



OUR MISSION

is to elevate West Virginia Children by fostering mentoring relationships that fuel their **CURIOSITY** and **SUPPORT THEIR ABILITIES** to learn and thrive.

HOPE

*Self
Esteem*

Future

Character

1 in
3

kids in the United States do not have a formal or informal mentor.

*Countless bodies of research have shown that nothing - **NOTHING** - has more impact in the life of a child than a positive relationship with a caring adult.*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are in the midst of a youth crisis. Students are struggling academically and every year scores of children, full of unique talents and potential, fail to become productive adults. Many students in our community are facing obstacles that are unimaginable to many of us (e.g. physical and mental abuse, exposure to drugs and violence, neglect, apathy from those they care about most) while trying to succeed in school. Most of these children are shouldering these burdens without anyone to provide consistent support and guidance to help them navigate these obstacles.

Without the necessary support, kids are more likely to become disengaged from school, engage in drug and alcohol abuse and other risky behavior, be violent towards others, and/or dropout of high school. Without some kind of intervention, the odds are stacked too high against these kids.

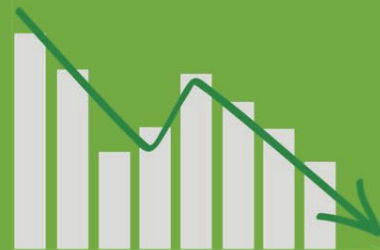
However, an undisputed wide body of research has shown that by creating strong mentoring relationships between students and caring adults, we are able to interrupt and break negative cycles allowing youth to become contributing members of society.

By matching kids with caring adults from our community, Elevators can help children see their own value, increase their confidence, elevate their aspirations and provide them with the support and guidance they need to reach their potential.

At Education Elevators, we believe that every child has unique talents and the ability to become anything they set their mind to, but they need someone to believe in them and nurture their strengths. I hope that you will join us in helping harness all the incredible human potential in these kids instead of letting them become victims of circumstance.

Thank You,
Allison McJunkin

STUDENTS IN WV ARE FALLING BEHIND



- Only 48 percent of third graders are reading at grade level.
- Fourth graders can only understand 50 percent of printed curriculum because of limited reading abilities.
- Elementary school students scored below the national average on 21 out of 24 indicators of student performance.

Studies show that whether a child will graduate from high school can be predicted by a student's reading ability and academic performance in 3rd grade.

FACING MULTIPLE CHALLENGES

The schools we serve are tasked with much more than just educating a child...

- Some schools serve housing projects and halfway houses for recovering addicts.
- Students may have parents who are incarcerated or have been incarcerated. In fact, data from 2016 shows that *1 in 10 kids in West Virginia currently has a parent in prison.*
- WV has the *2nd highest juvenile custody rates* and has had the *highest increase in juvenile incarceration* in any state.
- *WV is ranked 2nd in the nation for most children in foster care.* Due to the opioid crisis, the number of kids in foster care has increased 45% in the past eight years.
- *WV is ranked 8th for the most underprivileged states for youth* based on a combination score of socio-economic/welfare rank, health rank and education rank.

OUR HISTORY

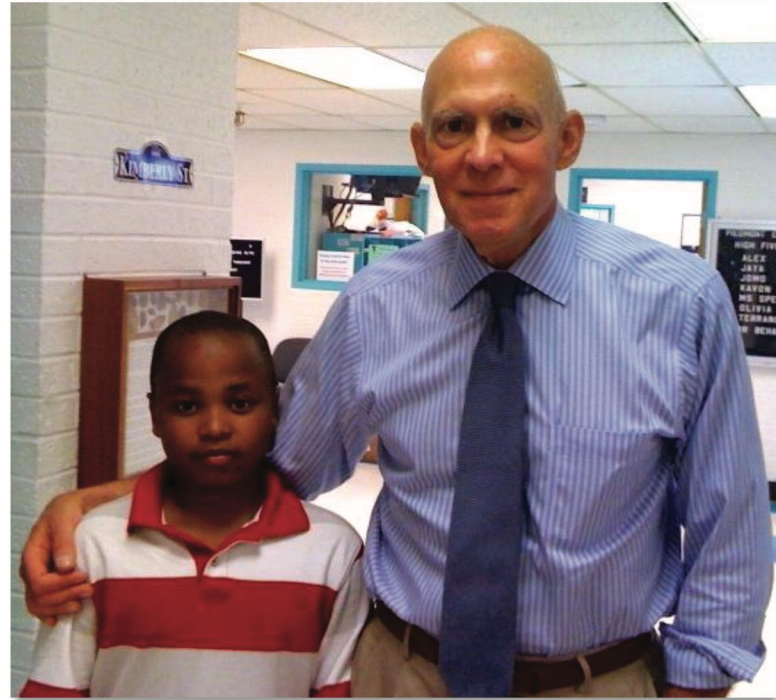
In 2008, Tom McJunkin, a partner at Jackson Kelly and a long-time advocate of education, encouraged the firm to take their existing partnership with Piedmont Elementary School to a new level by implementing an innovative new program that would allow attorneys and staff from the firm to mentor students at Piedmont.

