

MENTORYork

*Community
Report -
Year 1*



A High Impact Service Plan for the City of York



CITY OF
York yorkcity.org
PENNSYLVANIA

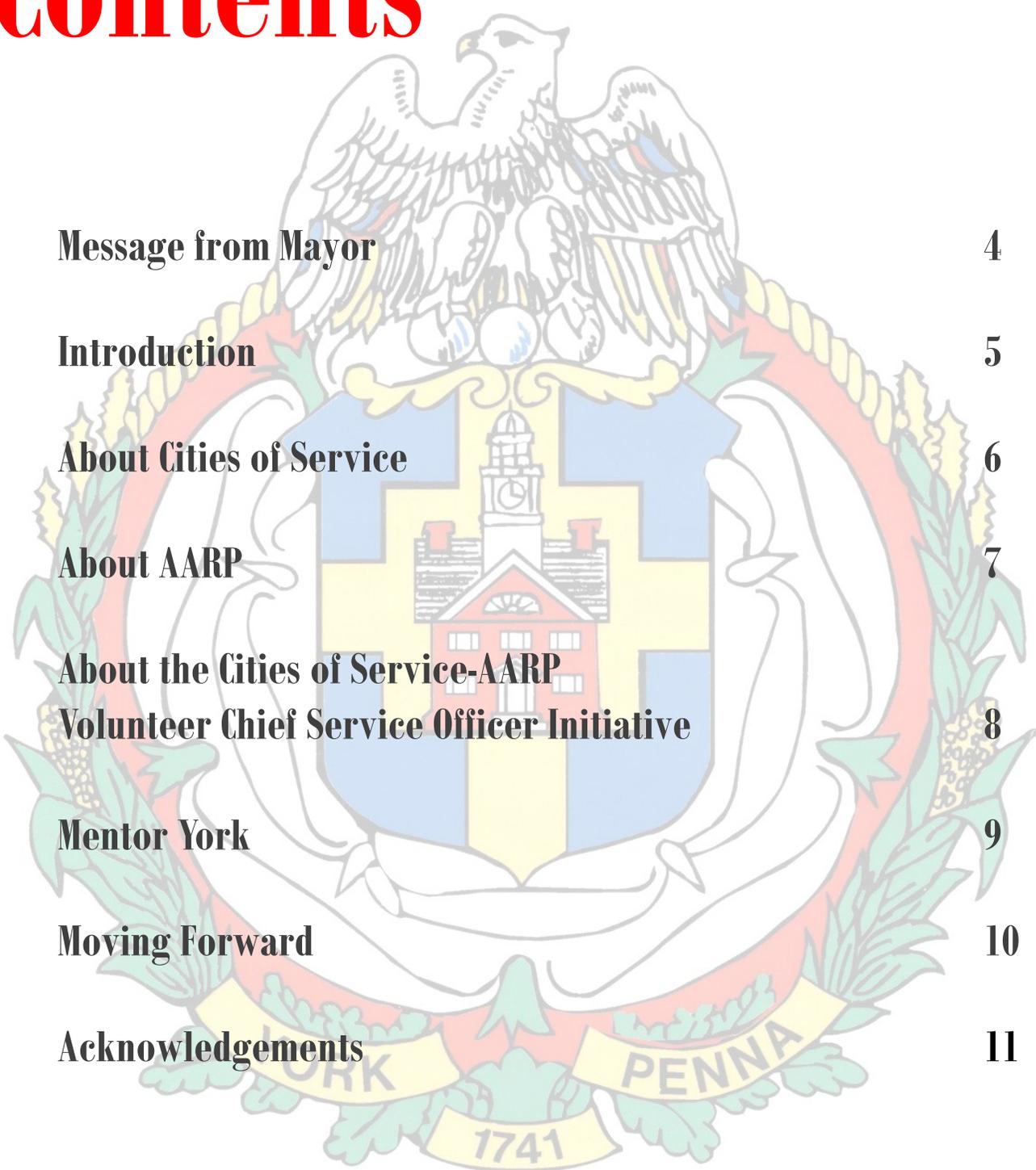


Citizen Engagement

Community Collaboration

Impact Volunteerism

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Message From The Mayor



Dear Neighbors,

It is no secret that the key to a strong community involves collaboration, support and engagement. That is why I launched my MENTORYork Initiative in August 2011, designed to highlight impact volunteerism in our city by targeting service towards the enhancement of our city's most prized possessions, our youth.

This first year of MENTORYork provides us with the opportunity to acknowledge the great accomplishments that we have made as a City and to cast a vision of expansion and growth to the future ahead. MENTORYork has engaged volunteers committed to improving the lives of the youth in our community that need it most, by enlightening their views through the use of life changing experiences. Collaborative efforts gained through the School District of the City of York, City of York Human Relations Commission, Strengthening Families Program of York County, York County Human Services, and several other private public community partnerships are responsible for the depth of the impact that the initiative has had in our community.

As we move forward together, I seek to involve our community at a higher level of engagement by including several other schools within the City of York, in an effort to impact our youth on a more abundant scale.

I humbly thank everyone that has graciously been part of the MENTORYork initiative by continuing to give of their time, talents, and support. Thank you for increasing the importance of the culture of volunteerism in our community.

