

The Power of Mentorship

By Lisa Edwards, Putnam Speaks

I'm The Change / Want To See, Thanks to My Mentor

Dear Walter - I want to express how happy and honored I am to have you as my Toastmasters mentor. You have shared your professional advice, experience, and amazing skills perfected over your years in Toastmasters and you exemplify true leadership skills as President of our Toastmasters Club, Putnam Speaks.

To me, a leader is called to unearth the hidden - to encourage the uncertain, develop the untrained, and empower the powerless. Leaders are meant to encourage others to become the people God created them to be. You take your leadership role as President of our club seriously with dedication and unselfish giving of your time.

Being a part of this club has taught me to communicate and speak effectively so I can represent the voices of victims of domestic violence. Your time and effort, as well as support from all of our Toastmasters members, have truly helped me heal from the effects of this crime which crippled me for the past 15 years. I am not so overwhelmed by my past and this is the first time I've been able to focus and write down my story.

So, Walter, I give you an A + as our teacher and fearless leader. Thank you for all that you have done for me to help me find my voice.

Sincerely, Lisa A. Edwards - "The Survivor"



Walter and Lisa at the Spring 2008 District Conference, Holyoke, MA.
Photo credit: Don Logie, DTM

Lisa continues her public speaking appearances on advocating awareness about domestic violence and is working on a spiritual CD of her story. She is organizing a 2010 fundraising event to benefit victims and families of domestic violence and is fulfilling her dream of buying her own home. Lisa can be reached at lisaehelpsdv@yahoo.com.

*Walter Beveridge is now Immediate Past President of Putnam Speaks.

A Good Mentor

Is Available, Patient, Sensitive, Respectful, Respected, Flexible, Knowledgeable, Confident, a Good Listener, and Concerned About Others. He or she offers opportunities for skill development, helps the mentee recognize areas needing work, is a role model, and encourages their mentee to think for themselves. (Source: CL Manual) You can become a mentor for a new member and fulfill a CL requirement at the same time. Talk to your Club VP of Education for a mentorship assignment.