The idea came from a Local School Improvement Council meeting where McJunkin asked what more Jackson Kelly could do for Piedmont. The response was simple: What Piedmont needed was more caring adults spending one-on-one time with students.

McJunkin, a dedicated father of three children, knew that in order to succeed children's belief in themselves had to be regularly nurtured AND they had to have aspirations. According to him, "A kid who aspires will achieve. A curious child will self teach."

With those ideas in mind, McJunkin created the concept of the Education Elevators program - a program that offered businesses a simple, effective way to be involved in local schools and invested in at-risk youth. By providing the human capital (the human energy) to support, inspire, and "elevate students" businesses can have a positive impact on communities and make a real impact in our future.

Since McJunkin's untimely death in 2011, the program model has spread to other schools and businesses and is continuing to gain steam.



"There is no mission more important than the education of our youth. It's too important and too essential for businesses not to get involved.

By providing the human capital (the human energy) to support, inspire, and 'elevate' students, businesses can have a positive impact on communities and make a real investment in our future."

Thomas McJunkin
Founder

Is for every child to reach their
OUR VISION unique potential.



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is to elevate West Virginia Children by fostering mentoring relationships that fuel their **CURIOSITY** and **SUPPORT THEIR ABILITIES** to learn and thrive.

Education Elevators is a West Virginia based, non-profit organization that partners businesses and organizations with local schools to match their employees with students in need of mentors, role models, friendship, academic support, and individual attention.

OUR MODEL



Partner with schools.

Allow employees to spend time mentoring a student each week.

Recommend students for the program who would most benefit from one-on-one interaction.

Identify student's needs and assist monitoring, and managing the Elevator-student relationship.

Matched with students based on common interests.

Serve as role models - caring adults who provide the individualized attention students need.

Meet with a student for 30-45 minutes each week, during school hours.

Develop a strong connection with the student based on friendship, fun, and relationship development.

WHAT MAKES OUR MODEL EFFECTIVE?

- ✓ By relying on teacher rather than parent referrals, Education Elevators proactively engages youth who are not typically targeted by community based mentoring programs (e.g. youth whose parents might not take the initiative to involve them and who are more likely to be in need of a mentor).
- ✓ Teachers and guidance counselors recommend students for the program that would benefit the most from the one on one attention and who would be the most receptive to it.
- ✓ Teachers can provide Elevators with important information relating to the student's academic performance, absenteeism, bullying etc. which can make the mentoring relationship more effective.
- ✓ By engaging in academically focused activities, Elevators, can help improve academic performance directly and can focus discussions on school – including academic and social challenges.
- ✓ Positive ties with school-based mentors helps youth see other school related adults in a more positive light. Improved teacher relationships then foster other improvements. (For example a teacher's level of support can influence student motivation to achieve).
- ✓ Meeting with their Elevators provides children with an incentive to attend school, complete homework, improve academics and classroom behavior.
- ✓ School based mentoring creates a lower burden (less time commitment and less pressure to determine activities) on mentors than than typical community based mentoring program.
- ✓ The school context affords easier access to training, support and supervision which decreases program costs.

RELATIONSHIPS are the **"active"** ingredient in **HELPING** children cultivate their capabilities.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

BENEFITS TO THE ELEVATOR:

- ✓ Better connection to co-workers and community
- ✓ Increased productivity at work and enhanced view of employer
- ✓ Enhanced leadership and interpersonal skills
- ✓ Increased patience and improved supervisory skills
- ✓ Increased self-esteem and self worth

BENEFITS TO THE BUSINESS

- ✓ Fosters employee engagement, satisfaction and retention
- ✓ Improves workplace morale and performance
- ✓ Contributes to community vitality and future workforce development
- ✓ Highlights the company's commitment to the community and its values to the public

BENEFITS TO THE SCHOOL

- ✓ Allows the school to advance its educational mission by providing much-needed, one-on-one time with students
- ✓ Offers valuable exposure to the business community and opportunities for student engagement outside the classroom
- ✓ Promotes student learning and engagement
- ✓ Provides funds and additional resources that support the school's mission

