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Moab Happenings

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Section B

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January is National Mentoring Month; The Perfect Time to Become a Mentor

by Program Staff

Select Moab children meet with mentors each week. Together, they do arts and crafts, play sports, talk, and form a caring bond that lasts for years. The relationship is the intervention. Mentored youth earn better grades, attend school more regularly, and get along better with others. And 100% of parents report that their children are happier since being matched with a mentor.

A teacher recently said: “I think having someone special who they can connect with makes all the difference. It allows them to be seen and feel understood and loved by somebody. They have positive role models outside their family.”



Twelve young people are now waiting to be matched with a mentor in Moab. They naturally recognize the need for adult support. The program focuses on creating new matches in elementary school. Mentors matriculate with their mentees for years. Currently, the average match endures for almost five years. Youth graduate from mentoring when they earn a diploma or when they feel confident they can cut back on weekly meetings.

A sixth grader reflected: “Mentoring feels great, it feels like I always have a person to talk to. He’s basically like a father to me. He gives me lessons in life. He tells me what I have to work on in basketball, and we usually just get along. I always feel hyped to go.”

And a ninth grader said: “We talk about life, growing up, career choices. Sometimes she pushes me out of my comfort zone, but that’s needed. She encourages me to talk to people. With her insights and stories she tells me, I learn how to talk to other people.”

Grand Area Mentoring will offer a no-obligation New Mentor Orientation on January 31st, 5-7pm, at Margaret Hopkin Middle School. The training will cover volunteer roles, helpful tips, and best practices. Program director Daniel McNeil says, “This is an opportunity to find out if the rewarding commitment of mentoring will fit into your life. We’re very low pressure. It needs to be a good fit for everyone.”

Mentors report benefits too. They enjoy learning new skills, getting to know the schools, meeting new people, and a meaningful connection with a young person. Many relationships created over the 19 years the program have continued to flourish. Mentors and mentees report texting and meeting as adult peers.



“If you want a volunteer position that makes a difference in your life and the community, mentoring is pure gold,” said McNeil. “Please join us on January 31st to learn how you can be a part of this powerful movement.”

New Mentor Orientation

January 31st, 5-7pm

Margaret Hopkin Middle School

Pizza dinner provided



GRAND AREA MENTORING

MOAB'S HERO HEADQUARTERS

Be a mentor • (435) 260-9646



RSVP to grandareamentoring@gmail.com or (435) 260-9646.