

MARCH 2010



# A2Z MENTORING PROGRAM

*“Be the change you wish to see in the world”  
-Mahatma Gandhi*

*“Learning is the pathway to a better life.”*

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A2Z is a one on one tutoring and mentoring program that has been operating since 2004 in East Windsor, Hightstown and Ewing, Mercer County. It offers high school students and adult volunteers from the community an opportunity to work in a learning environment with academically challenged students from low-income families.

The program not only helps disadvantaged and needy elementary, middle and high school children, but also enables high school mentors to develop a community spirit, a giving mindset, gain leadership experience and an opportunity to work with a diverse group of students.

A2Z Mentoring Program promotes the 8 C’s:  
Compassion ,Caring, Commitment, Consistency, Creativity, Challenge, Communication, and Confidence.



## MISSION

To raise the literacy level and subject skills of students from low income, minority and disadvantaged families by providing a free tutoring program and enable the pursuit of higher education and quality of life.

## STUDENT/ PARENT TESTIMONIALS

I like coming to A2Z because they help me with my homework. Another thing that I like to come here is because I can learn more. A third thing I like to come here is because it is so fun to be in here.

**-Stacy, Grade 3**

A2Z has helped me with my homework. They also help me with stuff I need help with. I like this program but it can improve by having computers in here also. It has improved my grades in school.

**-Andrew, Grade 8**

Yo la mama de Mike Zumba. Me encuentro muy contenta que mi hijo está muy prosperado en comparación de antes que asista ha estas clases yo les agradezco mucho y muchas gracias por donarnos su tiempo ayudando ha nuestros niños y deseo que mi hijo prospere mas asimismo en todo muchos gracias les agradezco por todo y que pasen una buen fin de semana.

**-Mike, Grade 1**

Ravi Traylor has been attending A2Z mentoring for almost a year now without complaining about going. I see this as a positive already. I think the idea of the older student helping the younger children is a good concept. I felt in the beginning that Ravi was never going to be able to sit still for one and a half hours, but it appears he is. Ravi’s academic ability is improving, and I feel that it is due to A2Z mentoring. We are working with our son at home as well. We’re thankful for this program, and until you’re sick of us we’ll keep coming.

**-Ruthann Traylor’s Parent**

My daughter has been enrolled in the A to Z tutoring program for over a month now. Breiana has been struggling with math and I have had difficulty trying to make the subject interesting for her. The guidance counselor at her school gave me the number for A2Z and thought Breiana would benefit from their program. She was absolutely right. I never thought my daughter would look forward to learning. She cares about how her tutor makes learning fun, and her test scores have improved. I am not able to afford any of the expensive learning centers so on behalf of all parents benefiting from this program, I ask that you allow it to continue.

**-Breiana Patrick’s Parent, Grade 2**

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## Mentors' Testimonials



### **Kunal Desai (Former Teen-Committee President)**

I have been with the program since the summer of 2006 and I think it's a great idea. Being more privileged, I feel it is my duty to help those who are less privileged than me. I found that when you make learning fun, the students are more willing to learn. I try my best to make learning enjoyable for the student by playing educational games or explaining concepts in an easier to understand way. All in all, I am proud of the work that I, and the other mentors, have done to help less privileged students in the area.



### **Nikita Gupta (Former Teen-Committee Vice President)**

Ever since I was little, I have been helping my peers grasp ideas and concepts. My friends would often tell me afterwards that I had a way with words that explained everything to them in a manner that no one else could. I am happy to have the opportunity to use this talent to improve the lives of those less fortunate than me. Even after only a few weeks of mentoring, I felt completely attached to this wonderful program. I couldn't help raving so much about it to my friends that they themselves were looking forward to become part of it. A2Z is everything anyone looks for in a tutoring program and I hope to continue volunteering here for many years to come.



