

## Chosen to Achieve Spring Banquet

Sunday May 20, 2007

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**First Day of School:**  
 SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

**Parent/Teacher Conferences:**  
 NOVEMBER 12, 2007

#### CHOSEN TO ACHIEVE

**Faith-Based Workshop**  
 With Pastor Tommy McClam  
 Sponsored by  
 U.S. Department of Education  
*(See page 2 for details!!)*  
 SEPTEMBER 27 & 28, 2007

**Matching Mentors & Students:**  
 SEPTEMBER 17-28, 2007

**Mentoring Begins:**  
 OCTOBER 1, 2007



Mentor Keith Hardy with mentee DeShawn Harden and parents

Chosen to Achieve's fourth annual spring banquet was held at Crown Plaza Saint Paul on Sunday, May 20, 2007. It was a delightful evening filled with food, fellowship, guest speakers, and entertainment. Each year, the spring banquet allows Chosen to Achieve mentors, mentees, and their families to meet and share their experiences with one another. In addition, the event is used as a tool to recruit volunteer mentors, present information about the impacts of the program, and develop a sense of unity between Chosen to Achieve supporters, participants, and district representatives.

Yusef Mgeni, Saint Paul Public Schools Director of Educational Equity, served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

A number of speakers addressed banquet attendees, covering a variety of topics throughout the night. Eowyn Gatlin, a student from Metropolitan State University, presented the encouraging findings of a recent study conducted by the college to determine the impacts of Chosen to Achieve. Gatlin stated that 81% of former Chosen to Achieve students said their mentor was an important influence on their future plans, 92% said the program helped them become a better student in some way, and 72% said the program helped them become a better person in some way. Other speakers included School Board Chair Elona Street-Stewart, Reverend Otis C.

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### Anna's Notes

**YOU can be a mentor!!!** It only takes a little time to make a BIG difference in the life of a young person. It's simple - If you have any of these qualities to offer, you can be a mentor with Chosen to Achieve!! Join us!

...life experience to share

...a passion for young people

...willingness to be a friend



## DID YOU KNOW...?

### 2007-2008 Team Leaders

#### **Carol Carter**

*Saint Paul Public Schools Liaison*

#### **Joann Clark**

*Day Care Owner*

#### **Henry Combs**

*Saint Paul Public Schools Coach*

#### **Metric Giles I**

*Saint Paul Public Works Department*

#### **Patrice Howard**

*Associate Minister -  
Progressive Baptist Church*

#### **Denise Loving**

*3M Advanced Information Analyst*

#### **Andrew McGlory**

*Saint Paul Public Schools Architect*

#### **Yvette Mims**

*Housing Management*

#### **Joe Morrison**

*Deacon and Business Owner*

#### **Tonya Smith**

*3M Engineer*

The Twin Cities ranks as the **#1 metro area for volunteering** in the United States! According to the Corporation for National and Community Service's 2007 report, **40.5%** of Twin Cities area residents volunteer compared to **28.1%** nationally. **Mentors, you set an example of service for our nation. Thank you!**

### Meet Our Newest Team Member!

*Alissa Wachter, Americorps\*VISTA*



Greetings! My name is Alissa Wachter and I will be serving as an Americorps\*VISTA volunteer with Chosen to Achieve for the next full year. VISTAs (Volunteers in Service to America) commit one year of volunteer service to a school or non-profit organization where they focus on capacity building. At Chosen to Achieve my primary role will be Fund Development. I will be working alongside the Fund Development Committee, which is comprised of Chosen to Achieve team leaders, by locating and writing grants, developing financial resources, and working to secure the future of the program. In addition, I will be involved in other tasks such as writing, recruiting volunteers, and attending community events.

Because I am new to the program, I will be looking to each of you for knowledge and experience. I am here to support the program in any way I can. Please be patient with me as I learn about Chosen to Achieve and get acquainted with my new job! I have already met many of you, and I must say that I am thrilled to be working with such dedicated, passionate individuals. For those of you I have not met, if you ever see me at a Chosen to Achieve event or around town, come say hello!