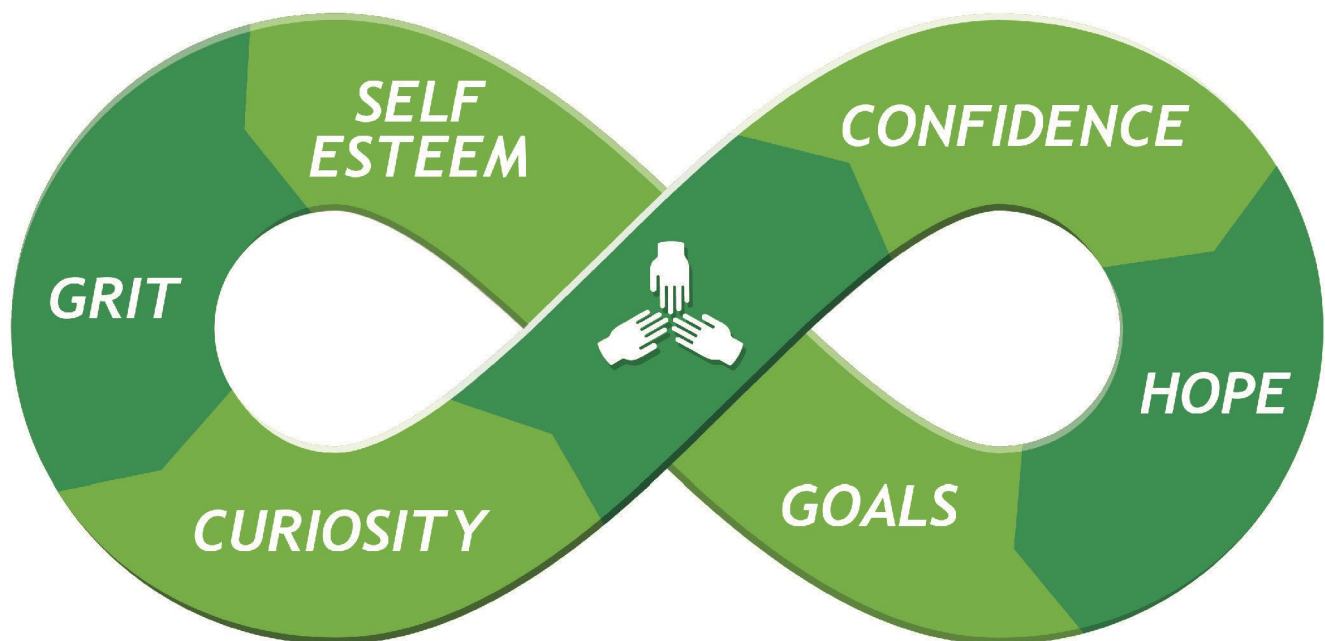
"Relationships are the soil in which children's emotional learning skills grow."

Susan Jones and Suzanne Bouffard, Harvard University, 2012

ELEVATOR IMPACT

Elevators impact the lives of students in several important ways:

- ✓ Make **Learning** Fun
- ✓ Build **Self Confidence**
- ✓ Inspire **Curiosity and Motivate Learning**
- ✓ Tap into student's **Passions and Strengths**
- ✓ Enhance **Social Emotional Skills** and **Relationship Skills**
- ✓ Cultivate **Character, Grit, and Resilience**
- ✓ Improve **Cognitive Skills** through Dialogue and listening
- ✓ Assist with **Goal Setting; Elevate Aspirations**



"The Education Elevators program is a valuable asset for students, staff and families. Elevators make a difference - one student at a time." Beth Sturgill, Principal

YOUTH MATCHED WITH MENTORS ARE:

- ✓ 46% less likely to use illegal drugs
- ✓ 27% less likely to use alcohol
- ✓ 81% more likely to participate regularly in sports or extracurricular activities
- ✓ 53% less likely to skip school
- ✓ 33% less likely to hit someone

Pew Public/Private Ventures Study

YOUNG ADULTS WHO WERE AT-RISK FOR FALLING OFF TRACK BUT HAD A MENTOR ARE:

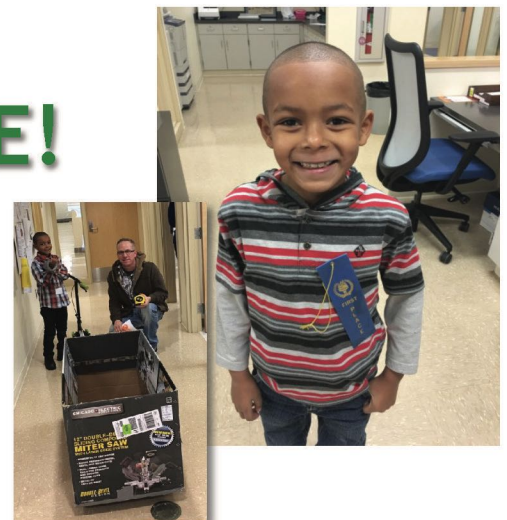
- ✓ 55% more likely to enroll in college
- ✓ 98% more likely to complete high school
- ✓ 78% more likely to volunteer regularly
- ✓ 90% are interested in becoming a mentor
- ✓ 130% more likely to hold leadership positions

Mentor.org

Jamar and John's INVENTION WINS 1ST PLACE!

