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## Tutor/Mentor confab trains 200 groups

by Vladimire Herard

Aimed at training leaders to set up programs that keep youths active in the summer, the head of a mentoring/tutoring group said Monday a leadership conference takes place this week for heads of some 200 neighborhood programs.

The Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC) is hosting the Tutor/Mentor Connection Leadership Conference Friday and Saturday, May 19 and 20, at the Robert R. McCormick Boys and Girls Club, 4835 N. Sheridan Road.

T/MC was formed in 1993 to bring program leaders, busi-

nesses and volunteers together to design and keep in place after-school tutoring and mentoring programs citywide.

"People are linking with each other through this," said Dan Bassill, T/MC president and chief executive officer and president of Cabrini Connections, 535 W. Chicago Ave.

"When that happens, we can go to the next step. We can say to one person, 'You need to be doing this because it can really help you.'"

Bassill explained that most leaders run groups in their neighborhood without touching basis with other groups or busi-

nesses.

Thus, many miss out on key lessons about fund-raising, volunteer recruitment and retention, public relations and planning reading, writing and science activities for families.

To that end, he said, T/MC started with 150 groups and put out a networking directory for them. Nearly half said they had made contacts.

In a recent survey, 90 percent of the group respondents said there was a need for networking among nonprofit groups.

Then, T/MC held a conference Nov. 20 at the Shedd Aquarium to which 70 people representing

40 groups showed. A second was held.

This week's event marks the third, which six to seven people are organizing. Interested persons should call (312) 467-2889.

"It's a combination of show and tell," Bassill said.

"We show and people can get excited about what they've learned."

On Friday, presenters will discuss such topics as fundraising, volunteer work, multiculturalism, and family math, science, and health education.

On Saturday, there will be workshops on summer programs, including reading and

science, particularly those of the Park District.

Another aspect of the support mechanism for the groups is the Chicago Bar Foundation's networking program to help them secure funds.

Sebrena Lewis, who is involved with T/MC and the Vincent United Methodist Church after-school program, 657 E. 91st St., said she plans to gain much from the conference.

It is anticipated that her group can better learn how to set up an advisory board, garner funds, recruit volunteers and obtain computers.