

May 2012



BEN-E-LECT FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

The Mentor Connection

The BEN-E-LECT Foundation is thrilled to announce the launch of our new mentor program. Under the umbrella of the BEN-E-LECT Foundation the mentor program will begin recruitment sessions to find and educate potential mentors on the unmet need for adult mentorship in our area. The mentor program will serve as a bridge, connecting local organizations to the good people of our community who are looking for a way to help.

Our mentors will be able to choose the organization they want to work with based on their own personal interest and comfort level. We will also take the opportunity to introduce our local partner organizations like Sisterhood of Grace, Good News Jail and Prison Ministry, and the Visalia Rescue Mission.

Our variety of partner organizations will ensure us the opportunity to tailor every match to each individual mentor. We are so excited that we will be able to help connect members of the community in meaningful and mature friendships. Our thorough and concise training will equip our mentors with the tools and skills they need to begin a relationship with their new mentee. However, the mentor will never have to go it alone. Our mentor program staff will come along side the mentor to offer an unparalleled level of support through every step of the mentoring process. We hope that our new and innovative approach will aid us in connecting potential to opportunity.



It has been the desire of the foundation to expand into a multi-dimensional organization so that we may reach more people. The mentor program was put into motion because of our desire to take our work one step further. In our successful experiences with our interns and key employees we have often asked ourselves, "Did we just get lucky in finding this person?" This led us to investigate how we could make these fortunate accidents into successful connection on purpose. - *Cont. on page 3*



**BEN-E-LECT
FOUNDATION**

Connecting Potential to Opportunity

**Visit us at
www.benelectfoundation.org**

Please contact us at 559-302-2388

E-mail: areynolds@benelect.com

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter

The Story of Mentor

There are many beliefs surrounding the earliest documented stories regarding mentoring. One of the most commonly told mentor stories is that of Odysseus in Homer's *The Illiad* and *The Odyssey*.

The story begins with the infamous king Agamemnon and his crusade to expand the Grecian empire. Despite his efforts, the city of Troy remained in power and out of reach behind their great stone walls. When Agamemnon's brother Menelaus learned that his wife Helen had run away with Paris, a Trojan Prince, the ambitious conqueror leapt at the chance to finally seize Troy.

To wage this massive war Agamemnon called on all the kings and lords he had conquered, ordering them to bring their armies in the siege of Troy. One such king was Odysseus of Ithaca. Odysseus knew that war with Troy could have lethal consequences and with grave hesitation he prepared his court for his immanent departure. Facing an uncertain future, Odysseus entrusted his wise friend Mentor with the well being of his newborn son and heir Telemachus, his kingdom, and in turn his legacy. Mentor accepted his role as surrogate father not knowing that the war would last ten years and it would take another ten years for Odysseus to return to Ithaca.

Whenever this story is retold, by script or screen, the emphasis usually dwells on Odysseus and his men as they sail back to Ithaca. However, while Odysseus and his men battled Poseidon and the elements, an equally important battle was happening back in Ithaca. During Odysseus's 20 year absence, Mentor shouldered the heavy responsibility of guiding and nurturing Telemachus into a future leader. During this time, insatiable suitors began to overrun the palace proclaiming Odysseus dead and staking claim to the throne. Mentor guided Telemachus away from the temptation of a fight with the boorish and taunting palace intruders. Mentor encouraged his protégé to have faith in his father's return and taught him to prepare before he acted in haste. Mentor's valuable counsel kept Telemachus safe during his fatherless and tumultuous adolescence.

Mentor was so respected for his wisdom that Athena, the goddess of war and wisdom, disguised herself as Mentor when she appeared before Telemachus and convinced him to go in search of Odysseus. When Odysseus finally returned to Ithaca Telemachus was able to aid his father in the take down of the palace intruders. Mentor's prophetic guidance made Telemachus into an asset for his father and his kingdom. It is because of these stories that the word "mentor" has been adapted into the English language to mean someone who shares their knowledge and wisdom with someone of less experience.

Mentor's stewardship was so inspirational that the actual definition of a mentor remains a description of his character. It is an excellent reminder that our influence can reach beyond our daily interactions, especially when we make a deliberate effort to have a positive affect on someone's life. Wisdom is not acquired on accident and knowledge is not passed on without action. The story of Mentor may have originated in Greek mythology but its integrity is a timeless and universal example on the power of a true mentor.





