

Norwalk Mentor Program

2018 End of Year Report



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Norwalk Mentor Program

2017-2018 School Year

82%

Of mentors retained from previous year

280

Mentor/mentee matches as of June 2018

64

New mentors were trained and matched this year

16

Welcome Back Breakfasts were held

294

Guests at our January Event

383

Attendees at our End of Year Outing

11,000

Hours of mentoring

\$265,000+

Collective value of our mentors' time according to *Independent Sector*

Our mission is to encourage the social, academic and mental growth of Norwalk's youth through a one-on-one mentoring relationship where a caring adult serves as a role model to a student who is going through a difficult period or faces new challenges.

Established in 1986 as the first school-based mentoring program in the country, the Norwalk Mentor Program matches adult volunteers with elementary, middle and high school students in Norwalk's 19 public schools.



According to the National Mentoring Partnership . . .

9 million children in America are growing up without enough guidance and support.

Mentoring guarantees young people that there is someone who cares about them, assures them that they are not alone in dealing with day-to-day challenges, and makes them feel like they matter.

Research confirms that quality mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects on young people in a variety of personal, academic and professional situations. Ultimately, mentoring connects a young person to personal growth and development, and social and economic opportunity.

Programs of the Human Services Council include:

Dr. Robert E. Appleby School Based Health Centers

WE KNOW HEALTHY KIDS MAKE BETTER LEARNERS

Norwalk Mentor Program

ONE HOUR A WEEK CAN CHANGE LIVES FOREVER

Mid-Fairfield Substance Abuse Coalition

PREVENTION IS THE PATH TO A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Supportive Housing

COMFORT & CARE TO SUPPORT LIVING INDEPENDENTLY

Children's Connection

ENSURING THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN EVERY DAY



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Annual Events

"Congrats on another successful outing! The Lip Sync battle was a lot of fun. I give all those brave kids and their mentors a lot of credit for getting up there. Lots of talented kids!!"

Mentor of a
5th grader

In addition to weekly meetings between each mentor and mentee, the Norwalk Mentor Program hosted annual events for program participants, including:

- **Fall Welcome Back Breakfasts at schools**
- **National Mentoring Month Evening at Stepping Stones Museum**
- **Year-End Outing at Bowlmor**



"That was a great event last night at Stepping Stones Museum. The lip sync battle was a great idea!!"

Middle School
Social Worker



"There is a nice mentor community as a result of organized social engagements. Generally there is a feel-good factor surrounding the program."

Middle School
Mentor

"Bowling with my mentor was so much fun!"

7th grade Mentee



"The bowling was tons of fun and a perfect way to celebrate the mentor program and the end of the year."

Elementary School
Social Worker



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Our Mentees

"I have so much fun with a special person, which is my mentor. I get to talk about things that I'm worried about."

4th Grade Girl

"My mentor helped me work hard this year and I turned an F into a B."

6th Grade Boy

"Having a mentor has helped me be able to express myself in ways I could not do before. Also I have become less of a hothead and can handle situations more reasonably."

6th Grade Boy

"This year my mentor helped me get back on track when my grades started slacking and helped me get the motivation to do better. I like knowing I have someone to talk to and how she makes me feel good about myself."

8th Grade Girl

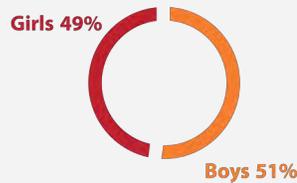
"My mentor has encouraged me to get my assignments done to the best of my ability so I am more confident in my grades in classes that I struggle in."

6th Grade Boy

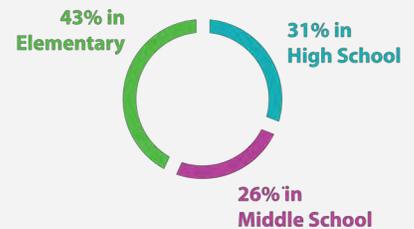
- 92%** say having a mentor helps them try harder to do well in school
- 93%** say having a mentor helps them make better decisions
- 80%** say they have more interests or hobbies due to having a mentor
- 97%** report that their mentor helps them feel good about themselves
- 94%** say that having a mentor helps them feel more confident
- 92%** say that having a mentor helps them look forward to the future
- 100%** of mentees feels their mentor cares about them



Mentee Demographics



Gender



Grade Level



What are School Staff Saying ?

How Students have been Impacted by their Mentor

"The mentor is terrific, caring, warm, creative, a very positive influence. The student now takes her learning seriously and puts in more effort."

Teacher

"This mentor has such a big heart and is a strong advocate for the student. She teaches her to see the best in things and the possibilities the world has to offer."

School Social Worker

"This mentor shows genuine care/concern and willingness to share info about his career. The student now talks about his future more and has exhibited higher levels of motivation and interest in school."

School Social Worker

"A mentor is such an awesome resource for these kids. The NMP is AWE-SOME! What you do is incredible and we thank you SO much for making an impact on the lives of these students through mentoring."

