



Mentoring Addresses a Need

Youth at risk for delinquency and youthful offenders typically do not have regular access to adults who can offer continuing long-term prosocial role modeling.



Mentor: a Greek word meaning wise and trusted guide and advisor

Characteristics of a Successful Mentoring Program

- √ Provides an infrastructure that fosters and supports the development of effective relationships
- √ Provide thorough screening and training of mentors
- √ One on one relationship between a period of unrelated individuals, one adult and one juvenile, which takes place on a regular basis over an extended period of time.
- √ High level of contact, including telephone calls between personal visits.
- √ The main role of mentor is to be friend to the child and offer support and is *not* to explicitly change the youth's behavior or character

Mentoring Fits into a Continuum

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) *Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent and Chronic Juvenile Offenders* addresses a research-based framework of strategic responses to juvenile delinquency. Focus is on the continuum from prevention to aftercare, and incorporates accountability and appropriate graduated sanctions. Components along the continuum include activities and programs that involve and protect the community. Several OJJDP initiatives support the *Comprehensive Strategy*. *SafeFutures* is a 5-year demonstration project that fits in with the principles of the *Comprehensive Strategy*. Its design is to test the development and implementation of a continuum of care for at-risk and delinquent youth and their families as a way to prevent and control juvenile crime and

victimization. The *Balanced and Restorative Justice* (BARJ) initiative balances public safety, accountability and competency development in youth.

It takes into account the needs of the victims and the community while offering the juvenile, who must take responsibility for the crime, opportunities to make amends. **Mentoring** can be integrated into these initiatives at any point in the continuum. It provides positive adult relationships to children in any of the settings

for children at risk for entering the system or who have already committed a crime. **Mentoring** can provide the key ingredient to help many children have the opportunity to bond with an adult who can give them the support and encouragement they have been lacking.

Quotable Quotes

"...you can serve your country by tutoring or mentoring a child..."—President Bush in a televised address to the nation on November 8, 2001

"Adults who devote their time can make a huge difference in the lives of young people...in addition to helping with academic and social skills, mentors give youth the message that they are important and have something to contribute."—Hillary Clinton

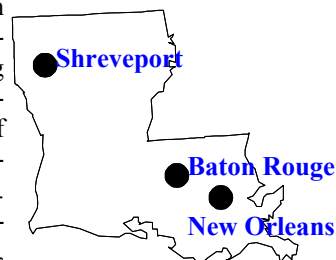
Well-known Mentoring Program Shows Success

Contrary to earlier studies, more recent evaluation of eight Big Brother/Big Sister JUMP sites identified noteworthy results:

- ✓ Mentored youth were 46 percent less likely than controls to initiate drug use during the study period. Minority youth were 70 percent less likely to initiate drug use than similar minority youth.
- ✓ Mentored youth were almost one-third less likely than were controls to hit someone
- ✓ Mentored youth were 27 percent less likely than were controls to initiate alcohol use during the study period, and minority girls in the program were only about one-half as likely to initiate alcohol use.
- ✓ Mentored youth had better quality relationships with their parents, particularly for white boys.
- ✓ Mentored youth skipped half as many days of school as control youth, felt more competent about doing schoolwork, skipped fewer classes, and showed modest gains in their grade point averages, especially among minority girls.
- ✓ Mentored youth, especially minority boys, had improved relationships with their peers.
- ✓ Adult friendship, over time, was the primary contributor to these results.

JUMP Sites in Louisiana

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention established a new delinquency prevention program—the Juvenile Mentoring Program (JUMP) which provides funding to eligible programs who provide one-to-one mentoring for youth at risk of delinquency, gang involvement, educational failure, or dropping out of school. JUMP Grantees nationwide encountered and addressed barriers to success, which led to evaluation results indicating program success. The three JUMP sites in Louisiana are shown on the map.



Best Practices Models

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Northwest Florida, Pensacola, FL. BBBS affiliate in Southeast using corporate mentors.

City of Madison Mentoring Program, Madison, WI. Works with youth in two high-risk neighborhoods.

Project RAISE, Baltimore, MD. Enrolled 90 youth in second grade and is following them until high school graduation.

St. John Baptist Church Mentoring Program, Columbia, MD. Church-based project for African American males.

Valley Youth Foundation, San Jacinto, CA. Recreation center-based project.

Virginia Department of Correctional Education, Richmond, VA. Provides mentors to youth in two of Virginia's residential correctional facilities.

One Hundred Black Men, Inc., NY. Non-profit organization of men who aim to improve the quality of life for blacks and other minorities through mentors.

