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## HEART OF THE 'HOOD

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### Hey, anybody out there have some free time on their hands?...

...If so, Cabrini Connections and the Tutor/Mentor Connection want you! The groups' 2005 Chicagoland Back-to-School Tutor/Mentor Volunteer Recruitment Campaign is searching for volunteers.



By Felicia Dechter

Now in its 11th year, the Volunteer Recruitment Campaign seeks to connect businesses, professionals, faith-groups, community volunteers and political leaders with kids in tutor/mentor programs. And they're not just looking for people who will be one-on-one tutors/mentors, they're looking for tech support, donors, organizers, and leaders. "who will help build the capacity of these programs so that we can expand the number of volunteers who can get involved, and the number of neighborhoods where there are good programs," says Dan Bassill, president and founder of Cabrini Connections and Tutor/Mentor Connection as well as commissioner for the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service.

Bassill says there are more than 135,000 children attending poorly performing schools, and, "Every one of these kids could benefit if they were able to connect," with a volunteer tutor/mentor. "For some kids, getting a tutor/mentor can mean the difference between staying in school, graduating from high school and going to college, or getting into a negative peer group, dropping out of school, joining a street gang and ending up in the justice system," Bassill said.

He also said that without extra help, the gap between the prosperous America and the one with no hope will continue to grow because these children lack the basic skills to pursue the American dream.

To get involved, contact (312) 492-9614 or visit [www.tutormentorconnection.org](http://www.tutormentorconnection.org). Or, attend the Volunteer Recruitment Fair on Sept. 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the James Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St.