



The Martin Pollak Project, Inc.

Building Families & Strengthening Communities



Project Northstar

of

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Project Northstar Mission:

The mission of Project Northstar is to help children who are homeless or disadvantaged overcome barriers to a quality education. Partnering with parents, educators, donors and diverse volunteers, we provide one-on-one tutoring, mentoring and enrichment activities to students in grades 1-12 to help pave the way to success in school and life.



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The Martin Pollak Project History

The Martin Pollak Project was founded in 1980 by Mrs. Elizabeth Pollak in Annapolis, Maryland.

"Every Child is born with certain rights. At the least, each child has the right to be loved, clothed and sheltered in a natural environment. To grow up truly human and fully alive, all children need a family and community to call their own."

~ Elizabeth Pollak



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The Martin Pollak Project Services

- MD Treatment Foster Care Services
- Independent Living Services / Young Adult's Initiative
- DC Specialized Foster Care Services
- **Project Northstar Tutoring/Mentoring Services**
- Individualized Child Achievement Program (ICAP)
- Foster Parent Services
- Children and Biological Family Services
- Training Institute





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Project Northstar History

Founded in 1989 by a multi-racial coalition of young community leaders from the DC Chapters of the Coalition of 100 Black Women and Concerned Black Men, and lawyers from three local area law firms.

One of 21 organizations nationwide to receive the *1999 Presidents Service Award*.

Despite a long successful history, Project Northstar (PN) was forced to cease operations in December 2008 as a result of poor financial management.

The Martin Pollak Project, Inc (MPP) re-launched Project Northstar in November, 2009 as a program of MPP.





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Issues and Needs

- More than 37,000 children living in DC were estimated to be living in poverty in 2007.
- Between 2005 and 2009 there has been a 6.7% increase in the number of homeless persons in Washington, DC.
- There are now about 1,400 homeless children living in the District.
- Children in DC Schools have the lowest math scores in the country and the lowest level of literacy proficiency in the nation with 62 percent of District residents capable of reading at only a third grade level or lower.



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Project Northstar Tutoring Sessions

Josephine Butler Parks Center

2437 15th Street, NW

Wednesdays from 6:00pm-8:00pm





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- Tutors arrive at 6:00 PM to prepare for their students.
- Students arrive at 6:15 and work on homework until 7:30.
- In the middle of the session a healthy snack is provided for the students.
- At 7:30, if students have finished their work, we participate in games, recognitions, and group activities.



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PN Volunteers

30 Volunteer Tutors

3 Volunteer Site Coordinators

Our volunteers have a wide variety of educational and professional backgrounds





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What do Volunteers do?

Volunteers commit to 1 year as a tutor & mentor or as a site coordinator

Tutoring sessions focus on homework help and the subjects the youth are struggling with in school

After an initial 6 weeks, tutors double as mentors and begin mentoring activities, at least one activity per month

Participate and help organize annual events for the youth and families



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PN Youth

Students come to PN from over 20 public and charter schools in Wards 1 & 2 of the District

The youth, from grades k-12, are homeless, formerly homeless, living in foster care and/or living in poor, underserved neighborhoods





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Working with Parents

The staff and volunteers of Project Northstar strive to maintain close relationships with the parents in order to gain further insight into each child's personal and academic struggles.





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Holiday Party





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Mentoring Activities





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Our Results

- Comparative data on student outcomes were compiled for 2006 and 2007.
- **80%** of the students tested raised their reading performance by at least one reading level
- **38%** raised their performance by at least two levels.
- **100%** of eighth grade students were successfully promoted to 9th grade.
- It's too early to measure our impact this year, but we are collecting report cards for all our students now and already seeing positive results. One student saw her grades rise from a C- to a B average.



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How can I help?

Become a PN Volunteer!

Donate to PN! – PN depends on individual donations and grant funding to operate

Donate in-kind goods to PN such as school supplies, books, games, etc.

Spread the word about Project Northstar!!!



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Thanks for your time!

