Meet the Mentor
Carmen Ciardello ● Baldwin Middle School

Since September 2010, Carmen Ciardiello, has met with his 6th grade mentee at Baldwin Middle School every week. During their sessions Ciardello talks, listens, plays games and offers guidance as a friend. Carmen is a mentor with the Guilford Youth Mentoring Program (GYM).

Carmen was born in New Jersey, and as a young boy spent two years in Augsburg, Germany where his father was assigned with the U.S. military. As a young boy Carmen and his family travelled to Italy, Austria, Switzerland and France. When they returned to the U.S., he was raised in Hamden, Ct.

So, who is Carmen? Carmen is Part-Owner/Vice President and General Manager of Engineering Specialties, Inc. in North Branford. He is married with a 13-year-old son and two daughters, ages 12 and 10. In his spare time he loves fishing, skiing and coaching baseball. Carmen and his family moved to Guilford in 2000.

Carmen was graduated from Gettysburg College with a BA degree in Management. It was at Gettysburg College, where Carmen first volunteered to be a mentor. His mentoring has continued as a baseball coach. In addition to teaching his players to understand and play the game of baseball, he teaches them sportmanship and to become good citizens.

Carmen's motivation for being a mentor is multifaceted. He loves working with children and he believes mentoring is important. "I amconvinced that during a mentor/mentee relationship there always is something so positive that transpires," Carmen said, "that the mentee will recall that experience for the rest of his life."

Carmen receives great satisfaction from mentoring because it can have a positive influence not only on the mentee but subsequently on the community. He simply has a passion to improve the lives of future generations. "It's a great way to give back to your community," he said. "There is no greater thrill than seeing a big smile on the face of my mentee when he sees me at his school. It does not get any better than that."