

The Mentoring Project

Of the Upper Valley

November 15, 2015

Brian Hanson, Town Administrator
Town of Fairlee VT
PO Box 95
Fairlee, VT 05045

Dear Brian,

The Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley would like to request a 2016 allocation from the Town of Fairlee, in the same amount as was received in the past three years -- \$500. As you requested, I have also enclosed our Annual Report as well as our 2015 Financial Report.

This year has been a successful one; with the support of our local towns, area businesses and funding sources our level of services has been maintained and sustained. Our vision is to increase our level of services in the coming year. To that end, we are seeking new volunteer mentors and we are also seeking a representative from Fairlee to serve on our volunteer Advisory Board. Hopefully our Annual Report will inspire some caring Fairlee residents to respond to the need.

Please let me know if there are any questions or concerns about The Mentoring Project, or about this request.

With Sincere Appreciation,

Nancy Jones, Program Coordinator



Our Mission is to encourage self-confidence and academic growth among children & adolescents by creating mutually beneficial relationships with responsible adult volunteers.

SARAH SWIFT,
PRESIDENT

DAVE COOK,
VICE PRESIDENT

FRED CLEMENTS
TREASURER

DREW PERRY,
DIRECTOR

KATHY GARONE,
DIRECTOR

CRYSTAL
MCCULLOUGH,
DIRECTOR

PENNY SIRJANE,
DIRECTOR

NANCY JONES
PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

The Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley

Our **Mission** is to encourage self-confidence and academic growth among children and adolescents by creating mutually beneficial relationships with responsible adult volunteers.

The Mentoring Project (TMP) is a community-based mentoring program that matches responsible adult volunteers with a young person living in the Greater Bradford Area who is seeking a mentor. Together they commit to spending at least five hours per month together engaging in wholesome and sometimes challenging activities for at least one year. TMP's ultimate vision is that each mentoring relationship will last through the mentee's high school graduation. The Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley has the distinction of having the highest retention rate of mentors and mentees of any mentoring program in the State of Vermont.

TMP strives to achieve the following measurable **benchmarks** while carrying out our activities:

- **Resiliency** – refers to the ability of a young mentee to “bounce back” from a hard time or disappointment and to learn from that experience;
- **Connectedness to Community** – involves a young mentee's sense of belonging – in the Mentoring Program Community, as well as in the greater community;
- **Future Aspirations** – the mentor encourages the mentee to believe in his/her ability to succeed and to pursue higher education or a career that interests him or her;
- **Pro-Social Skills** – TMP mentors explore problem-solving options and conflict resolution skills with a young mentee to enable him/her to resolve issues without resorting to violent words or behaviors.

TMP has one part-time paid staff member and is governed and guided by an Advisory Board, which currently includes: Sarah Swift, President; Dave Cook, Vice President; Fred Clements, Treasurer; and Drew Perry, Crystal McCullough, Penny Sirjane and Kathy Garone, Directors. The Advisory Board guides the activities of the program and oversees the budget, which out of necessity includes local fund-raising. In 2015 four fund-raising activities were pursued: Our Annual Appeal; Food Vendor at Copeland's Tent Sale; Golf Tournament and Raffle; and Corinth Coffee House. Financial support comes from Mobius – VT's Statewide Mentoring Partnership, which requires the programs under its umbrella to raise matching funds. The towns of Bradford, Newbury, Corinth and Fairlee allocated small grants to TMP in 2015. Other generous support came from the Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation, the Hypertherm Hope Foundation and Wells River Savings Bank.

In addition to Mentors and Mentees engaging in individual activities and assisting with fund-raising events, four group activities took place in 2015 that were designed to foster the above-mentioned benchmarks: A graduation party was held at Lake Tarleton that included kayaking and a cook-out; apple-picking at Wild Hill Orchards and cider-pressing at a mentor's home in Thetford Center; a technology road trip to visit Hypertherm and Dartmouth Printing to learn about technical processes there and about careers in those technologies (this trip also included lunch at Village Pizza in Lebanon, NH); an end-of -the year pizza party for parents and families at Colatina Exit.

In addition to introductory training that was provided to mentors before being matched with a young person, two formal mentor trainings were offered to mentors in 2015: “Goal-Setting With Your Mentee” was led by Sarah Caliente of the Regional DREAM Mentoring Program; and “How to Recognize Child Abuse and Neglect and How to Report It” was presented by Prevent Child Abuse Vermont.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Swift, President and Nancy Jones, Program Coordinator

Consider becoming a mentor. Visit www.mentoringprojectuv.org for an application.

2015 Financial Report The Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley

INCOME SOURCES	PERCENT OF INCOME	TOTAL INCOME
Federal	0%	-----
Mobius-VT Mentoring Partnership State	27%	\$6,100
(including Bradford, Newbury, Fairlee, Corinth) Local Towns	12%	\$3,000
United Way	0%	-----
Fundraising	26%	\$5,781
Other: Byrne Foundation	21%	\$5,000
Hypertherm Foundation	11%	\$2,500
Other: WRSB, WGSB	3%	\$750
TOTAL	\$100%	\$23,131
EXPENDITURES	2015* BUDGETED	2015* ACTUAL EXPENSES
Personnel	\$ 9,800	\$ 8,238
Insurance/Rent/Utilities	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,590
Fundraising/promtion Costs	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,645
Other: <u>phone</u>	\$ 828	\$ 790
Other: <u>Mileage</u>	\$ 750	\$ 653
Other Postage	\$ 400	\$ 387
Other Supplies	\$1,400	\$ 1,118
Other Activities	\$1,600	\$ 1,422
Other Screening/Training	\$ 450	\$ 377
TOTAL	\$22,228	\$19,220

*2015 is not completed at the time of this report.