Cont. from Pg 1-We have learned that it takes a team effort to make this kind of impact. We realized that while our interns needed vocational training, they were also in desperate need of a devoted mentor to come along side them. In a similar way, local charities are making great strides in helping people face their struggle and addictions but their participants are in need of a caring steward. The mentor program was created to fulfill this need by training mentors for purposeful friendships with a mentee from a partner organization who is in need of emotional support.

The mentor program wants to be a resource for our partner organizations and their participants so that they may take the next step in a true life revival. Many adults don't have someone they can trust for advice or who is willing to give them a second chance. It is vital in a mentee's progress that they have someone in their life that can see them for their potential and not their past. Mentors will act as a trusted co-pilot as the mentee begins to navigate the next chapter of their life.

Through our valuable partnerships we will extend our reach in the community and create a new avenue of opportunity for those who need help and those who are equipped to help. We are ecstatic about the new services and training that will soon be available to potential partner organizations, mentors, and mentees. It is our fervent desire to help our neighbors better their lives by connecting people with potential ...on purpose.

"Drift Away"

Day after day I'm more confused;
I look for the light in the pouring rain.
You know that's a game I hate to lose.
I'm feelin the strain; aint it a shame?

Oh, give me the beat, boys, to
soothe my soul; I wanna get lost in your
rock and roll and drift away.

Beginning to think that I'm wastin'
time; don't understand the things that
I do. 'Cause the world outside looks so
unkind. Now I'm countin' on you to carry
me through.

Oh, give me the beat, boys, to
soothe my soul; I wanna get lost in your
rock and roll and drift away.

And when my mind is free no melody can
move me. When I'm feelin' blue guitars
are comin' through to soothe me.

And thanks for the joy that you've
given me; I want you to know I believe
in your song, and rythm and rhyme and
harmony. You help me along, makin' me
strong.

Oh, give me the beat, boys, to
soothe my soul; I wanna get lost in your
rock and roll and drift away.

Won't ya help me,
Won't ya help me,
Won't ya help me
Drift away.

~Lyrics By

Mentor Williams



OUR MISSION

To serve as a catalyst for under-mentored young adults, helping them realize their full potential by equipping them with the tools they need to build a future filled with purpose and fulfillment.

OUR PROGRAM

Working in close collaboration with the foundation, local community leaders lend a helping hand to program participants by providing advice, guidance, and support which promote their personal development, build their sense of accomplishment and competence, and nurture their overall well-being.



OUR FOUNDERS

The foundation was formed by the leaders of BEN-E-LECT, an employer-driven® health benefit company headquartered in Visalia, CA. BEN-E-LECT is one of the country's leading third party administrators of high deductible employer-driven® medical, dental, and vision plans.

OUR FUNDING

The foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, officially qualified to receive tax-deductible bequests, devises, transfers, and gifts. It is funded primarily through the generous contributions of businesses and individuals along with grants from charitable organizations.

 5429 Avenida de los Robles, Suite A
Visalia, CA 93291
Phone: (559) 733-1240
Fax: (559) 733-2325
Web: www.benelectfoundation.org
Email: info@benelectfoundation.org

Invest in the Foundation

DONOR INFORMATION

Name _____
Business Name (If Applicable) _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Preferred Phone _____
Email _____

AMOUNT OF DONATION (Please Check One)

Chairman Level - \$1,000.00 Role Model Level - \$50.00
 President Level - \$500.00 Helping Hand Level - \$25.00
 Leader Level - \$250.00 Other - \$ _____
 Mentor Level - \$100.00

FREQUENCY OF DONATION (Please Check One)

Monthly Semi-Annually
 Quarterly Annually
 One Time Only

SUBMIT DONATION BY CHECK

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____
(Please may checks payable to the "BEN-E-LECT FOUNDATION")

SUBMIT DONATION BY CREDIT CARD

Visa MasterCard American Express
Card Number _____
Name on Card _____
Expiration Date _____ CSC Number _____
The 3 or 4-digit CSC appears on the back of the credit card.
Signature _____ Date _____

**Submit your donation to the Foundation office.
All donations are tax-deductible and you will receive a receipt.
Thank you for your continued support!**