

# **F**AMILY COURT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY



## ***WHAT IS A MENTOR?***

A Mentor is an adult, (21 years of age or older) who is willing to listen, give support, and spend quality time with a youth age 12-16 on a regular basis. Through demonstration, instruction, and encouragement, a Mentor works with the youth to develop their self-esteem, positive attitudes, and socially appropriate behaviors.

## ***WHY SHOULD I BECOME A MENTOR?***

Today's youth in particular are in desperate need of positive role models. The Family Court has recognized the value and need for positive role model interaction with adolescents who are under the Court's supervision. By becoming a Mentor, you can help a young person make a successful transition into adulthood and become a productive member of society.

## ***WHAT DOES A MENTOR DO?***

As a Mentor, you will be paired with a youth based upon shared interests, proximity, and gender. Mentors spend at least 8 hours per month with their youth. The Mentor and the youth work towards completing personal goals that the Court and youth have set. Each Mentor is expected to maintain a contact log that is reviewed by program staff. Mentors receive specialized training and support from program staff on a regular basis.

The Court provides two group activities per month for both the Mentor and youth to attend. Such activities might include attending sporting events and theme parks, doing homework, horseback riding or going to a local museum. Some program expenses are reimbursed.

Monthly Mentor Program Meetings are mandatory. They provide an additional opportunity for Mentors and youth to share their experiences with each other.

## ***HOW DO I BECOME A MENTOR?***

The application process includes an interview with the Mentor Program staff, a commitment of one year of service, six references, county, state, and federal record checks, child abuse/neglect screen, and a personality inventory.

Mentors will be required to attend orientation training, be sworn-in by the Administrative Judge of the Family Court, and receive a picture ID.

If you are interested in becoming a Mentor, the Mentor Program staff can be contacted at (314) 615-4400.

## ***COMMENTS FROM DEPUTY JUVENILE OFFICERS***

*"The Mentor has had a positive effect on my client. He has improved in school to the point where school officials commented on his positive behavior." Joyce*

## ***COMMENTS FROM KIDS***

*"My Mentor has been respectful towards me, he is a good listener and a good person. I think he really cares about me. He always encourages me to do the right thing. He is always there when I need him." Mario*

## ***COMMENTS FROM MENTORS:***

*"As a Mentor, I have received much more than I have been able to give. The satisfaction derived from watching the changes in the kids is truly terrific!" Harold*

**REAL PEOPLE COMMITTING  
TO  
REAL SOLUTIONS  
FOR KIDS**