



REACHING OUT FROM REACH & RISE® FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

-Mark 12:30-31

A Personal Note from Jess Burr, Clinical Director of Reach & Rise®

"Each year during Mentoring month (January), a National Mentor Summit takes place in Washington D.C. I (Jess Burr) was fortunate enough to attend the summit this year and was blown away by the amazing, inspirational speakers who presented.



William 'Elder Bill' Pitts received the Lifetime Achievement award for mentoring. Elder Bill has spent nearly 50 years as a mentor to youth. During his acceptance speech, he shared his thoughts on being a mentor. **He said, 'mentoring is a calling' and that it helps youth to 'change their challenges into possibilities.'**



William 'Elder Bill' Pitts

As a mentor, Elder Bill said he had a responsibility to show up as his authentic self 100% of the time. He also reminded us that as the saying goes, **'children are our future, but what are we doing in the present to determine what they will look like in the future?'** He finished his speech with the South African word *ubuntu* which means 'I am because we are.' Elder Bill reminded us all that children are depending on us to help them to grow and become the best versions of themselves. We are reminded that to become a better society, we need to incorporate compassion and humanity into our lives."

Become a mentor and help youth to reach a better future.

Our upcoming Mentor training will be held on the following days and times:

- Tuesday, March 14th, 5:00PM-8:00PM
- Tuesday, March 28th, 5:00PM-8:00PM
- Tuesday, April 11th, 5:00PM-8:00PM
- Saturday, April 22nd, 9:00AM-2:00PM

MENTOR APPLICATION

For more information on becoming a mentor or to sign up for this Mentor Training, complete and return the **Mentor Application** or contact Jerry Johnston, **Reach & Rise**® Administrative Assistant at jjohnston@bcfymca.org or [724-287-4733 x136](tel:724-287-4733).

Reach & Rise® is an evidence-based, **FREE program financially supported by the YMCA's Annual Support Campaign** and recognized by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program (OJJDP).

MONTHLY RESOURCE



Looking for a **positive, extracurricular activity** for your kids to get involved in? 4-H offers many programs for kids such as STEM, agriculture, fitness, leadership, communication and expressive arts, community involvement, and much more.

- 4-H empowers young people with the skills to lead for a lifetime. It's a research-based experience that includes a mentor, a hands-on project, and a meaningful leadership opportunity.
- 4-H reaches almost six million young people through our community of 100 public universities. Programs are delivered by 3,500 4-H professionals and 500,000 volunteers.
- Based on their interests and guided by adult mentors, youth develop their own pathway in 4-H. They select from a broad menu of local 4-H programs. There are hands-on, learn-by-doing, opportunities for everyone.

Check out their website for more information and to search for a club near you: [4-H Programs at a Glance | National 4-H Council](#)

SPRING GROUPS AT REACH & RISE®



Spring Groups are beginning this month and we are excited about what's in store! Kids will learn about being a leader, making a difference in their community, how to build confidence, managing emotions, and making friends. They will be empowered to make decisions and speak up for themselves in bullying situations.

Mentee Referral Form

If your child or a child you know could benefit, complete and return the **Mentee Referral Form** or contact Jerry Johnston, **Reach & Rise**® Administrative Assistant for more details: jjohnston@bcfymca.org or [724-287-4733 x136](tel:724-287-4733)



UPCOMING EVENTS



Cycle your heart out **this weekend!**
Click the image to learn more and register.



There are still four lanes left! Click the image to learn more and register.

*DID YOU KNOW... **Reach & Rise**® Youth Mentoring is offered to youth for FREE thanks in part to the Butler County Family YMCA's Annual Support Campaign!*

Connect with us:



Butler County Family YMCA

339 North Washington Street, Butler, PA 16001

We want to communicate with you in ways that work for you, [Manage Email Preferences](#).

