



PROGRAM FACTS

MISSION: Chaffee County Mentors is committed to providing youth guidance, support, and friendship through positive mentoring relationships.

HISTORY: Chaffee County Mentors was founded in 2003 through a collaboration of Chaffee County Health & Human Services, Build a Generation, and Salida & Buena Vista School Districts. In 2006, we joined forces with Nurturing Parenting and Youth@Crossroads to form Family & Youth Initiatives (FYI), a branch of Chaffee County Health & Human Services dedicated to prevention programming.

Chaffee County Mentors currently runs three community-based mentoring programs.

Potential volunteers should consider which of the following programs interests them the most.

TRADITIONAL MENTORING: Modeled after *Big Brothers Big Sisters of America*, Traditional Mentoring provides one-on-one friendships to approximately 40 local youth ages 7 to 15. Volunteer adult mentors meet with referred youth 3 to 4 times a month and serve as positive role models, supporters, and advocates. Youth are referred by teachers, counselors, social workers, and other youth professionals and may be facing challenges academically, socially, or economically. Volunteer mentors must have a genuine interest in young people and are encouraged to join us on our free monthly group activities with their mentees. Individuals and couples may mentor a youth. Volunteers who are not mentors support the program as Activity Volunteers.

FAMILY TO FAMILY MENTORING: Youth are supported best when parents feel supported and empowered. Family to Family mentoring, started in 2007, matches adult volunteers who have raised or are raising kids with parents who want the support of another family. Volunteers must have the desire to walk along side another family through life's challenges and be able to commit to 2 to 3 contacts per month for a year.

MENTORS PLUS: Mentors Plus was initiated in 2008 as an additional intervention for youth ages 14 to 18 who are already involved in a higher level of support in our community (such as Youth@Crossroads, Probation, or Health & Human Services). Each youth is matched with a mentor with previous experience working with adolescents and who is able to spend up to 6 hours per week with their mentee for a commitment of 9 to 12 months. Mentors+ are compensated for their time and collaborate with parents/schools/therapists/caseworkers/probation officers and others to work towards mutually agreed upon goals. Mentors Plus is managed by Menessah Nelson - (719)539-8659.

FOR ALL MENTORING PROGRAMS . . .

Matches are made based on the mentee's needs, mutual preferences and interests, personalities, and location. An introduction meeting ("match day") is held at the mentee's home with Mentor Program Staff available to answer questions and introduce mentor, mentee, and family members.

After the match is made, Program Staff offer continuous support by keeping regular contact with all parties and being available for any questions or concerns.

Mentor Requirements:

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Complete an application including personal references
- Complete background screening, personal interview, and pre-match training
- Be open to learning and have a desire to support youth and families
- Commit to the program for at least one year

There are additional requirements for Mentors Plus – Call Menessah Nelson (719-539-8659) for more info.

Benefits of Mentoring: Free group activities and mentor development opportunities, coupons to local businesses for activities with mentee, appreciation dinners for volunteers, the satisfaction of helping local youth

P.O. Box 2027 Buena Vista, CO 81211 719-395-7006 719-395-7007(f)
124 East 2nd St. Salida, CO 81201 719-539-2630 719-539-3537 (f)

www.chaffeementors.org