Sarah O’Connor
Elementary, Book Buddy

“Sarah O’Connor is our Book Buddy of the second quarter! Sarah comes ready to engage and connect with her students. In such a short time she has become a friend, a mentor, and a strong and enthusiastic advocate for literacy. She has proven to be Book Buddy of the second quarter because she has gone above and beyond to connect with her 3rd grade students at Gifford Park.

On a fun note, Sarah is expecting so with her students being extremely curious, she incorporated a gender reveal party at their last visit. Her students had an amazing time (pink and blue cupcakes and all!) and are very excited for her. This element of added fun helped Sarah and her students continue to build on their already positive relationship. As her Program Coordinator, I appreciate the energy she brings each visit and the depth in which she engages with her students, teacher, and Book Buddy partner Deb. Sarah gives such positive feedback and insight about each book we utilize. Ms. Sharp and her partners have nothing, but great things to say about Sarah as well. Sarah brings a positive attitude and great personality to each visit. We are so glad to have her as a Gifford Park Book Buddy!”

Nominated by Program Coordinator, Terenza Perkins

Alberta Schmid
Elementary, Goal Buddy

‘Please give a P4K high five to Albertha Schmid for being voted Goal Buddy of the second quarter! Albertha has been voted Goal Buddy of the quarter for her consistent engagement with P4K over the last 5 years. As a Goal Buddy, her passion to help our youth shows as she engages and connects with students through meaningful conversations. She is always there supporting them and reminding them to work hard to attain their goals. I first connected with Albertha in my first year as a Program Coordinator four years ago. Right away I could tell Albertha
was all about changing mindsets and lives of the students we serve. I knew each visit she would come ready to work with her students, provide guidance and helping students gain confidence in becoming great students. Albertha keeps an upbeat attitude with every visit. She’s flexible in making visits with her students a priority. Albertha has gone above and beyond by coming early, providing donations for our students, connecting with teachers on her own, and even assisted new Goal Buddies to become acclimated with the process of mentoring during their first visit. She has helped P4K as a veteran in keeping consistent with P4K’s mission and vision. Since P4K launched the enhanced elementary model, I requested to have Albertha at Gifford Park, a new school for P4K this year and she jumped right in on the opportunity.

As her Program Coordinator, I observe these passions with her positive energy, sense of humor, patience, and determination to plant little seeds of knowledge and work ethic. Albertha has built meaningful relationships with teachers to nurture school and class expectations. During my follow up, they share how wonderful and naturally she connects with the students. “She’s amazing at helping students connect the dots about where they are and how they can achieve their goals” with the help of P4K, says Ms. Dawson.

P4K is very lucky to have Albertha for the last 5 years as a Goal Buddy Mentor. Please help me Congratulate Albertha from Metro Community College, Goal Buddy of the second quarter!"

Nominated by Program Coordinator, Terenza Perkins

Scott Ziemba
Middle School, Group Mentor

“Scott Ziemba has been a Group Mentor with Partnership 4 Kids since October 2018 and over the past 11 months Scott has been matched with 4 young men, now 8th graders, all with varying interests, personalities, and challenges. Mr. Scott has been a constant when showing up for his mentees, but also in his willingness to try many different approaches, to encourage and help motivate his mentees to do their best work and be their best selves. Scott does a great job of working with each of his mentees to learn more about who they are and who they are becoming. I really appreciate the thoughtfulness and intentionality Scott uses to make meaningful connections with his mentees. We’ve been able to work together as mentor and Program Coordinator to help support each student, often discussing what goals are right for them individually as well as trying to use some of their experiences in life as pivotal moments to talk about choices. It has been great to have a mentor on board with P4K, who is genuinely interested in connecting young people with their
passions and helping them to find and define success in a way they can hopefully realize it for themselves. I introduce to you, Scott Ziemba, Partnership 4 Kids Mentor of the 2nd Quarter.”

Nominated by Middle School Program Coordinator, Shukura Huggins

Raheem Jackson
High School, Group Mentor

“Raheem Jackson is not only a P4K alumni, but he is also now a great P4K Mentor. He is the perfect example of how a mentoring, full circle moment can happen. Once one experiences mentorship, they often come back to help mentor others, carrying the mentoring movement forward. Mentoring works!

Raheem has three mentees and the one thing his quite, shy group of boys all say about their mentor is that he is consistent. He truly makes the effort to reach out to his boys consistently to not only check on them, but to let them know that he is there for them. They look forward to seeing him and you when he is around you can see his mentees open-up just a bit more. You hear conversations and laughs coming from his group of quiet guys. Being that Raheem is so outgoing, a group of quiet students are a challenge, but one he doesn’t back down from and keeps pushing through to reach them. He challenges them to get out of their comfort zone and to try new things. This is exactly what a great mentor can do for young people!”

Nominated by High School Program Coordinator, Porschea McAllister