

GIVE AN HOUR...

"I was uncertain why and how a complete stranger would want to help me... The stranger [my mentor] that I was not so sure about has turned into a friend who motivates me to succeed in and out of school." - Floyd, Winning Futures mentee

"She's always there [my mentor]. She's just a person I can rely on to be there and someone I can rely on to understand what I'm going through and help me through it. She's pretty much my best friend." - Jennifer, Isabella County DHS mentee

"I noticed myself doing my homework more, respecting the teachers a lot more, and when I got in trouble, I felt really bad. Before I was with Mike [my mentor], I wouldn't have even thought of that, I just did whatever I wanted. That changed when Mike came into my life." - Chris, Kids H.O.P.E. USA mentee

"Before I had a mentor, I was very behind in school and was not trying. Now I'm caught up with my credits and raised my G.P.A. I'm also moving forward and making better choices. I have improved my relationship with my family. There are no words to explain the change in my thinking. I'm a better person with a future to look forward to." - Gabriela, Barnabas Ministries mentee

...CHANGE A LIFE!



Mentor Michigan supports nearly 250 organizations around the state that are changing lives by matching mentors with young people. Mentor Michigan provides those organizations with training and research, as well as fosters partnerships to support mentoring. Additionally, Mentor Michigan builds public awareness about the importance of and the 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.

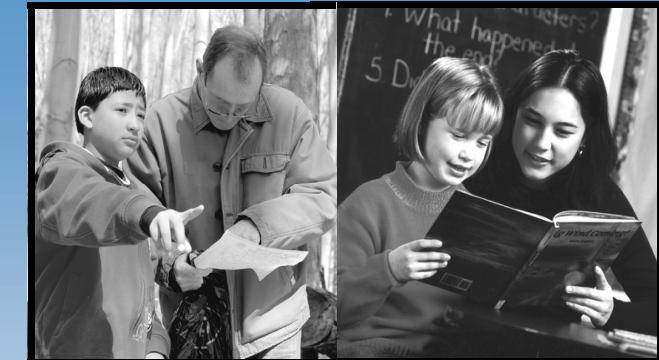
Mentor Michigan is a signature program of the Michigan Community Service Commission, which builds a culture of service by providing vision and resources to strengthen communities through volunteerism. In 2011-12, the MCSC is granting nearly \$8 million in federal funds to local communities for volunteer programs and activities.

Have Questions? Contact:

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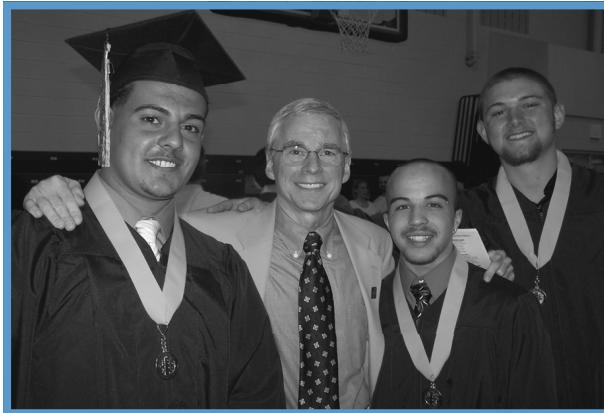
MENTORING YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

For Faith-Based Organizations



WHY MENTOR?

The future of Michigan depends on the success of our state's youth; it is vitally important that we prepare today's young people to be productive adults. Despite this, thousands of Michigan's foster youth lack a caring adult in their life who will guide and assist them to a productive and successful future. They need, and deserve, someone who will listen to them, provide advice and just be a friend. A mentor can be that person.



Michigan is fortunate to have nearly 18,000 mentors serving 24,000 children in need. But there are still thousands of young people, particularly foster youth, who are waiting to be matched with a caring adult.



HOW CAN MY CONGREGATION GET INVOLVED?

- **Become a mentor!** As little as an hour a week is all you need to make a difference in the life of a child. Email Mentor Michigan at mentormichigan@michigan.org to find a local program in your community.
- **Give your time!** Are you taking a break from fostering or adopting? Unsure if full-time care of foster children is right for you? Then consider volunteering as a mentor to foster youth as an alternative option!
- **Support or host match activities!** Ask local mentoring organizations how you can help improve the time that mentor matches have together by giving your time, talents or other gifts.
- **Promote mentoring programs in your community!** Help spread the word that mentors are needed for youth in foster care, especially older youth.

DOES MENTORING REALLY WORK?

Mentoring changes lives – ask any youth who has had a mentor. Across the state, mentoring programs report better decision making, improved confidence, elevated performance and attendance in school, and improved relationships among family and peers.

But beyond that, research shows that mentoring relationships are providing young people, and the future of Michigan, with better outcomes: higher educational attainment, higher rates of future employment and community engagement, good mental health and a reduced presence of problem behavior and criminal offending.