Teacher

- 81%** of our students exhibit more self-confidence
- 81%** of our students are willing to confide in or accept suggestions from a caring adult, which indicates they trust more
- 75%** of our students are making better decisions which shows they think before acting and are more aware of consequences of their actions
- 70%** of our students have a better attitude towards school and display better classroom behavior





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What are Parents Saying ?

"A perfect match. My daughter looks forward to their weekly meetings. Developing a trusting child/adult relationship outside of our family and learning different activities are benefits. This is such an awesome program and a blessing and privilege to be a part of."

Parent of a 3rd Grader



"My daughter had issues with making friends. She felt alone at school. Now she keeps talking about her friends and also her mentor. She doesn't want to miss a day of school"

Parent of a 5th Grader

90% reported that since being matched with a mentor, their child seems more responsible

"My son and his mentor have developed a great rapport . My son has learned to trust and open up. He's been exposed to conversations that will continue to shape him into a great young man. This wonderful program provides awesome role models to our children."

Parent of a 5th Grader

71% reported their child does homework more consistently since being matched with a mentor

While **50%** of parents reported their child's school attendance was fine, **47%** reported attendance improved since their child was matched with a mentor

"They are two peas in a pod, they enjoy each other. My daughter's grades are great. She is more outgoing. The mentor is a gem. My daughter and her mentor are a match made in heaven!"

Parent of a 7th Grader

95% Of parents reported their child has more self - confidence since being matched with a mentor



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Our Mentors

"I feel like I've truly made a new friend! I look forward to every week and enjoy talking and learning from my mentee. The flexibility makes this volunteering seamless and very achievable. It's an easy win-win situation."

Mentor to 2nd Grader



"I think the program is a fantastic resource for kids who could use a bit more positive encouragement, friendship and guidance."

Mentor to 3rd Grader

94% think their mentee feels like there are more adults who care about them



"I enjoy working with young people and offering encouragement and support as I think that unfortunately this is something that is lacking in many young people's lives"

Mentor to 10th Grader

86% believe their mentee is able to express his or her feelings better

88% believe their mentee has higher expectations of himself/herself

90% think their mentee feels more sure of himself/herself

98% feel that being a mentor has enriched their life



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We're Proud Of . . .

Longevity of Our Matches

Although we initially ask new mentors to commit to one school year, many of our mentors return year after year to mentor the same student. 40% of our matches have been together for at least 3 years, with some of those having been together for 10 years.

Our Graduates

All 20 of our senior mentees graduated from high school in June 2018. The \$2,000 Norwalk Mentor Dollars for Scholars award will help them further their education. One of these graduates is enlisting in the armed forces. The remaining graduates plan to further their education at such schools as Southern Connecticut State University, Western Connecticut State University, Norwalk Community College, Iona College and University of Connecticut. We are very proud of their success!

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"Thank you for selecting me to receive the Norwalk Mentor Scholarship. I will be attending Southern Connecticut State University next fall and your scholarship will be used wisely as I pursue my future plans. My dream is to major in psychology and become a therapist to help teens and young adults."

- Mentee

"I've been working with my mentee for 8 years. It has been an amazing opportunity for us both. Most of all, I have watched the little kindergartener become a self assured young woman."

- Mentor

"Having a mentor made a really big impact on my life. He taught me how to think outside the box, broaden my imagination."

- former Mentee,
now a Mentor

Mentees Become Mentors

We now have some mentors who were formerly mentees in the Norwalk Mentor Program. They understand the value of having a mentor and want to help a young person, just as a caring mentor did for them many years ago.





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Sustainability

Heroes

- Individual, group, company or organization can be a HEROES Sponsor
- As little as \$750 annually helps support the Norwalk Mentor Program
- Receive information about your sponsored student
- Hear from your sponsored student twice a year
- Receive invitation to our two annual events

According to the National Mentoring Partnership, the average cost to run a mentoring program is \$1,695 per match per year. This includes the cost of recruiting, background checks, trainings, database, staffing, events and other activities for mentors and mentees.

The Norwalk Mentor Program operates on far less. It relies on funding from local corporations, foundations, fundraising events and private donors. There is no federal or state funding to support the program.

2017-2018 was a difficult year financially for the Norwalk Mentor Program, which suffered a loss of 40% of its budgeted income from several long-term funders that were going through economic and philanthropic changes.

We continue to explore new sources of funding.

Through the HEROES Sponsorship initiative, a person, group of people or an organization can sponsor one or more mentor/mentee matches. This money goes back into the program, towards program events, mentor workshops, background checks and general operating costs.

Norwalk Mentor Program

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Become one of our Super **HEROES**

Helping Enrich Relationships Of Every Student

HumanServicesCT @HumanServicesCT



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THANK YOU

For Supporting the Norwalk Mentor Program
during the 2017-2018 School Year
as Grantors, Events Sponsors and HEROES

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FactSet	People's United Community Fdn.
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Generoso Electric	Rowayton Civic Association
Joyce & Frank Generoso	Schimenti Construction
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Jonathan Levirne (H)	United Bank
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Marsh USA	and other individual donors

THANK YOU

To ALL our Program Participants