## **Connecting through Learning Partnerships**

The most important growing occurs within relationships - parent / child, brother / sister, friend / friend. At Boaz and Ruth relationships are the very foundation of everything we do. And everything we do is about growing and learning. So it would make sense that we place a great deal of importance on learning partnerships.

Learning Partnerships function at every level. Institutionally, we have partnered with the National Enterprise Institute, the National Center on Nonprofit Enterprise, and the Virginia Commonwealth University Business School in planning and designing the new Firehouse MiniMall. But more importantly, we seek Learning Partnerships as a way to connect the different cultural worlds of Richmond.

Mentors, teachers, coaches, friends. They are what really make Boaz and Ruth work. As people reach out to one another, walls fall and boundaries disappear. And as relationships grow and flourish, teachers begin to understand that they have much to learn from the students. Then we are connecting.