

Norwalk Mentor Program

2014 End of the Year Report

THE CHALLENGE: A “mentoring gap” exists in America. More than one in three people never had a mentor of any kind while they were growing up, and this includes 9 million at-risk youth.

OUR SOLUTION: The Norwalk Mentor Program is uniquely capable of providing Norwalk Public School students with a quality mentoring experience in the very location where they spend the bulk of their time—at school.



“I feel like I have made a difference and my life has been touched, not only because of something that I have given but what she’s given me too.” – Mentor

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE:

248
Mentor/Mentee Matches

52
New Matches

14
Mentor Welcome
Breakfasts

Over 200
Guests at our
“Thank You”
Mentor Event

250
Attendees at the
End of the Year
Celebration

Nearly 10,000
Hours of
Mentoring!



HUMAN
SERVICES
COUNCIL

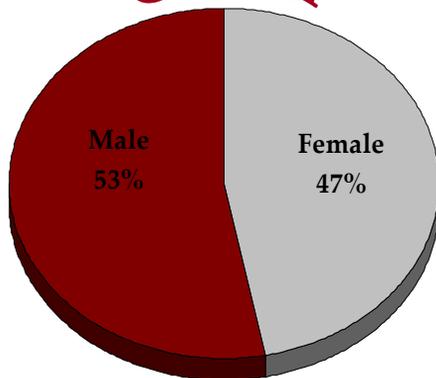
Program Highlights

Established in 1986, the Norwalk Mentor Program was the first school based mentoring program in the country. We serve students in grades K through 12, at all 19 Norwalk Public Schools. During the 2013-2014 school year, **92%** of our mentees were from minority groups and **76%** were eligible for free or reduced price lunch. **65%** of our matches have been together for more than 2 years.

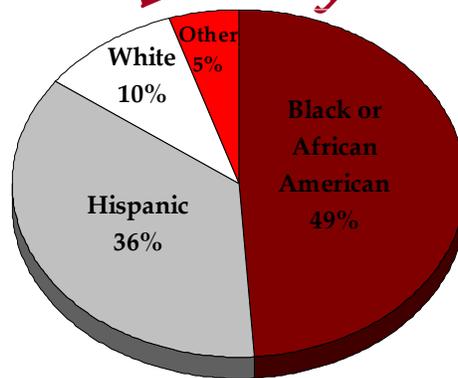


Mentee Demographics

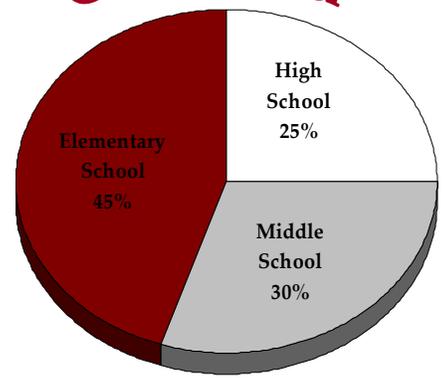
Gender



Ethnicity



Grade Level



"I learned that you can live a better life if you're a good kid and do your work." -Middle School mentee

How do Mentees Feel?

Mentees were asked to fill out year-end evaluations, reflecting on their mentoring relationship.



100% responded that they are happy and enjoy spending time with their mentor!

"My mentor listens to me." -Elementary School mentee

Support:

Mentees feel there are adults who care about them and will help them out if needed.

99%



Positive Identity:

Mentees feel more confident in themselves, what they can do, and the choices they make.

99%



Empowerment:

Mentees feel valued and like they have a positive future ahead of them.

97%



Social Competence:

Mentees feel able to get along better with others and make good decisions in social situations.

93%



Commitment to Learning:

Mentees report a better attitude toward school and schoolwork, which produces better test scores.

93%



Boundaries & Expectations:

Mentees feel they are more responsible individuals who have high expectations of themselves.

89%



Constructive Use of Time:

Mentees have developed more interests and are involved in more positive activities, both in and out of school.