Sincerely,

C. Kim Bracey

C. Kim Bracey
Mayor

Introduction

On February 25, 2011, the City of York officially joined the national Cities of Service coalition and made a strong commitment to engage and empower volunteers to address the urgent needs of our physical city and our people in need.

Since then, the City of York has worked to hone a pilot initiative partnering the City, The School District of the City of York, and private professionals to mentor our at-risk teenagers enrolled in William Penn Senior High School, the City's only public high school, with the concrete goal of helping them to graduate.

Founded in New York City on September 10, 2009, Cities of Service is a bipartisan coalition of mayors who have committed to work together to engage citizens to address critical city needs through impact volunteerism. By accelerating the service movement at the most local level—connecting local needs to the supply of willing volunteers in innovative and impactful new ways—Cities of Service aspires to create a new chapter in America's longstanding history of service while making local government more effective.

Creative and disciplined public-private partnerships are powerful antidotes to some of our most enduring, festering problems.

In a still challenging economy, it is important that we enlist the help of more qualified, committed private citizens of all ages and rally all private resources at hand to improve our community.

York is proud to be one of over 110 cities in the nation that are Cities of Service coalition members, one of only nine Pennsylvania cities, and only one of six third class cities in Pennsylvania.

About Cities of Service

Founded in New York City on September 10, 2009 by 17 mayors from cities across the nation, Cities of Service is a bipartisan coalition of mayors who have committed to work together to engage citizens to address critical city needs through impact volunteerism.

The coalition aims to create a vibrant and growing network of municipal governments effectively leveraging citizen service as a reliable, viable tool to achieve measurable impact on pressing local challenges. By accelerating the service movement at the most local level—connecting local needs to the supply of willing volunteers in innovative and impactful new ways—Cities of Service aspires to create a new chapter in America’s longstanding history of service while making local government more effective.

Today, the Cities of Service coalition includes more than 100 mayors, representing nearly 50 million Americans. Like the founding mayors, each coalition member has made a commitment to work with other mayors around the country and advance service strategies in their own city by crafting a high-impact service plan.



About AARP

AARP was founded on the principle of service. Since its establishment in 1958, AARP has been dedicated to delivering value to its members through service. Now, with the heightened interest in civic engagement and a new vitality around service, including the passage of the Kennedy Serve America Act in 2009, AARP is well positioned to tap into the strength of its millions of members to help solve pressing problems at the community level through the Cities of Service – AARP Volunteer Chief Service Officer Initiative.





About the Cities of Service-AARP Volunteer Chief Service Officer Initiative

The City of York joined the Cities of Service – AARP Volunteer CSO Initiative in February 2011. Through this collaboration between Cities of Service and AARP, coalition members with less than 125,000 residents have been given the opportunity to appoint highly-skilled volunteers to serve as Chief Service Officers for one year, many of whom come from AARP’s membership.

Chief Service Officers are senior members of the mayors’ leadership team and are responsible for the development and implementation of a high-impact service plan that leverages citizen service to address the city’s most pressing challenges. In addition to appointing a volunteer Chief Service Officer, participating cities receive a \$5,000 Recognition Award from AARP and technical assistance from Cities of Service to develop and implement their high-impact service plans.

MENTORYork

August 2011—July 2012



Investing in the future of our youth, is the key to sustaining the livelihood of our community. Providing the opportunity for academic growth, relationship building, and life changing experiences has the ability to develop youth into well rounded productive citizens.

Master Mentors have committed to becoming engaged in the lives of their Grads To Be for a period of 4 years (9th—12th grade), by devoting a minimum of one hour per week towards an enriching experience that will enhance their lives, while building upon lasting relationships. Grads To Be have participated in college campus tours, visited museums, attended college lectures, enhanced study skills, and shadowed professionals in their area of career interest.

Positive attendance, academics, parental relationships, and school behavior are all noted mentoring benefits cited by research.

I'm glad that Mayor Bracey has a program like this! My daughter and her Master Mentor have developed such a great relationship

-Ebony Butler

Grad To Be Parent

Overall, this has been a very positive experience

- Melissa Stiles

Master Mentor

Metrics

Number of Master Mentors	7
Number of Grads To Be	7
Number of Volunteer Hours	226



Moving Forward



Captivating our community as a whole, through impact volunteering with focus on the preparation of our youth towards the future that awaits them, continues to be the prominent principal of MENTORYork.

Moving Forward, we seek to engage our community on a much larger scale by opening the doors for Grad To Be participation from students in surrounding high schools in the City of York. This will provide us with the ultimate target to touch more lives, change more futures, and lead more youth in the right direction.



Acknowledgements

A special thank you to the School District of the City of York, Board of Directors, and Superintendent Dr. Deborah Wortham, and staff members for their leadership, passion, and collaboration efforts in providing a successful year of MENTORYork.

Many thanks to AARP for providing the City of York with both a \$5,000 contribution and on-going assistance to help the volunteer Chief Service Officer develop and launch the city's high-impact service plan, **MENTORYork**.

We are also thankful to Cities of Service for their support.

Lastly, thank you to our public - private community partners, Master Mentors, Grads To Be, and Parents for their unselfish giving and support of MENTORYork.