



Northstar Baltimore



A Tutoring/Mentoring Initiative in Highlandtown *Make a Difference in a Kid's Life!*

In the wake of a divisive national election and discouraging statistics on education and crime in Baltimore, it is now time to build on the desire to make a constructive difference in local communities.

The Martin Pollak Project (MPP) has been providing foster care services to children and families in Baltimore for decades and is launching a free one-on-one tutoring/mentoring program for low-income kids who score below grade level in literacy and math proficiency in the Baltimore neighborhood of Highlandtown. Northstar Baltimore matches a student with a volunteer tutor-mentor, establishing a long-term one-on-one relationship. The program has a proven track record of success as Project Northstar in Washington, DC.

Students are tested when they enter the program and receive individualized reading and math assessments to pinpoint areas of strength and weakness. Then the weekly 90-minute sessions

begin and students work with their volunteers to complete their homework, and study for upcoming tests and quizzes. After the student/tutor

pairs have worked together for a few weeks, mentoring activi-



ties are scheduled, first as a group and then individually as appropriate.

MPP has started tutoring/mentoring sessions this January in partnership with two local schools, Highlandtown Elementary/Middle School #215 and Highlandtown Elementary/Middle School #237 and has recruited a small core of volunteers.

But the goal is to expand and stabilize our efforts over the next year – many students who need help have been identified, but we need more volunteers and more funding to ensure that Northstar Baltimore can successfully meet the needs for tutors/mentors in these schools.

Please help support Northstar Baltimore by:

- ◆ Volunteering as a tutor/mentor
- ◆ Volunteering to help recruit additional tutors/mentors
- ◆ Volunteering time to help with administrative duties for the program
- ◆ Sponsoring a student/tutor team at \$25 per month
- ◆ Making a donation to help sustain the program
- ◆ Reaching out to your network and community to seek additional volunteers and donations

Learn more about The Martin Pollak Project and Northstar Baltimore: <http://www.mppi.org/project-northstar-tutoring/>

For more information or to volunteer, contact Richard Norman at northstar@mppi.org or (410) 685-2525 3701 Eastern Ave., Baltimore, MD 21224

What Do Our Volunteers Experience?

"When we first started working together, he was very serious and focused only on the homework, but now he comes in singing and dancing – watching him grow up and sharing experiences with him has been so much fun and so rewarding for me!"

- Jordan, Project Northstar volunteer for 2 years

"I have been able to watch her grow and become more confident. Although I help her get through her anxiety about math, I am amazed at how much I get out of this. Seeing the world through her eyes has been a profound experience for me."

- Ginny, Project Northstar volunteer for 3 years

More Information ...

Project Northstar is part of the nonprofit Martin Pollak Project (MPP) based in Highlandtown. Northstar was started 25 years ago in the Columbia Heights neighborhood of Washington, DC and serves more than 150 students each year. MPP was started in Annapolis in 1981 to serve kids in foster care. Learn more at <http://www.mppi.org>.