

## Matthew Mebane - Team Effort Turns Around A Young Man's Life

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Matthew Mebane could barely read when he was a fourth-grade Detroit public school student.

Today, the Cornerstone alumnus is a management/system integration consultant at Accenture, a Cornerstone Partner. He credits both Cornerstone and his parents for turning his life around.

"It was a combination of both," says Mebane, who is based in Detroit but travels for his work. "My parents put me in Cornerstone. They knew that I was not learning in the public schools."

When Mebane was in 5th grade, he started at Cornerstone. Teachers there helped him catch up with his peers. He recalls that year as one of trials and tribulations. His mother, who was a teacher, could not help him with his school work because she was battling leukemia; his father was busy working to keep food on the table and a roof over their heads.

Teachers at Cornerstone stepped up to the challenge and taught him how to focus on his studies. They helped him learn the

meaning of hard work, he says. By the school year's end, he made the honor roll, a distinction he maintained every school year thereafter until he graduated Cornerstone in 1996.

"My outlook on life became brighter," Mebane says. "My faith in God became stronger. I credit so much of this to my teachers, who gave of themselves to help me learn more. They didn't punish me for not knowing. Instead, they gave me the tools to help me learn."

Mebane says one teacher in particular, Miss Cooper, took the time to tutor him after school and help him in a number of small ways, that when added up, made a large impact.

He went on to graduate from St. Martin DePorres High School and earned a chemical engineering degree from North Carolina A & T State University. Throughout his educational career, Mebane maintained his status on honor rolls, dean's lists, and earned inclusion in both the high school and college versions of *Who's Who* student directories.

Today, Mebane works in mergers and acquisitions, organizational transformation, and systems integration projects at Accenture. His mother has been in remission for almost 20 years, he says, and both parents are very proud of his accomplishments.

He gives back to his alma mater both financially and with his time. He is a past member of the alumni board and an active alumnus. He has delivered several speeches at school charity events and hopes to continue to use the guiding principles he learned at Cornerstone to shape his life.

"I will be ever grateful to my parents for sending me to Cornerstone and to Cornerstone for changing my life," says Mebane.

