureau to fully operate and implement.

Mentoring has been a significant part of the Youth Bureau’s programming for more than 32 years. The program has had several coordinators starting with Genester Banks, Rena Sgro and, for a very long time now, Sheila Foley. Over the years, hundreds of youth and volunteers from all walks of life have been involved. The mentors, who are volunteers, provide a one-to-one connection with a mentee, meeting weekly with their youth. They discuss a variety of topics including school, goals, college and career planning, problem solving, family, peer relationships, etc.

We have learned that mentoring works and that’s why the Youth Bureau is committed to continue promoting it. We have seen children succeed despite the economic and social hardships they have faced. Now, many of them are adults and parents and they credit their mentors for being a support system and helping them find success in life.
I spent my childhood and emerging adulthood growing up in White Plains, being raised with my older sister by my single mother. In my early years, I attended George Washington Elementary School. In fourth grade, my mother enrolled me in the Saturday Academy Program. The Academy is a Jumpstart type program where boys in 4th grade attend Saturday school and receive help with literacy and math skills, along with social and emotional development. Additional activities as part of The Academy included going on field trips and learning the game of chess. Some of the benefits my peers and I gained from The Academy was the confidence and empowerment to excel in and out of school. In 4th grade, before I had joined the program I was very shy and bashful. The Academy gave me the confidence to achieve and I became one of the programs best chess players, winning several tournaments.

The Saturday Academy Program provided me with the support to help me believe that I could do anything and go as far in life as I wanted. The field trips to Philadelphia, Boston and Washington D.C. gave me a perspective about what the world was like outside of White Plains. I credit the staff and all those involved in The Academy for helping to shape my life. Raymond Tribble, Robert Tuck, Gerard Seward and many others were mentors that pushed me to get good grades and go the extra mile. After my time at The Academy I soon became a leader, involving myself in other Youth Bureau programs including Keepers of the Dream, the Mayor’s Youth Council (where I was elected President) Youth Employment Services and Grandpas United where I helped develop a video program for the grandpas.

I graduated White Plains High in 2018 as an honor student. I am currently a sophomore at Morehouse College where I am majoring in Cinema and Television. During my tenure so far I have been conferred the status of a Bonner Scholar, as well as an Oprah Winfrey Endowed Scholar. Currently, I am on the Dean’s list, maintaining a 3.9 cumulative GPA, finishing this most recent semester with a 4.0. I also have recently been inducted as a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success. This has been intertwined with my work with Morehouse College and its surrounding community through community service involvement. In my free time, I volunteer at Booker T. Washington High School and Brown Middle School. Recently, I founded a production company, Parkview Pictures LLC, which I plan to launch in February of 2021. Meeting Oprah Winfrey at Morehouse College has shown me that all things are possible and that what you invest in will reap benefits one day.
I grew up in White Plains with the love and support of my parents and brother. As a young man, I was determined to be my best, do my best and follow my dreams. I was active in clubs at White Plains High School and especially enjoyed being a member of the track team. In the 9th grade, I became entrenched in the services of the White Plains Youth Bureau. It was at the Youth Bureau where I learned that people really cared about my future.

I joined the Saturday Academy program and the Mayor’s Youth Council. The Youth Bureau staff took an active interest in me, making me feel special. I began to work harder in school and my grades improved. The Saturday Academy staff always pressed upon me to get good grades, to lead and not give myself limits. Catherine Valenzuela, then coordinator of the Mayor’s Youth Council, helped me sharpen my leadership skills. During my junior year in high school, I joined the Youth Bureau’s Youth Court program, took advantage of Youth Employment services, participated in Keepers of the Dream program and worked with Grandpa’s United.

My friends often asked me how I juggled all of these interests. ‘I have time, I enjoy the connections and relationships and it’s important to serve others’, I would tell them. Fred Goldberg, Saturday Academy coordinator and former Scarsdale High School Assistant Principal, took an active interest in me. His encouragement and support and time invested helped me gain even more confidence. Mr. Goldberg told me not to settle for anything. I thank him for writing letters of support and helping to keep me on task.

In High School, I was given a wonderful opportunity to do videos for their sports program. It was thanks to this that I realized I had talent and skill in video production. In 2018, I was named the City of White Plains Youth of the Year.

I now attend the University at Buffalo and received an internship the fall of my sophomore year with the NFL and the Buffalo Bills. My position with the Buffalo Bills is called a Live Content Correspondent (LCC), meaning that I have to capture highlight plays and send them to the teams through Slack, a communication platform, in real-time. Each team in the NFL has two LCC’s, and various pages will post their content. These pages include the NFL, the Checkdown, ESPN, and many other large companies that cover sports. I have to arrive to Bills Stadium three to four hours before the game to prepare everything so the workflow goes smoothly. After shooting the game, I have to label my footage to then send it to the teams that played that week.

