

The Rewards of Partnership - Gary Corbin

As one Cornerstone Partner sees it, being present in a child's life – showing up, offering a kind word, acknowledging a birthday or special occasion – are small things that add up to make a big difference.

“Their little eyes just light up. They have the biggest smiles on their faces when we walk in that room,” says Gary Corbin of the students with whom he is paired on Partner Mornings four times a school year. “They are so proud of the accomplishments they have made. They show us their projects and crafts they are working on. They have so much pride and self-confidence in what they've done that it makes me as a Partner proud of them.”

Gary works at Accenture and is a champion of Cornerstone Schools. He is the Managing Director-Michigan Business Development for Michigan, and Toledo, Ohio. He is involved in sales, marketing, and media, government, community and public relations. As a corporate representative for Accenture, Gary has attended Partner Mornings for the past two years at the Nevada Campus and is paired with primary-school student Moses Reynolds. Gary also plays surrogate Partner Morning Friend for one to two other pupils at Nevada when

their Partners cannot attend.

Partner Mornings offer the opportunity for community members to get to know students up-close, to learn about their interests and to build a relationship over time.

“It's energizing to me to see a classroom that's so filled with children that really want to be there and they are really excited about learning,” Gary says.

One observation Gary has about Moses is that he has exceptional penmanship, which Gary feels is a rarity in young people today. Moses takes his time with everything he writes and has great pride in his penmanship. Furthermore, Moses feels rewarded that other adults outside the sphere of his



Gary Corbin with (L-R): Maximillian Smith, Joseph Downs & his student partner, Moses Reynolds. Mr. Corbin plays surrogate Partner for one or two other children when their Partners cannot attend.

teachers and parents appreciate what he's doing. Moses had a big smile on his face from the moment Gary met him. “That is an advantage that Cornerstone offers: Children not only learn academics, but they also build self-esteem and self-confidence. The Christian-based values are very strong,” he says.

Gary also spoke of Cornerstone alumnus and Accenture employee Mathew Mebane (who is featured in this newsletter) who charted his own successful course in both his academic career and professional life. “He did it all on his own,” Gary says, noting that there was no connection between Mebane's hire and Accenture's role as a Cornerstone Partner. “We are very proud of Matt.”

The Partner Program is one component of the overall formula at Cornerstone that has been proven by its results, says Gary, who has worked to support education in Michigan for 30 years.

Gary highly recommends that any business or individual join the Partner program at Cornerstone Schools. “You may just find the rewards you receive are as satisfying as the rewards the students receive” he says.