89%



"The things that I learned with my mentor are that respecting others is important and people have feelings just like me." -Middle School mentee

What is the School Staff Seeing?

Social Workers and other school staff completed evaluation forms regarding our mentees. Here's what they observed this year in students who had a mentor:

84% Have improved attitudes toward school and are making more of an effort to participate in class

80% Are better able to express their feelings

80% Get along better with peers

79% Make better decisions, being better able to think ahead about the consequences of their behavior

"He is less inattentive and more focused on learning, since being matched with a mentor." -Elementary School social worker



"Her motivation has improved." - Elementary School social worker

What About the Mentors?

The Norwalk Mentor Program is grateful to its volunteer mentors for giving time and attention to their mentees. Results from the 2014 Mentor Survey show positive changes they have noticed:

98%

Believe their mentees feel more sure of themselves and have a more positive view of their future

97%

Think their mentees feel there are more adults who care about them and are willing to help them

85%

See their mentees getting along better with others

85%

See their mentees have a better attitude towards school

"We went through a few tough stretches early on, but I never once thought about giving up on mentoring. He was reluctant to trust those who might ultimately desert him. I hope that he now feels better about committing to a relationship and feeling that they can be long lasting."

-Mentor to a Middle School student

"Kids respond to whatever you give them (love, kindness, concern) and it comes back to you. No matter what environment a child comes from they can excel if given an opportunity. My goal is to help make that opportunity a reality."

-Mentor to a Middle School student



"Working with a student, particularly one who looks forward to our time together with no other expectation, is very rewarding." -Mentor to an Elementary School student

What are the Parents Saying?

With over 248 parents whose children were paired with mentors this year, many of them have seen positive changes in their children's lives. Results from the 2014 Parent/Guardian Survey show positive changes parents have noticed in their children at home and in school. Here are some of the changes parents are seeing:

At Home

80% Seem better behaved at home

80% Get along better with siblings

88% Get along better with friends

84% Feel better about themselves

85% Seem happier

In School

87% Seem better behaved at school

90% Do better in school

81% Have a better attitude about school

90% Have better school attendance

83% Work harder on their homework

100% of parents say their child enjoys the time spent with his or her mentor!

"His attitude has changed completely."
-Parent

"My child looks forward to seeing her mentor. She comes home excited when she has been with her mentor!"
-Parent

85% of parents have met their child's mentor at least once at school or at a NMP event.



How Well Did Mentees Transition?

Mentees who transitioned to 6th grade during 2013-14 school year did quite well overall. Some did better than others academically, but with the support of their mentor they adjusted well to their schools. The following are some quotes from mentors:

"She transitioned to middle school seamlessly and seems happier than ever. She won several awards of the 'good citizenship' type. Her grades are average and I believe that she is trying her best. She has friends and a cheerful attitude about the future." -Mentor to a Nathan Hale 6th grader

"My mentee is doing fairly well. He seems more settled, socially and academically. He tells me 'kids like me here', which brings joy to my heart! He has matured and seems to like his teachers. Seems in many ways a better fit than elementary school." -Mentor to a Roton 6th grader

The transition from 8th grade to high school proved to be more of a challenge for a couple of the mentees. The following mentor quotes address some of their difficulties:

"He showed me two science quizzes that he got A's on!! This is the first time he has shown me a test where he received an A. I asked how he did it and he said, 'I studied.' I reminded him how smart he was and urged him to keep up the good work." -Mentor to a Brien McMahon High School 9th grader

"My mentee appears to be struggling quite a bit. He really has never developed sound study habits. This made his academics challenging in middle school but has made high school academics extremely difficult." -Mentor to a Norwalk High School 9th grader

In response to the challenges we have seen with the transition to high school, this year's 8th graders were offered the opportunity and encouraged by their mentors to enroll in a summer program to help them transition more smoothly.

All 10 senior mentees received a \$2,000 scholarship to use towards higher education.

Thank You!

The Norwalk Mentor Program is most appreciative for all the support received during the 2013-2014 school year!

From our funders:

AT&T

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TD Bank Foundation

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Xerox Foundation

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