



Mentor Michigan Faith-Based Meetings Talking Points

What is Mentor Michigan?

Mentor Michigan is a signature program of the Michigan Community Service Commission, the state's lead agency on volunteerism. Mentor Michigan provides crucial support and resources to nearly 250 organizations around the state that are changing lives by matching caring adult mentors with young people in need. Mentor Michigan supports these mentoring programs by providing training and research, as well as fostering partnerships to advance mentoring. By collaborating the efforts of businesses, faith-based and nonprofit organizations, schools, colleges, universities, and state and local government, Mentor Michigan is able to strengthen and further cultivate the mentoring field. In addition, Mentor Michigan works to ensure that every young person has a safe and beneficial mentoring experience by developing and promoting the use of quality program standards. Mentor Michigan also strives to build public awareness about the importance of and need for mentors by urging caring adults to "Pass It On," because sharing a little of yourself with a young person can reward both of you with lifelong benefits.

What is the Mentor Michigan Foster Care Initiative?

The Mentor Michigan Foster Care Initiative began in 2011 and is a partnership between Mentor Michigan and the Department of Human Services (DHS). The goal of the initiative is to enhance support for mentoring programs serving youth in foster care and increase the number of foster youth in mentoring relationships. As DHS works to ensure youth in foster care are given the opportunity to be mentored, Mentor Michigan has developed capacity-building resources, mentor training materials, and mentor recruitment tools for state mentoring programs that address the unique needs of youth in foster care. Mentor Michigan and DHS are also collaborating together to create resources on mentoring for caseworkers, foster youth, and foster parents as well as providing assistance in a media campaign to raise public awareness around the need for mentors for youth aging out of foster care.

Programs Supported by Mentor Michigan

- Mentor Michigan supports mentoring programs that meet the Mentor Michigan Quality Program Standards for Youth Mentoring. These Standards are in place in order for youth to receive the most beneficial and productive results from mentoring relationships.
- These Standards are based on national research in the mentoring field.

How can your congregation help?

- Partner with a program serving youth in foster care!
- Become a mentor! As little as an hour a week is all you need to make a difference in the life of a child. Recruit members from your house of worship to become mentors to youth in foster care.
- Support or host match activities! Ask local mentoring organizations how your congregation can help improve the time that mentor matches have together by giving your time, talents or other gifts.
- Promote mentoring opportunities in your weekly bulletins.
- Build a sermon message around the importance of youth in foster care having a caring adult in their lives.
- Hold a special collection and donate money to a local mentoring organization that serves youth in foster care.
- If your church has its own mentoring program, register your program with Mentor Michigan. We can provide you with tools and resources to enhance your program.

Mentor Michigan can help you with your recruitment efforts by providing:

- Talking Points
- Sample ads for your church bulletin
- Brochures