



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BE A MENTOR PRESENTS THE GOING PLACES GALA**

**(N. CHARLESTON, SC)- 10/7/15-** Be a Mentor is thrilled to announce their third annual Going Places Gala, to be held on November 12, 2015 at Founders Hall in Charles Towne Landing State Historical Site. The gala celebrates the mission of the in-school mentoring organization, to instill youth with confidence, build social and emotional skills, and ensure that every child in the Charleston area has a caring adult in their lives. It also commends the volunteer mentors who ensure that Be a Mentor students are *going places*.

The gala kicks off at 6:30 p.m. with a silent auction composed of a wide array of exciting items generously donated by local businesses, as well as national brands. The Lowhills will provide live music and entertain attendees with their unique blend of classic country, rock, bluegrass, swing, old R&B and jazz. Delicious light fare will be provided by B. Gourmet Catering, Bricklane Catering, Cru Catering, Salthouse Catering, and Tristan Catering & Events. Decadent sweets to be provided by Ashley Bakery, Charleston Flour Garden, and Ragamuffin Sugarshop, and the open bar provided by Palmetto Brewing Company, Southern Eagle Distributing, and Svedka Vodka.

Be a Mentor would like to recognize and thank our wonderful sponsors: The Alley, The Beach Company, The Boeing Company, Carolina Eye Care, Charleston County School District, David Aylor Law Offices, Grow Financial Federal Credit Union, Hendrick Automotive Group, Select Health of South Carolina, South Carolina Federal Credit Union, Truss Link, and William C. Daley. Without them this event would not be possible.

During the gala, Be a Mentor will hold a special recognition ceremony to honor three community members who have helped create and support an active mentoring community in the Lowcountry. The honorees for 2015 are Jerry Young, Ovie Mughelli, and Allison Johnson.

Be a Mentor is pleased to spend an evening honoring these outstanding community members and the successes of those they mentor. Individual tickets are \$100 and active mentors receive a discounted rate. Tickets for the event are available online at [www.beamentornow.org/buy-tickets](http://www.beamentornow.org/buy-tickets).

**About the Honorees:**



**Ovie Mughelli** is a Charleston native and nine-year NFL veteran fullback who played for the Atlanta Falcons and earned a Pro-Bowl spot in 2010. He is a supporter of youth development and mentoring, especially through his foundation, The Ovie Mughelli Foundation, which focuses on creatively educating youth and families on environmental stewardship and empowering youth to take an active role in the improvement of their society and community.

**Allison Johnson** has served as a guidance counselor at Mitchell Math and Science Elementary School. She has also been running the Lunch Buddies program there for over 15 years. Her dedication and tireless efforts have impacted hundreds of lives. In recent years, some of her first Lunch Buddies students have returned to serve as mentors for the next generation.

**Jerry Young** is the Founder of Be a Mentor and President and Founder of the Charleston Leadership Foundation. He retired from a successful career in software, technology and sales and is a passionate advocate of youth mentoring. With a generous spirit and kind heart, Jerry is a constant source of inspiration and serves as a mentor to all. Young was delighted to be honored for his dedication to the children of the Lowcountry, but much more thankful to those who have made Be a Mentor a success. “I’m honored and just so thankful for all the people who have surrounded Be a Mentor with gifts and time for the past 12 years. It is one of the most worthy causes,” he said.

The Going Places Gala is always a source of great fun and purpose, so we hope to see you there!

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### **About Be a Mentor**

Founded in 2004, Be a Mentor is a nonprofit organization headquartered in North Charleston, SC and providing youth with helping hands and great role models who encourage them to succeed. There are currently five signature programs being implemented in various schools throughout the Lowcountry. The Lunch Buddy program fills the need for in-school mentoring for elementary school children. Project Shine focuses on career exploration, academic success and teaches the importance of setting and reaching goals at the middle school grade levels. The Career Path Mentoring program matches mentors with high school students interested in similar career areas. The Academic Mentoring program matches mentors with youth living at the Carolina Youth Development Center (CYDC) to offer academic support as well as life mentoring. The Basics Boosters program matches adult tutors with students to improve fundamental subject skills. For more information, visit [www.beamentornow.org](http://www.beamentornow.org).