



City of Waterbury

Waterbury Prevention Policy Board • 95 North Main Street • Waterbury, CT 06702 • (203) 573-0264

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATERBURY – Urging everyone to consider giving back to the community and helping a new generation by becoming a mentor, Mayor Michael Jarjura has formally declared the month of January to be Mentoring Month in Waterbury, joining both the State of Connecticut and the United States in this observation.

Echoing the words of Governor Jodi Rell, Mayor Jarjura proclaimed within the document, “I have made a firm commitment to mentoring and challenge business leaders and educators in the City of Waterbury to join me. Together, we can prepare our future workforce by developing children’s skills and confidence and expanding their notion of what is possible.”

Mentoring Month has been observed annually since 2002. Each year celebrities and others participate in public service announcements and special events to call attention to the benefits of mentoring. Earlier this month, President Barack Obama appeared in a print advertisement promoting mentoring under the slogan, “Be the Change: Mentor A Child.”

There are several programs which offer mentoring to students here in Waterbury, including the Waterbury Public Schools, Nutmeg Big Brothers / Big Sisters, Covenant to Care, Forefathers, Rivera Memorial Foundation, Boys to Men New England Mentoring Network and Waterbury Youth Service Systems, Inc. Over the past several years, these programs have worked together to recruit mentors as part of the Waterbury Prevention Policy Board.

The Waterbury Prevention Policy Board (Waterbury PPB) is a community collaborative of Waterbury stakeholders working together to increase positive youth development, as well as provide a forum for communication among youth serving organizations and agencies and served as a vehicle for collaboration among such organizations. It has also worked closely together with the Mayor to help improve opportunities for youth in Waterbury and has requested the Mayor’s support for mentoring on this and other occasions.

To learn more about the Waterbury PPB, please contact Amanda Hunyadi, Community Liaison, at (203) 573-0264 or ahunyadi@waterburyyouthservices.org.

For more information on mentoring, please contact these local organizations or go to www.preventionworksct.org (Connecticut Mentoring Partnership) or www.mentoring.org (MENTOR, the National Mentoring Partnership).

**Coordinated by the Waterbury Prevention Policy Board Executive Committee
Supported by Connecticut Community Foundation, United Way of Greater Waterbury, Office of the Mayor, City of Waterbury, and Waterbury Youth Service System Inc.**