Prior to actually doing my internship on NFL Sundays, I was initially fearful about how many things I’d have to know for working at events that were viewed by thousands of people all over the world. White Plains High School has helped put me in position to handle jobs like this one. If I never started doing videography for the White Plains High School sports programs, I would not be where I am today. The NFL internship was a great way for me get a feel of what working in the media field may be like after graduation. It can’t get any better than covering the Buffalo Bills on gamedays. The gameday atmosphere was very welcoming, and the staff is very kind. It is amazing to be in an environment with people who share similar skills and interest. This internship has provided me with nothing but growth, socially and mentally, in the field I want to pursue in the future. My future goal is to own my own Media and Sports Business while working with major sports companies on the side. I want to thank the White Plains School District, the White Plains Youth Bureau and my parents for the foundation I received. I am confident that I will be able to tackle the challenges as I continue to learn and grow.
Why do I, Steven Glover, believe in mentoring our young black and brown boys and girls?

At times, our young children cannot get the special attention they need or want from their parents because of their family’s dynamics. If I could make a lasting impression on just one child (Korbin), I did my part to help a youth to be a productive member of today’s society.

I get the need or desire to help our youth from my mother. She instilled in all her children a desire to reach for the stars. She wanted us to try to break that glass ceiling and be the best person we could be. Korbin came from a single parent household. He grew up with his mother, a younger sister, and his grandmother who was a big influence in his life.

Sheila Foley set up my first meeting with Korbin’s mother in the early school year of 1997. My first face to face meeting with Korbin was a few weeks later at his home. I thought I had a young boy I could watch football and basketball games with but Korbin was not into sports. He was a nurturing young boy who had love for all types of animals. The White Plains Mentor Program helped me to connect with Korbin by planning several trips for us to attend that helped me to have some one-on-one time with Korbin. Over the past 23 years Korbin’s family and my family’s ties have intertwined so that we are not known as mentor and mentee. I am Steve and he is Korbin. Korbin and I have developed a unique relationship. Korbin has grown up to be a very dependable, thoughtful, and caring young man. I am proud to have had an opportunity to be a part Korbin’s younger years.
When I think about Steve becoming my mentor all those years ago it felt as if I was meeting someone who was always meant to be in my life. I just didn't know it at the time because I was around 7 years old. Well, I'm 30 years old now and when I look back I feel nothing but grateful for the time we spent together.

The kind of relationship we had was like a combination of a parent and a best friend. I could always tell that Steve had my best interest in mind. With the help of the Youth Bureau's Mentor Program and through the extra time that Steve spent with me of his own volition, we would do things like go to different sports games, amusement parks and dinners. He would even let me visit him at work (White Plains Fire Department) down the street from where I lived during the summer breaks to just hang out, eat some food, talk, etc.

Looking back now I can see that Steve has made a huge impact on my life and even personality in nothing but positive ways. Although our relationship has changed in small but various ways throughout the years it has stayed consistent which I believe is a key factor in the success of any relationship.

Today I have my own business training people to improve the relationship they have with their pet/working dogs. It's a business I started when I was in my early 20's. Steve always tells me he's proud of me for doing what I'm doing. His opinion matters to me more than he knows.
Youth Bureau Program Spotlight:

Grandpas United Mentoring

Mentoring programs sometimes come together in unexpected ways, with remarkable results and lasting benefits. In 2020, the White Plains Youth Bureau’s Youth Court collaborated with White Plains Grandpas United to form a Grandpas mentoring program for youth offenders. The partnership has been a huge success for this juvenile justice diversion initiative.

One referred youth states, “It’s like having another grandpa.” The Grandpas have enjoyed their time spent with the youth, and volunteer over and over again. According to Connie Jones-Hairston, Youth Court Program Director, it has been a win/win for all involved. Says Ms. Hairston-Jones, “The Grandpas have inspired the youth to do better moving forward and make better decisions. The collaboration between the two groups is amazing.”

Jim Isenberg, one of Grandpas United founders and a Youth Court mentor offers, “as a result of Youth Court mentoring, the Grandpas are also becoming advocates for juvenile justice reform in our community.”

In addition to counseling Youth Court-referred youth, the Grandpas have had meaningful Zoom discussions with the Youth Court student leaders, to share their strong commitment to the program and our community. Grandpas United hopes to replicate this intergenerational diversion program in other NY cities.
White Plains Youth Bureau Grandpas United
in cooperation with the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum presents...

a Black History Month Celebration

From Reconstruction to Civil Rights

Before You Could Say Jackie Robinson

Friday, February 5, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

Join Grandpas United and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum for a virtual field trip.

Registration is required for this event, please email GrandpasUnitedWPYB@gmail.com to RSVP.
MANUFACTURING JOBS ARE WAITING FOR YOU!
WE PAY YOU WHILE YOU’RE IN TRAINING!

The White Plains Youth Bureau is looking for 6 young people ages 18yrs. - 24yrs. who would like to pursue a career in the Manufacturing Industry. This industry is facing a huge shortage of trained workers. So don't miss out on this great opportunity to develop your employability skills! You will complete a FREE online training program after which you will receive hands-on training on the floor with a local manufacturing company. ALL WHILE YOU GET PAID!

CALL TODAY! 914-422-6722

This program is being made possible by a grant from the Workforce Development Institute in New York State.