

THE LEADER

• PROGRAM •

July 2010

The Franklin-Grand Isle LEAD program's quarterly newsletter for alumni and current participants:
The LEADER!

We hope The LEADER will be a useful tool for you to stay in touch and learn more about opportunities in our two county area. If you have any suggestions for helpful content, please contact Elizabeth, LEAD Program Coordinator fgileadprogram@gmail.com.



LEAD Graduates 2010

There is still time to wrap up those applications and mail them in so... please 'lead' that someone you have in mind for the program to LEAD applications

Questions? Call Elizabeth at 802 370 8812

LEAD Graduates its Fifth Class!

On June 9, 2010, 18 members of the 2009-2010 Franklin Grand Isle LEAD program received their graduation certificates for completing the 10-month program.

Prior to the graduation ceremony held at One Federal in St. Albans, the participants presented their year-end project results to the rest of the class, board members, and guests. "For this year's program, we adopted a new set up for the project component of the program," said Jennifer Savage, outgoing LEAD Board President. Savage explains that instead of one project over the course of the entire program, participants this year had two: one focused on a community leader and leadership style, and a second, more traditional community service project for a local organization. The new structure allowed the participants to work in two very different teams over the course of the program. "We are very proud of how this element of the program came together this year. I believe it created a better experience for the participants, and is one of the most meaningful improvements we've made to the program to date."

cont'd pg. 2

Watershed Mentoring



Making a Difference One Pair at a Time

Be a mentor - you won't regret it! Whether it is helping a child overcome shyness, learning a new skill, trying new food, or having fun doing new recreational activities, mentoring benefits both mentors and youth.

such as the current logo and banner and participating in the Maple Festival Parade.

"Andrea, a single mother of two working on her college degree, had been looking for ways to engage her son. Mav was shy and reluctant to try new things. When she learned about Watershed Mentoring, she jumped

LEAD alumni Lisa Thibault and Dan McCoy are long-time mentors and members of the Watershed Mentoring advisory committee. Their involvement began with a LEAD team community project in 2006 -2007. The team developed a marketing plan, that included tools



Maple Festival 2010

cont'd pg. 2

Fifth Class (con't)

The first team's project focused on the LEAD program itself. The team consisted of Jay Buermann, Suzanne Rude, Brian Monaghan, Brant Hopkins, Vicki Sinagra, and Danielle Lindley. They reported on how LEAD could market a greater awareness of the program to both organizations and businesses, and how to maximize networking opportunities that included the use of social networking tools.

The second team created a color-coded, very readable 80-page booklet called "Choices for Seniors - Franklin and Grand Isle Counties

Resource Guide". This guide will serve as a reference tool to help local seniors, their families and caregivers secure information on available services for the elderly. The Guide is planned for distribution to local social service agencies and at the Annual Aging Expo scheduled for September 2010. Mike Oddy, Lisa Howrigan, Roy Benoit, Michelle Boudreau, Susan Casavant, and Jan Keith-Young rounded out this team.

The Franklin Grand Isle Community Partnership (FGICP) was the subject of the third team's project.

Jim Naylor, Gina Clark, Colleen Kelly, Ellen Stebbins, Johanne Hamilton, and Deirdre Clifford held a mock FGICP meeting to give the audience a sense of attending these public meetings. The Partnership has undergone significant organizational change in the past few years, and the team helped examine FGICP priorities, its assets, the needs of the community, and the value of the Partnership to its membership. They provided recommendations for Partnership sustainability, and also created a brochure that describes FGICP desired outcomes and monthly meeting information.

Watershed Mentoring (con't)

at the chance to have her son matched up with a caring, responsible adult who could share interests and help her son develop more confidence. At first, she says, "I practically had to push him out the door!" Mav wasn't sure, but gave it a try. "

Now he can't wait to see his mentor. He's not shy about calling to set up activities. He's learned how to snowboard, and he rides his bike, he's tried four-wheeling, and he's worked on cars—even learned how to change

oil!" Mav and his mentor Roger spruced up Roger's trailer for the Maple Festival Parade, sanding, bumping out a dent, and painting the trailer so it could be the Watershed Mentoring float."

For more information about how you can make a positive difference in a child's life contact Beth or Cindy of Caring Communities at 527-5049 or visit www.fcccp.org/Watershed.htm



LEAD Board Annual Meeting

The LEAD Board held its annual meeting June 9, 2010 prior to the final class presentations, at which time it said goodbye to two of its outstanding board members, Jodi Frei'04-'05 and Lisa Bovat Clark'06-'07.

Bill Hancy and Joe Zorn accepted their new roles as Board Chairman and Co-chair, respectively. Hancy stated, "I am anxious to fill the large shoes left by previous leaders, and

will continue the LEAD tradition of providing leadership education, training, and practical experience like no other program of its kind does in Northwestern Vermont."

Hancy and Zorn are testaments to the LEAD program, having both graduated from LEAD Class 2007-2008 and are now taking on leadership positions in their community.

Board of Directors

Bill Hancy, Chair
 Joe Zorn, Co-Chair
 Jim Walsh, Treasurer
 Sally Bortz
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