



Contact: Melinda Zemper
Phone: (513) 706-3737|
Email: mzemper@fuse.net

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Girl's Art Nonprofit Named SCORE Greater Cincinnati Client of the Year

Cincinnati and national SCORE celebrate 50th birthday

A Brush of Hope, a Lebanon nonprofit that builds self-esteem in girls through art, was named a top greater Cincinnati SCORE Client of the Year Sept. 19 at the Maketewah Country Club.

Aimee Lowrance of Mason owns the one-year old organization. The group offers young girls education programs integrated with art on subjects like anti-bullying, appropriate skin care and yoga in Mason, Lebanon and West Carrollton, Ky.

Her SCORE counselor is Dick Baker of Cincinnati. Baker has 30 years of experience with P&G and has been mentoring SCORE clients since 2004.

“Aimee has the vision and passion to work with children and became successful once she started to work on the hard stuff—fund raising and developing a board of directors,” said Baker. “She’s been able to get funding and supplies from a diverse group in order to support activities. She has the energy to be successful in the nonprofit world.”

Baker understands how her mind works and talks to her in ways she understands, Lowrance said. “He challenged me to do more to take myself into places where I was not comfortable. He keeps me tethered to the business side of the organization.”

SCORE’s 100 volunteer counselors help new entrepreneurs and small business owners with marketing, operations and finance.

Mike Martin, outgoing SCORE chairman, said that 10 million aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners have been helped by SCORE chapters since the organization was founded in 1964. Each year SCORE nationwide provides small business mentoring and workshops to more than 375,000 new and growing small businesses.

In greater Cincinnati, which includes 19 counties in southern Ohio, northern Kentucky and southeast Indiana, last year alone SCORE’s 100 experienced counselors helped 1,500 small business clients and created 305-plus jobs.

Fifty six percent of SCORE clients are women; 28 percent are minorities and 12 percent are veterans. Seventy percent of Cincinnati SCORE clients last year were starting a business and 30 percent were already in business.

Jim Stahly, incoming greater Cincinnati SCORE chairman, said that the federal government funds only a portion of each of its 350 chapters nationwide. “We get a 47 to one leverage on every dollar we get from the U.S. government,” said Stahly. “Locally, it only costs \$137 for each job we create locally. And we do it all on about \$11,000 from the federal government. The rest is covered by our business partners. We could not do it without them.”

For more information about greater Cincinnati SCORE, its counseling, team mentoring, and seminars and workshops, go to www.scoreworks.org or call (513) 684-2812. # # #