

Nomination Letter: David Milliken
Excellence in Mentoring Awards – 2018 National Mentoring Summit
On behalf of Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers

Information about the Award:

As part of the 2018 National Mentoring Summit, MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership will convene leaders in the youth mentoring field at an invitation-only reception at the Library of Congress to honor champions of mentoring with the annual Excellence in Mentoring Awards. We were invited to submit nominations for these awards.

The Excellence in Mentoring Awards honor individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to expanding quality mentoring relationships for young people at the national, state, or local level. The awards selection committee looks at the variety of ways in which an individual has been involved in the movement, including but not limited to:

- Direct service as a mentor to young people (up to age 24)
- Exceptional service on the Board of a youth mentoring program
- Resource development on behalf of a youth mentoring program
- Advocacy and awareness-raising for the mentoring movement
- Innovative incorporation of youth mentoring into her or his company or community
- Championing mentoring programs through funding and promotion or by providing individuals (e.g. employees, community members) incentive to mentor young people
- Passing legislation or leading policy change (as an elected official or public servant) to advance the mentoring movement

There were only four individuals selected from across the nation. Last year's honorees included Barbara Gage of The Carlson Family Foundation, Julie Magallanes Guevara of Catholic Big Brothers Big Sisters, Brandon L. McGee, Jr. of ASCEND Mentoring and Samuel Powel of Google.

Nomination Information Submitted (About David):

David joined the Hutton Settlement in June, 1997. After his military service and higher education, David spent years in various child welfare roles at Hutton to include case management, youth development, education and now organizational leadership. He has a B.S. in Psychology and an M.A. in Organizational Leadership. David's interests include fly fishing, international travel and permaculture gardening.

- How many years has the nominee been an active supporter of mentoring?

20 years

- Ways in which the nominee has supported the mentoring movement.

- Direct Service Mentor
- Helped Fundraise for a mentoring program
- Advocated for mentoring with state and/or federal legislators
- Helped recruit adults to mentor in their community

- Championed their company's youth mentoring initiative
- Mentoring his mentorees on mentoring the next generation

- Describe how the nominee has supported youth mentoring, highlighting the role(s) they played, the length in those roles and any key accomplishments that qualify them for this award.

David has been a crucial part of the Hutton Settlement staff for 20 years. His passion for bettering the lives of our kids shines through every single day and the variety in which he has been a mentor are vast. David often says that his goal is to take children, who come to us as receivers of services, and transform them – through empowerment, education and action – to being givers of services when they leave our doors. His focus on servant leadership education has taken our kids from Washington DC, learning about our government and encouraging them to be change-makers, to Thailand, volunteering in an orphanage, to our backyard, where the kids grow a garden and donate produce to local charities.

David also started Team Odyssey, which is an outdoor adventure club, that teaches resilience and overcoming obstacles in a group environment, while enjoying outdoor activities, such as white water rafting, hiking, camping, fly fishing and more. The children look up to him not only as a mentor, but as a father figure and he truly becomes a member of their forever-family, even after they move on from Hutton. With David around, there is never a lack of adventure, educational opportunities, challenges or comradery. He teaches the kids the importance of being a team player, he's their support when they're down on their luck after they've moved into adulthood and need someone to talk to and he makes it his mission to find out what brings joy to each individual child.

David has shared, with the children and staff, his abilities to encourage, teach, listen, set boundaries, explore and motivate. Because of his efforts, children have learned to overcome fears, learned to prepare for events, go out of their comfort zone, listen to others and give back to their community.

According to one staff member, "David works with children that have histories of trauma and have learned to be cautious of caregivers. David has met these challenges by introducing fun, insight into their thinking and teaching alternative ways to handle emotions like fear, anger and sadness.

Mike, a Hutton alumni, came to Hutton with a very traumatic background. He stated that he wanted to live on his own and needed no one. He joined the Odyssey group and learned to have compassion and joy for himself. He is now in the Army and I believe he would not have succeeded if David has not mentored him. David listened, encouraged him and helped him to identify goals that he could meet. David continues to do this with the other residents through kindness and sharing information on how to live for each day and plan for the future".

David very much loves helping youth find their strengths and helping them use the strengths and interests to see the needs of the community around them. He listens to what is important to the youth and takes action. From working with the kids to learn about, prepare for and raise chickens (for not only eggs, but also for the joy of raising and caring for animals), to growing food for the local charities, helping to implement programs to help youth learn about emotions and the roles they play in their lives – David shines as a mentor. He has created a program for the youth to accomplish goals for their future; he is constantly giving them opportunities to explore nature and learn more about themselves.

A current Hutton resident stated that she loved being involved in Team Odyssey, because she loved all of the fun things she did that at first she was too afraid to try, but with encouragement from David, overcame them all.

Another Hutton resident shares, "David is a good mentor because he listens to everyone before taking action. He makes sure everyone is included and challenged by their own choices. He exhibits leadership, responsibility and kindness at all times. If people were more like David, then we would be in better situations and in a better world."

In addition to mentoring the youth at Hutton, David also sees the importance of encouraging and helping the staff working with the youth, to develop their passions and find times and avenues for self-care. This provides a great model for the children to witness, while also allowing the staff to be fulfilled individually in their own passions, which has a domino effect on the attitude and joy they bring to work within the cottage.

David is an integral part of the Hutton community, a holistic leader, mentor and a true inspiration to the children and staff. We would not be where we are today, without his dedication, never-ending enthusiasm and drive, and his compassion for the children in our care.

- Share a story that demonstrates how this nominee has impacted young people's lives (1,000 words or fewer)

I would like to recommend David Milliken for the Mentor award, David is the Director of Hutton Settlement Children's Home and his depth of compassion and mentorship is the reason so many children that have passed through the doors of Hutton succeed at life.

I came to Hutton Settlement at 12 years old. Having lived with a mother who suffered from addiction my life was a series of foster homes, trauma and abuse. I was withdrawn, shy and unwilling to let anyone past my defenses to trust.

When I arrived at Hutton David was the boys case manager, David saw potential in me as a leader and an athlete, potential I was not able to see. David encouraged me to get involved with SALUTE (Students and Leaders United Through Education), with David's mentorship I traveled to Mexico with the SALUTE group to build homes for impoverished families through Project Amore. David stood by my side at each moment encouraging me to engage in the world around me, he took the time to get to know me as an individual and not just a child from a broken home. Each football game I played him and his wife Tamara were in attendance. He helped me heal from my childhood trauma and build trust that I had longed for my entire life.

When I graduated from high school David continued to be my mentor and friend as I traveled to Europe for a study abroad program even visiting me with his wife and my younger brother on spring vacation. Each time I see the love and dedication he has for the children at Hutton I am overwhelmed with emotion.

Today my wife and I are raising our daughter and seven young men; we work as house parents at Hutton Settlement. I have been able to model my life by the example that David set forth in my life and I aim to have the same impact on the young men that I care for as David did with me. I contribute my success

today to the mentorship I received from David as a youth. Please consider David for this prestigious award.

Sincerely,
Emanuel Pacheco
Hutton Settlement Children Home