



WHY MENTORING?

"Mentoring comes first, because we know that if society doesn't provide constructive mentors and role models for kids they are going to find their own on street corners, in gangs or in drug dens." (General Colin Powell).

Research tells us that mentoring can have a positive impact on the lives of young people, including significant reductions in school absence; better school attitudes and behavior; less drug and alcohol use (especially among minority youth) and less likelihood of committing crimes. A 2006 study on high school dropouts, conducted by The National Mentor Network, found that one of the most important improvements high schools can make to decrease drop-out rates is to provide students with advocates who offer support and coordinate their needs.

Mentoring relationships positively change the lives of the youth involved!

A mentor is someone who, along with parents, provides a young person with support, guidance, counsel, friendship, and reinforcement, and acts as a positive role model. A mentor is a wise and trusted friend. A mentor is someone who cares, is reliable, and holds aspirations for the mentee. A mentor is also someone who holds a mentee accountable for his/her actions. A mentor is someone who can help you get to where you want to go.

Young people in our society need positive, successful role models. They need guidance in setting and achieving goals and positive reinforcement from someone they trust and admire. A relationship works in two ways, and helping a young person grow and succeed is the greatest source of satisfaction.

Mentoring works better than other youth development and preventive services because it tailors itself to the needs of a particular child instead of combating problems of all youth today with a single program or slogan. A mentor holds aspirations, provides friendship, and supports positive youth development "one child at a time."

- 98% of youth matched with mentors stayed in school
- 98% of youth matched with mentors did not become a teen parent
- 98% of youth matched with mentors avoided gang participation
- 85% of youth matched with mentors did not use drugs

Mentoring has also proven to be economically efficient as the most potent, cost-

effective, preventative youth development strategy available today. CMF research shows the cost benefit of supporting a child through mentoring far outweighs the benefits of costly social programs.