



March 23, 2015

Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to share the following exciting news from CSS:

PGC students in Newark, New Jersey hold family night to raise money for soup kitchen. East Side High School in Newark recently shared with us an amazing [video](#) featuring their 2015 PGC Family Night event. This event brought together peer leaders, freshmen, and their families for an evening of engaging activities and meaningful dialogue and also raised money for the soup kitchen at St. John's Church in Newark. Over 200 students and parents attended the dinner, where the charity was presented with a \$1,000 donation from [Optimum Community](#). Senator M. Teresa Ruiz (D-29th District, Essex), Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin (D-29th District, Essex), and Assemblywoman L. Grace Spencer (D-29th District, Essex) were all also in attendance. The PGC program at East Side was launched in 2011 through a generous grant from the [Foundation for Newark's Future](#) and remains an important and thriving part of the school's culture.

Expanded support for peer-led middle school health education. A generous grant from the [Salem Health and Wellness Fund at the Community Foundation of New Jersey](#) will enable CSS, in partnership with [HiTOPS, Inc.](#), to further develop and assess a middle school version of the [Teen Prevention Education Program \(Teen PEP\)](#) in Salem County, New Jersey. Teen PEP-Middle makes it possible for high school juniors and seniors to serve as role models and sexual health advocates who provide a continuum of support to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students around issues of sexual health. Last year, the Salem Health and Wellness Foundation supported CSS to create and pilot the program in Salem Public Schools. We are so pleased to have the Foundation as an ongoing partner in this important work. Currently, 45 New Jersey high schools are implementing Teen PEP through sustained, significant, and longstanding funding and partnership support from the [New Jersey Department of Health](#) and HiTOPS.

No-cost tool for mentoring programs. MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership and The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention have just launched [The National Mentoring Resource Center \(NMRC\)](#). This resource is comprised of an interactive website, a technical assistance portal, and a Research Board who assess and report on the evidence that bears on the effectiveness of different mentoring programs, practices, and resources. The goal of the NMRC is to more fully incorporate evidence-based practices with training and technical assistance to improve the quality of effectiveness of youth mentoring programs across the nation.

All the best,

Daniel F. Oscar
CEO

P.S. As always, if you'd like additional information about anything you've read, simply hit reply and let me know. I look forward to hearing from you!