#### FUN FACTS...

- **Hometown:** Rosemount, MN
- **Hobbies/Interests:** Reading, writing, singing, spending time with family, cooking, politics
- **Favorite Food:** Indian & Thai
- **College:** Azusa Pacific University, Global Studies
- **Favorite Season:** Autumn

### “How to Connect with the Faith-Based Community” Workshop with Pastor Tommy McClam



Pastor McClam

Tommy McClam was born and raised in the urban center of Buffalo, NY. He has worked in urban youth ministry for over 25 years and currently serves as Youth Pastor at Elim Christian Fellowship in his home town. McClam oversees the Elim Community Corporation's "Girls to Women" and "Boys to Men" mentoring programs, and the Elim Christian Fellowship Generation NOW youth ministry. McClam's workshop will assist attendees in understanding the faith-based community, ways to partner with and access the faith-based volunteer mentoring pool, and how to connect and collaborate with the community at-large. Don't even think about missing this exciting opportunity!!!

- What:** “How to Connect with the Faith-based Community”
- Who:** All community members are invited to attend!
- Where:** St. Paul Public Schools District Office  
360 Colborne Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102
- When:** Thursday, September 27, 2007 (8:30AM-12:30PM)  
Friday, September 28, 2007 (Onsite consultations)
- Cost:** This event is FREE OF CHARGE thanks to generous support by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe & Drug-Free Schools.

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Clark IV, and Sherellia Moore. These presenters emphasized the importance of positive role models in the lives of our young people, and confirmed that mentoring truly makes a difference in our community. Students and parents also had the opportunity to share their affections for the program.

Chosen to Achieve was proud to welcome Saint Paul Public Schools Superintendent Meria J. Carstarphen to the spring banquet, who spoke to attendees about her support of the program and others that address the achievement gap. Recently, Carstarphen stated in an interview with SPPS, "Minnesota consistently leads the nation in academic achievement. We know how to teach children in this state and we do it well. If the achievement gap is going to be closed anywhere, it's going to be here in Saint Paul, and it's going to take a community-wide effort." This dedication to African American students makes Carstarphen an important support for the program.

The 2007 Chosen to Achieve Spring Banquet was a great success and a lot of fun. *THANK YOU to everyone who made the event possible!!*

(Banquet photos cont. on page 4)

# Spring Banquet May 20, 2007



Student speakers



Chosen to Achieve leadership team



Mentor Debra Pridgen & mentee  
Melissa Hutchenson



Battle Creek Middle School  
Principal Jocelyn Sims with  
Chosen to Achieve student



Eowyn Gatlin,  
Metropolitan State  
University



Student speakers

*"The spring banquet allows Chosen to Achieve mentors, mentees, and their families to meet and share their experiences with one another...and develop a sense of unity between supporters, participants, and district representatives."*



Mentor Sherellia Moore &  
Mentee Gloria Johnson



Superintendent Meria J. Carstarphen and School Board Chair Elona  
Street-Steward spoke at the banquet



Reverend Otis C. Clark IV,  
Mentor



Sherellia Moore,  
Mentor

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Mentors from St. Paul College



Community leaders



Mentor Anita Tenner & mentee Geneva Hawkins



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHOSEN TO ACHIEVE!!!



That's right, we are entering the 5<sup>th</sup> year of Chosen to Achieve! Thank you to all the mentors, funders, parents, staff and supporters who have made the last four years possible! You truly make a difference in the lives of our students.

Tell all your friends – **we are still looking for volunteers for the 2007-2008 school year!**

Do you know someone who is caring and committed? Friendly and fun? Encourage them to commit just one hour every two weeks this school year to a Chosen to Achieve student. It makes a BIG difference! Contact Anna Young at (651) 293-5952 or by e-mail at [Anna.Young@spps.org](mailto:Anna.Young@spps.org)

### What's Up??

This is your newsletter. So write us, and let us know what you'd like to hear about!

Email us at [anna.young@spps.org](mailto:anna.young@spps.org)

Or use our snail mail address:

**Chosen to Achieve, Saint Paul Public Schools  
360 Colborne Street, St. Paul, MN 55102.**

This newsletter is published by Chosen to Achieve African American Mentoring Program in conjunction with St. Paul Public Schools.



360 Colborne Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

