



YouthFriends®

Mentors Make Great People Possible

Investing In Youth...One Organization at a Time

YouthFriends connects young people, K-12, with caring adult volunteers in schools to give them a better chance to succeed.

In the Greater Kansas City area, nearly 40,000 young people need or want a mentor but do not have one. That unmet need constitutes what is called the “mentoring gap.” YouthFriends is a nationally recognized school-based mentoring program that is working closely with businesses and school districts to narrow that gap. Currently, nearly 13,000 local youth in 30 school districts and charter schools have a YouthFriends mentor.

Science-based evaluations conclude that students in a YouthFriends relationship have a higher level of community and school-connectedness, improved academic achievement and higher aspirations for the future. School staff and parents report improved student behavior and attitudes, improved interaction with adults and peers, improved attendance and improvements in overall happiness.

Ways to Get Involved

Host an informational meeting.

Organizations can play a role in YouthFriends recruitment efforts. Invite YouthFriends to make a presentation at an upcoming meeting.

Become an organizational partner.

Organizational partners promote YouthFriends and encourage members to volunteer. One hour a week, usually a lunch hour, is all it takes for your members to make a big difference in a child’s life. One-to-one, group or e-mentoring options are available.

Partner with a nearby school.

Your organization can request to partner with a specific school or YouthFriends can help you connect with one in your area. Members can volunteer individually or as a team.

Become a financial supporter.

Your organization’s financial support allows YouthFriends to uphold the highest standards in volunteer management. Contributions cover recruiting, screening, training, placing and managing new volunteers.

Become an organizational sponsor.

Underwrite one of YouthFriends programs or events.

What’s Your Idea?

Target your mentoring to your organization’s goals or skills (science, technology, engineering or math, to name a few).