

MENTOR ROLE DESCRIPTION (Volunteer Only)

Purpose:

To give a former youth-in-care (male or female between the ages of 18 and 25) in need of physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, financial, and professional growth and development through companionship, working and healing relationships, and partnerships to supplement the work of parents, teachers, counsellors, social workers and other social services and education professionals.

Duties/Responsibilities/Expectations:

The mentor will be paired with a mentee and will be responsible for meeting with the mentee on a weekly basis. A six month commitment is the minimum accepted. The volunteer mentor may be asked to work on certain aspects of the young person's growth and development. The mentor will work closely with supervisory staff through phone contact, appointments and meetings to understand the youth, and his or her family better and to facilitate activities to help the youth. The volunteer will serve as an example/role model to demonstrate that adults can give youth at least one consistent and caring adult in their life. Mentors give and receive, trust and respect (and understand that they will make an occasional mistake). Self-confidence, self-awareness and improved self-esteem for the young person are important goals of the relationship. It should be emphasized that the volunteer in no way replaces the parent or the family's social worker. Rather, he or she provides interested, compassionate friendship and guidance.

Requirements/Qualifications:

Documents required:

-Criminal Background Check

-At least two letters of references

A person who is interested in becoming a mentor must be a volunteer. Experience in teaching, child and youth work or related fields are helpful. Experience as a parent or extensive experience with young people is also helpful.

The volunteer should have the ability to relate to the youth and demonstrate empathy. The volunteer should respect the youth's right to self-determination and independence. This respect is an essential element in the relationship. The volunteer should exhibit a great deal of common sense, intelligence, friendliness, maturity, sensitivity and responsibility. It is necessary to have an open mind and an open heart.

Time Commitment:

The average volunteer will put in approximately 15 hours or more each month in services to the young person. This commitment should be scheduled according to the flexibility of both parties, but the volunteer must be consistent. Volunteers and mentees can divide their time according to their preferences and may meet on different days to cover the necessary time requirements. If the mentees fail to graduate by six months, the volunteer may start over with their mentee or be assigned to a new one.

Failure to show consistency may only be excused due to emergency situations. If the volunteer wishes to leave their position due to any reason (excluding emergency situations), they will be required to submit a two week notice to the supervisory staff before the time of their leave.

Benefits:

- * Volunteers may be reimbursed for mileage expenses.
- * Training sessions are offered on a regular basis for the volunteer's personal growth and development.
- * Volunteers can assume that their skills in working with young people will increase and that their work will lead to more challenging volunteer assignments if that is their desire; and
- * Volunteers receive ongoing support and recognition. A staff person will be assigned to work with them and they will receive a newsletter.

On completion of the mentoring assignment, the volunteer may request a written performance appraisal from the social worker. If for some reason the social worker is unable to supply this, the volunteer may ask the volunteer office to do so.