



**Community Commentary: Student Mentoring**  
**By Shannon Robinson-Beland**  
March 10, 2011

It is an exciting privilege to have this opportunity to update the community on "student mentoring" in Laconia. As some of you know, there has been an effort over the past two years to develop and implement a mentoring program to serve our city's young people.

Over the past year, Better Together has had a group of community focused individuals from many walks of life working on a way to make mentoring here in Laconia a reality. We are proud to say that we are making real progress. Our current direction is focused on utilizing the Boys and Girls Club as a point of origination, training, and assigning of mentoring relationships. Mr. Dave Parker of the Boys and Girls Club has been a participating member of our group since its initiation and has set forth the challenge of "let's do something while we are talking about doing something." We, as fellow participants of this group, heartily agree!

If you are interested in what we are doing as a group and/or want to get involved in mentoring a young person in our community, we have a way for it to be done. If you want to support our continuing efforts at structuring our program so it can be both effective and stand the test of time, we want you working with us. We continue to have energy and ideas that need input from all parties committed to this format of assisting youth toward life success. For more information come to a Better Together meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in the Laconia Middle School Multipurpose room from 4-6 pm, search for mentoring together on Facebook, or call the Boys and Girls Club at 528-0197. Let us all continue to consider what a high quality mentoring program could do for our community as we work together to build it and "do something while we are talking about doing something".

Get involved!! Be a mentor or sponsor a child!!

Better Together Mentoring Action Team

*For more information on Better Together visit [www.bettertogetherlakesregion.org](http://www.bettertogetherlakesregion.org) or call 524-1741 x 15. Better Together meets at the Laconia Middle School on the fourth Thursday of every month at 4:00pm. All citizens interested in making the Lakes Region the best place for children and families are encouraged to attend.*

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