### **Naveen Galla (Teen-Committee Project Manager)**

It is a great privilege to be part of a program as great as A2Z. When I tutor someone, I see how they approach problems and ask them the logic behind their reasoning. This allows my student to truly understand what he or she is accomplishing and the process which is necessary for solving something. The joy on my student's face after he or she finally understands a concept which had previously seemed difficult makes me feel proud of my work. It is such a honor to be in this organization. I really look forward to tutoring in A2Z for years to come.



### **Nikila Venkat (President of Teen-Committee)**

After three years of participating in the A2Z Mentoring program, I can now safely say that mentoring has been the most memorable and rewarding experiences of my life. Every week, when I go to tutor my child, I am amazed at not only how quickly my kid can be motivated to learn, but also how much I gain out of the process. A2Z Mentoring Program is a truly an excellent volunteer organization that transforms students who are struggling in school into intelligent, hard working, and motivated learners. I am so glad that I have gotten to be a part of it.



### **Jamie Shah (Vice-President of Teen-Committee)**

Ever since I started volunteering at A2Z, I have always been delighted to see the amount of kids I have helped and truly made a difference for. Whether I am teaching my students how to face the horrors of long division or how to decipher tricky vowel sounds, the joy I see in their faces when they realize that they have just learned something new always makes my day special. By teaching students, I not only improve the grades of my students, but I also bond with them. Mothers come to me after sessions and tell me how much their child has grown to love coming to A2Z every week. I believe that in order for a student to learn, he or she has to be happy where they are. Many times teachers are faced with students that like to say, "School is boring!" However, at A2Z Mentoring Program you will never hear a student say that because we teach with a fun but focused teaching method.



### **Steven Katz (Treasurer of Teen-Committee)**

I have had the privilege of being apart of A2Z mentoring for the past two years and it has been nothing but a pleasure. It is really satisfying to watch a child progress as he participates in our weekly tutoring sessions. This is a great program that works on developing a child's intellectual skills, as well as a child's social skills. I have been able to build a strong relationship with my student and watch him progress in math, as well as English. A2Z mentoring is a truly fantastic program that benefits both the student and the mentor.



### **Nishanth Galla (Secretary of Teen-Committee)**

My student and I learn from each other; it is not just the mentor teaching. The bond between the mentor and the student is based on friendship. By coming to A2Z, my student receives the gift of knowledge. My student Mike manages to come to A2Z even when he is sick and when it is raining. This passion in my student encourages me to attend these sessions every week because I know I am making a great impact on someone's life. A2Z allows me to give back to the community by helping the future generation of kids.

# A2Z Fundraising Concert— Dec 2009

The A2Z Mentoring Program was proud to host its very first annual fundraising concert. Thanks to the help of the blind musicians from the "BLACK" group and Robbinsville High School for hosting us, we were able to raise money for the A2Z Program. But above all, we must thank all the people who came to support A2Z. Without your support, A2Z would not be able to continue its success.



Janice Mironov (EW Mayor)

Shing-Fu Hsueh (WW Mayor)



Kamal Khanna (WW Council)

Linda Geevers (Council VP)



## DONATIONS

*Aim for A2Z's funding comes solely from donations and grants.*

***YOU can help!***

*To make a donation, please make check payable to "Aim For A2Z, Inc." and mail to :*

*P.O. Box 32, Pennington, NJ 08534*

*Aim For A2Z is always seeking corporate sponsorship*

*For Information call: 609-213-8674*

**\*Aim for A 2 Z Mentoring Program is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization - all donations are tax deductible.**