Jamar, a student at Edgewood, had an invention project. His Elevator, John, helped him design and build it.

Through their relationship, Jamar is seeing strengths and abilities in himself that he didn't know he had. He is developing an interest in engineering, gaining confidence in himself and learning critical thinking skills.



15 Years of HELPING KIDS TAKE FLIGHT

2012

Established Board of Directors

2014

Launched partnership between ECA and Chamberlain Elementary

2016

Executive Director, Allison McJunkin, receives Woman on a Mission Award

2018

Celebrated Ten Year Anniversary with Keynote Speaker, Gordon Gee
Launched partnership between Potesta & Associates & Kanawha City Elementary

2020

Launched Middle School Support Program
Launched Virtual Mentoring Programs in 7 Elementary Schools and 5 Middle Schools

2022

Launched partnership between First Choice Services and Ruffner Elementary
Launched partnership between Boyd CAT and Malden Elementary
12 Business Partners matched with 10 Elementary Schools and Afterschool Programs

2008

Jackson Kelly launched Education Elevator program with Piedmont Elementary
First Elevator - student meeting took place
Jackson Kelly receives the first ever community service award from the Board of Education for the innovative 'Elevators' program

2013

Education Elevators Foundation (EEF) obtained 501(c)(3) status
EEF and Education Alliance expanded program to Tuscarora and Bunker Hill Elementary in Berkeley County in Partnership with the Air National Guard
Partnered with the Shepherd Poverty Program to create an Internship program

2015

Launched partnership between Columbia Pipeline Group (now TC Energy) and Edgewood Elementary
Launched Partnership with WVU Extension for Internship program

2017

Launched partnership between Piedmont Elementary and Suttle & Stalnaker

2019

Launched partnership between Advantage Technology and ProKids Afterschool Program
Launched partnership between Orders Construction & Central Elementary
Launched partnership between Steptoe & Johnson & the Mary C. Snow afterschool site of the Bob Burdette Center

2021

Launched partnership between Truist Bank and the Mary C. Snow afterschool site of the Bob Burdette Center
Launched partnership between Amherst Madison and Malden Elementary



WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE IF EVERY CHILD HAD A CARING ADULT IN THEIR LIFE TO HELP SUPPORT AND GUIDE THEM?



“John’s Elevator was able to reach him in a way I have never seen a teacher, counselor or anyone else reach a child. He brought him alive and literally changed John’s life.”

*Amanda Ross, Guidance Counselor
Chamberlin Elementary.*

“Grades up. Confidence Up. Javon is much happier and engaged in school now because of his Elevator.”

Becca Revercomb, Teacher, Piedmont Elementary.

“I never saw Shawn smile before he started meeting with his Elevator. Now he smiles so big, it lights up the whole room.”

Teacher, Chamberlin Elementary.

“The thirty minutes a week with their Elevator can mean a lifetime of change for a student.”

Emily Patterson, Guidance Counselor.



"Our state has many challenges and unless those of us who have taken advantage of its opportunities give back, then we will never see the children of this town become our future."

~ Lew Tyree, Military Officer/Attorney (Retired)

There are many ways YOU can help!

START an Education Elevator Program between your Business or Organization and a local elementary school.

BECOME an Elevator.

DONATE online or make a stock transfer:
www.educationelevators.org/donatetoday
Send a Check Payable to:
PO Box 11302 Charleston, WV 25339



Education Elevators Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

BY THE NUMBERS...

\$4,100. The average cost to state and federal governments in forgone tax revenue and paid social support benefits for one unemployed adult.

\$307,000. The amount the government spends on support services over the lifetime for an individual who does not graduate from high school.

\$93 billion. Young adults not connected to mentors cost society \$93 billion annually in lost wages, taxes, and social services.

\$80,000-\$100,000. The average cost to incarcerate a juvenile in WV for one year.

\$1,500. The average cost to provide mentoring services to a student for one year.

EVERY \$1 SPENT ON EFFECTIVE MENTORING PROGRAMS YIELDS \$3 BENEFIT TO SOCIETY.

"The human potential lost as a result of the educational achievement gap results in the economic equivalent of a permanent national recession."

The Economic Impact of the Achievement Gap in America's School.
McKinsey & Company, Social Sector Office. 2009



*“There could not be a more relevant mission for this state. We must invest in our youth, inspire them, and heighten their educational aspirations.”
~ Dr. Gordon Gee, President WVU*



ING KIDS

TAKE LIGHT

*Education Elevators Foundation
PO Box 11302
Charleston, WV 25339
Email: info@educationelevators.org
Phone: (304) 595-0895
Web: EducationElevators.org*