



Mentoring Program



*A program of the
Sacramento County Probation Department in
partnership with Youth Connections Unlimited*

The Mentoring Program is a highly effective preventative program of the Sacramento County Probation Department. It is a program for both male and female young people at risk. However the typical young person involved is a 9 to 14 year old male who has no father or any other positive male role model in his life. The mentor usually has contact with the young person for a few hours every few weeks.



We find that many of the young people appreciate being with their mentor and being involved in whatever activity is appropriate. This could be anything from sports and entertainment to helping with practical jobs around the house. The response from the young person is usually immediate and positive, effecting both behavior and school grades.

Becoming a mentor with the Sacramento County Probation Department involves a finger print background check, personal references, orientation and training.

For those who work for the State of California there is an added advantage. The State will match hour for hour of paid time for mentoring for every hour that is voluntary, up to 40 hours a year.



Our records show that less than 5% of the young people, who have had a mentor, get into any trouble at all. National statistics show that 98% of young people who have a mentor do not affiliate with gangs or drop out of school.

A Parent's Response:

I just want to take a moment to express deep gratitude for having such a program in place to help children like mine.

I am doing all that I can to ensure the best outcome for my seemingly troubled sons, but I felt really hopeless and at a loss until I came to the Neighborhood Alternative Center. I know that as this program remains a part of the community, our troubled children will have an opportunity to rub shoulders with successful, caring people and therefore have a better chance of making it through the challenging teenage years.

-A Single Mother

"Having a mentor makes you more manly"

-Nine year old boy

The teen that I mentor has become a part of my family. I enjoy hanging out with him immensely doing all kinds of projects, going to the arcade, riding my motorcycle, etc. The only way I can explain it would be that hanging out with him is not a burden nor does it cause any worries, he is such a blessing and a lot of fun to hang out with. This program has truly changed my life as well.

- John Alphson, Mentor

"I should have had a mentor a long time ago. Now with John, I get free food, rides on his motorcycle, arcades and barbeques someone to go to church with and someone to bug. Also someone to hangout with that is a good example"

- Fourteen year old teen

A Parent's Response:

It has been over a year since my son has been caught stealing or fire setting. He made a decision to make changes in his life and the out come has been a year of excellent behavior. He has been so good that it has been down right scary. Having a mentor has helped me because my son needed a positive adult male in his life. The mentor can talk and understand him as only a man can. As a woman I just don't get it. He no longer seems angry all the time. His teacher has noticed a big change in him also.

- Lori Petrone, Single Mother



For any further questions or information

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