**We are available on  
the web at  
[www.a2zmentoring.org](http://www.a2zmentoring.org)**

# NEWS AND EVENTS



**MEETINGS**  
A2Z Conducts Meetings and Training four times per year in Local Libraries.

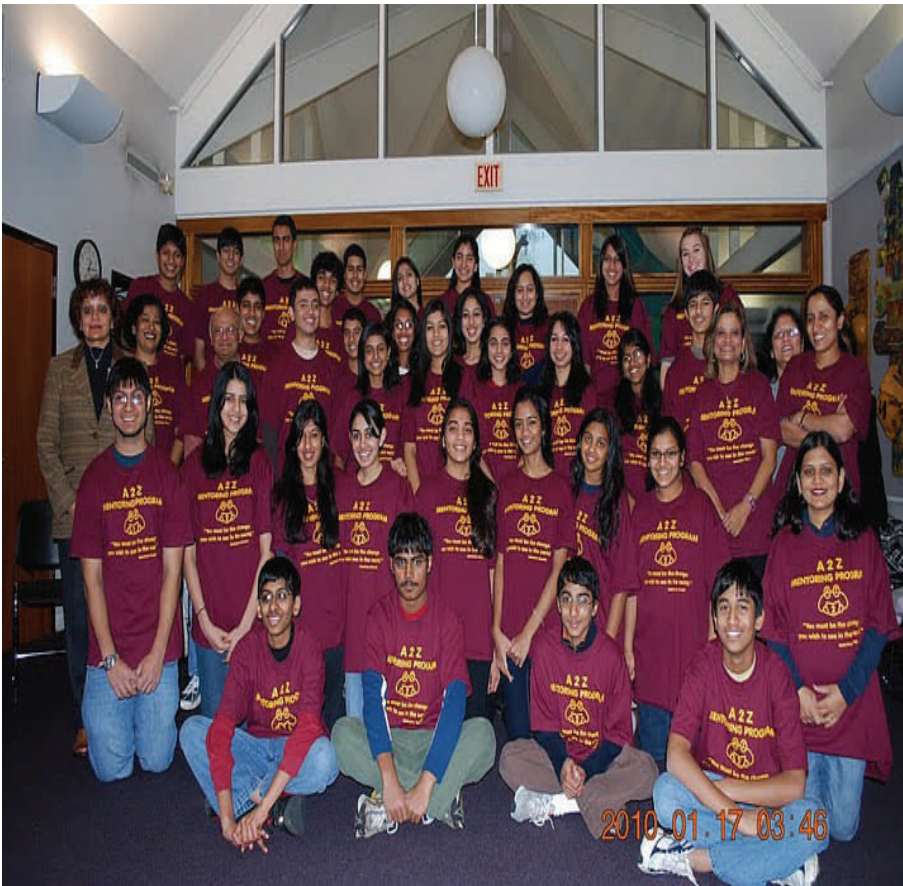
## 2009 Events

- National Mentoring Month Celebration –January
- Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup Project – April
- FALL 2009 A2Z'S Open House – September
- Volunteer Training/Meeting – September
- Supervisor Training/Meetings – September
- Board Meeting –April

## Mentoring Locations

East Windsor Library  
Thursday 6:30-8:00 pm  
Saturday 9:30-11:00am  
Twin Rivers Library  
Wednesday 6-7:30 pm  
Thursday 6-7:30 pm  
Ewing Library  
Tuesday 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wednesday 6:30-8:00 pm

## National Mentoring Month Celebration on January 17, 2010



In dedication to our mentors, A2Z hosted its annual Mentoring Celebration on January 17th, 2010 during National Mentoring Month. Almost 50 mentors and supervisors attended the celebration and was a huge success!

## Future Events

- A2Z Board Meeting: April 13, 2010
- Fundraising event April 17th at Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church on South Mill Road in West Windsor at 7:30p.m.
- Spring Break (March 27th to April 4th)
- Mentors Training/Meeting– April 25, 2010
- A2Z Annual Ceremony (June 13th, 2010 at 2p.m)

## A2Z Contact Information

*If you would like to become a member of the A2Z family, please refer to the information below.*

*For the Students/Volunteers  
Registration:*

*Aim For A2Z, Inc.*

*P. O. Box 32, Pennington, NJ  
08534*

*Telephone: 609-213-8674*

*Fax: 609-333-0730*

*Email: [a2z.mentoring@gmail.com](mailto:a2z.mentoring@gmail.com)*