

Norwalk Mentor Program Welcomes New Director

by Tom Renner Schools 6 hours ago Comment



Nancy Pratt is the new director of the Norwalk Mentor Program. Photo Credit: *Contributed*

NORWALK, Conn. -- The Norwalk Mentor Program, kicks off its 28th year with its annual "Back to School Breakfasts" and a new leader.

Nancy Pratt joins the program as its new director. Pratt has helped recruit mentors for the program the last four years as Outreach Coordinator of RSVP of Southern Connecticut.

The mentoring program is run by the Human Services Council in partnership with the Norwalk Public Schools. The breakfasts will occur over the next few weeks.

Pratt is excited about her new role. "I have been impressed for many years by the work of the Human Services Council," Pratt said. "Moving into the position as Director of the Norwalk Mentor Program is an honor, and I look forward to assisting the program to grow, in the hope that we can find mentors for all the deserving children in Norwalk's public schools."

Pratt will be trained by Susan Weinberger, founder of the Norwalk Mentor Program. "I am thrilled with the opportunity to work with the new program director who has outstanding credentials," Weinberger said. "I am totally confident this wonderful program will reach even greater heights as we work to meet the needs of young people through supportive mentors."

Established in 1986, the Norwalk Mentor Program is the longest running and one of the most acclaimed school-based mentoring programs in the country. The program's original premise remains constant today — matching students with positive adult role models makes a significant

difference in the lives of those students served.

The program coordinates a structured one-on-one relationship between a student and adult volunteer. This unique approach provides participants in grades K-12 with an adult who can meet them for one hour per week during the school year and engage in academic and/or social activities conducive to the school setting.

The longer a child is matched with a caring mentor in the program, the greater the impact on that child's life. More than 65 percent of mentoring matches have been together more than two years. Last year alone, the program recorded 11,340 hours of mentoring.

This year's breakfasts are sponsored by FactSet Research Systems Inc., a longstanding supporter of the program.

The Human Services Council creates and operates programs that educate, safeguard and empower the people of our communities. For more information on the Norwalk Mentor Program and the Human Services Council visit www.hscct.org.