

Benefits to Business: Why Partner with Freedom Montessori?

"There is now no doubt that the experiences to which a child is exposed in the first few years of life contribute to the architecture of that child's brain and have tremendous implications for later learning and development."

Dr. Janet DePietro

Johns Hopkins University

Reasons to Get Involved

Quality education - it's the most important key to our country's future. The students of today will be the leaders and workers of tomorrow. They must be prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead. The costs of the gap between the skills needed for economic success and those of today's youth burden not only those young people, but also employers, consumers, and taxpayers.

Your business can help by joining Freedom Montessori and assisting our school and educators here in Rock Hill. Here are some other important reasons to get involved:

- To provide students the opportunity to meet positive role models from the business world;
- To better prepare your future workforce.
- To upgrade the quality of education in your own community's schools which in turn can attract new businesses to the area;
- To provide public relations exposure for your company to your community;
- To have happier, more loyal employees (NOTE: Research finds that involvement in school/business partnerships raises the morale of staff.);
- To provide your company with more knowledge of your community's school system and to better understand public education, its problems, and ways to improve it; and
- To get students excited about careers while allowing them to learn more about different jobs and gain exposure to real-world expertise.

Reasons to Join Freedom Montessori Business Partner Program

- Educators are made aware of your company's interest in providing assistance with specific partnership activities;
- The system allows businesses to designate how many times they wish to be contacted for partnerships during a month's time, eliminating being inundated with requests;
- Automated communication between a company's designated program contact and teachers eliminates phone tag and fosters clearer expectations of partnership goals;
- Automated evaluation forms provide solid information on how partnership activities can be fostered and improved.

Types of Partnerships

What Types of Resources Are Needed for Schools:

- **Financial** — 501-C3 tax deductible contributions, student work, grants.
- **In-kind Resources** — printing and mailing materials, computer installation, transportation.
- **Materials/equipment resources** — computer equipment and software, audiovisual equipment, books and other print materials; playground equipment; furniture.
- **Human Resources** — Work-based mentors, speakers, lecturers, tour guides, task force members, trainers.

Ethical Guidelines for Business-Education Partnerships

Business-Education Partnerships are mutually beneficial relationships between employers and educators that are designed to enhance learning for students and other learners. They may involve other education stakeholders as partners, including students, employees, parents, communities, labor, and government organizations. Most partnerships are cooperative relationships in which partners share values, objectives, human, material, or financial resources, roles and responsibilities in order to achieve desired learning outcomes.

Employers and Educators should support business-education partnerships that:

- Enhance the quality and relevance of education for learners;
- Mutually benefit all partners;
- Treat fairly and equitably all those served by the partnership;
- Provide opportunities for all partners to meet their shared social responsibilities toward education;
- Acknowledge and celebrate each partner's contributions through appropriate forms of recognition;
- Are consistent with the ethics and core values of all partners;
- Are based on the clearly defined expectations of all partners;
- Are based on shared or aligned objectives that support the goals of the partner organizations;
- Allocate resources to complement funding for education;
- Measure and evaluate partnership performance to make informed decisions that ensure continuous improvement;
- Are developed and structured in consultation with all partners;
- Recognize and respect each partner's expertise;
- Identify clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all partners; and
- Involve individual participants on a voluntary basis.