

YOUTHtoday

the newspaper on youth work

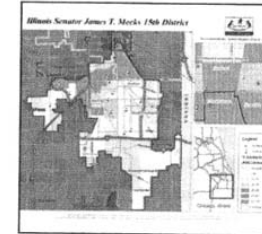
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COLLEGE & CAREERS

Growing a Workforce

Innovative 'career academy' teaches

month when she earned a certificate in advanced dental assisting through Central Educational Center's Dental Assisting



HOW TO:

Create computer-based community maps to boost youth services. 12

Tutor/Mentor Connection

Cabrini Connections
Chicago
(312) 492-9614
www.tutormentorprogram
locator.net

The Strategy: Connect Chicago youth service providers, families and kids with youth resources and programs, as well as local economic and social data, through a comprehensive, one-stop online database and mapping system.

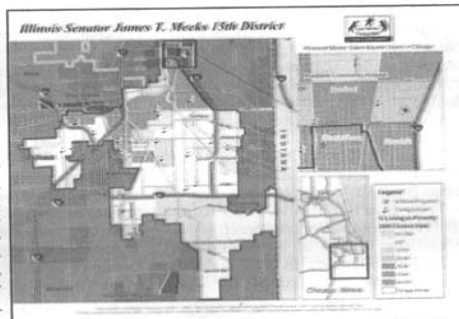
Getting Started: Cabrini Connections started in 1965 as a volunteer program for employees of Montgomery Ward headquarters in northern Chicago. After the headquarters closed, the volunteer program continued, with the formal establishment in 1992 of Cabrini Connections and the Tutor/Mentor Connection (TMC) as nonprofits.

One of the major priorities of TMC was to establish a database of after-school programs for youth. To do this, TMC employed GIS technol-

ogy to create a map gallery that connects users with everything from tutoring and mentoring programs around Chicago to Chicago places of worship.

How It Works: Users follow the website link to TMC's "Map Gallery," where they will find a variety of maps relevant to data on Chicago youth and the availability and location of youth services. One example is the Tutor/Mentor map gallery, where users can find services on maps based on age groups served, time of day programs are offered, and school districts. When users click on a specific area of the map, the system brings up a list of relevant youth programs in that ZIP code.

Youth Served: Bassill says it's difficult to calculate how many youth benefit from the Tutor/Men-



tor Connection and its online maps, but he notes that 250 organizations are listed in the connection's database. TMC websites receive 11,000 to 14,000 site visits each month.

Staff: One part-time staff person and two or three volunteers main-

tain TMC's maps, while a paid outside consultant creates the interactive maps.

Money: An anonymous donor provided \$50,000 to rebuild TMC's mapping system and make it interactive for users. Half funded a part-time mapper for the Mapping for Justice blogspot, and the other half pays for a consultant to build the interactive maps. Bassill estimates the yearly cost at \$25,000 to \$50,000. HSBC Bank provides funding to TMC for a technology staffer, and some of that money goes to online mapping projects.

Results: While TMC does not specifically track usage of its online interactive maps, the organization's website as a whole has facilitated over 1,200 events through users employing its databases to obtain resources, find access to services, organize community action, and provide information to the media. TMC tracks these events through an Internet-based Organizational History and Accomplishments Tracking System.