

Do the *extraordinary*...give *time* to a child.... *be a mentor!*

What is the purpose of mentoring?

Establish nurturing relationships between struggling students and caring adults so that students can discover their self-worth, their strengths, and a positive vision of their future.

What is a mentor?

A mentor is a caring adult who is willing to be a good listener and non-judgmental friend to a student in need of extra attention. A mentor is a companion, role model, advocate, motivator, resource, guide and helper.

A mentor is **NOT** a parent, social worker, psychiatrist, judge or Santa Claus.

Who can be a mentor?

A nurturing, positive adult who is willing to give the “gift of time” to a child can be a mentor. The main requirement is to be there when needed.

How much time will it take?

Mentors are asked to commit at least one hour a week to their student. That time is set according to the mentor’s schedule and student’s availability so that they are not missing academic time. All activity is during the school day at the student’s individual school.

How are students selected for the program?

Students are referred to the program by administrator, teacher, parents or students themselves ask for a mentor. They can be referred for many reasons: it may be a shy child, a child that hasn’t made the connection between school and life, a child from a single parent home, a child with cultural differences. A mentor will never be given a child with severe behavioral problems.

How long is the commitment supposed to last?

Your commitment should last until the end of the school year. At that time, you will be given the option to continue with your student the next school year, be assigned to a different student or withdraw from the program. However, you may follow a child from grade to grade and school to school.

Will I have to help with homework?

Some mentors help with homework, others don’t. This program is designed to provide students with a positive relationship with an additional supportive adult. Knowing how to teach math is not a requirement for being a mentor!

How do I know I can make a difference?

There’s no easy answer to that question, but “research shows that after generations of diverse public and private efforts to help youth, there may be no more effective program than mentoring. It works because it is a program of loving and caring. It’s telling students that society cares about you.”

Parade Magazine, 1995

How do I get started?

Complete the attached application and send to Stephanie Danley at 1020 Dutch Fork Rd., Irmo, SC 29063. She will then contact you to schedule training. Applicants will submit to a background check and attend an orientation/training session before approval to meet with a student.

You may contact Stephanie Danley at (803)331-1276 or her email address sdanley@lexrich5.org.