

Lynn program to help celebrate mentoring

Girls Inc. of Lynn will be on hand to help celebrate youth mentoring at the February 23 Third Annual Youth Mentoring Day at the State House. The event, which aims to heighten public awareness about the impact of youth mentoring and the need for mentors, will also thank legislators and advocates who have supported mentoring. With mentoring funding potentially eliminated in the fiscal year 2010 budget, attendees hope to send a powerful message about the need for youth mentoring in Massachusetts.

Girls Inc. Executive Director Patricia A. Driscoll will present an award to Sen. Thomas McGee (D-Lynn), who is among the honorees. Sen. McGee is receiving an award for his work as co-chair of the Massachusetts Special Commission on After School and Out of School Time, which supports youth development programs, and some mentoring programs

fall into this category. "Senator McGee has been a longtime, very effective advocate for children and youth," said Driscoll. "His leadership on the commission has led to an increase in funding for after-school programs and, most importantly, recognition of the great importance of the nonprofit sector in supporting, educating and enriching Massachusetts young people."

Mass Mentoring Partnership (MMP) and its AmeriCorps Ambassadors of Mentoring, along with the Massachusetts Service Alliance, are collaborating to host Youth Mentoring Day. An ambassador of mentoring has been placed at Girls Inc. since December, helping the agency strengthen its mentoring programs and recruit mentors. More than 100 people are expected to attend the Feb. 23rd event, which runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Immediately following the recognition program (11 a.m. to 12 Noon, Nurs-

es Hall) is a mentor recruitment fair (12 Noon to 2 p.m., Grand Staircase) featuring 14 mentor programs from across the state.

Massachusetts Service Alliance is a private nonprofit organization that serves as the state commission on community service. It creates and supports diverse, quality service and volunteer opportunities across the commonwealth (www.mass-service.org).

Mass Mentoring Partnership (www.massmentors.org) is the only statewide organization dedicated to strategically expanding quality mentoring to meet the needs of youth across Massachusetts through more than 165 programs in its network.

Girls Incorporated of Lynn (www.girlsinlynn.org) provides programming to inspire girls ages 6-18 to be strong, smart and bold. Their mentoring programs work with girls in middle and high school.

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