



Mentor of the Month

September, 2011

Elliot Ferguson

- Mentee: Michael Zapata, Gonzaga College High School, Class of 2015
- Years Mentoring with CPE: 3



Elliot Ferguson is an amazing individual. Elliott began mentoring with CPE in 2008 after his wonderful wife, who has been mentoring with CPE since 2005, showed him what mentoring is all about. Elliott mentored his first mentee Jaelen for two years and despite many obstacles, persistently worked to develop a meaningful relationship. When Jaelen left CPE last year to pursue other educational opportunities, Elliott remained incredibly supportive and dedicated to the mission of CPE.

While he eagerly awaited the opportunity to mentor again, Elliott continued to stay involved with CPE and has consistently engaged in CPE's fundraising efforts.

Michael and Elliot at the ropes course, (Date?)

Elliot was matched with his new mentee, Michael Zapata, in July.

From their first encounter at our annual Mentor-Mentee Challenge Course, it was clear that this duo was anything but typical. Elliott and Michael immediately engaged as though they had been matched for years. And to say this pair has hit the ground running, doesn't even begin to describe their level of connectedness.

Elliot has embraced Michael as part of his family. In addition to taking Michael to his first baseball game (which Michael said was the best experience of his life), Elliott and Michael speak every day after school. Within Michael's first week at Gonzaga, Elliott reached out to the school to let them know his role in Michael's life and desire to assist with Michael's development and success.

During some very difficult challenges in Michael's personal life, Elliott has stepped in as an unwavering support to both Michael as well as his mother. Michael is quite a young man with limitless potential and Elliott knows precisely how to foster Michael's emotional well-being and overall growth. We greatly look forward to all that is to come with this incredible pair, and are incredibly fortunate to have Elliott as a part of our mentor community and an advocate for CPE.

MOTIVATIONAL MENTORS: Here's what Michael Zapata has to say!

"Elliott deserves to be the Mentor of the Month because he is a phenomenal, enthusiastic, extremely helpful, nice, great person. I'm very lucky to have someone like him as a mentor!"

-Michael Zapata, Gonzaga College High School Class of 2015