

The Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley (TMP) 2017 Year in Review

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

2017 was a Year for TMP Milestones.

- 1) The number of Mentor/Mentee matches was increased by 27% !
- 2) TMP earned the distinction of a Quality Mentoring Service by fulfilling all the criteria for that status !
- 3) All volunteer Mentors completed two rigorous trainings:
 - a. Best Practices in Mentoring;
 - b. Recognizing and Preventing Child Abuse
- 4) Annual Evaluation Survey Results: 100% of Parents surveyed were very pleased with their child's experiences with his/her Mentor; 85% of Mentees surveyed felt that having a Mentor had made a difference in their lives; 100% of Mentors surveyed said they would recommend being a Mentor to their friends.

Community Service Activities:

- 1) On Martin Luther King National Day of Service, Mentors & Mentees cooked lunch for residents in the Adult Shelter and made snacks for the After-School Program at the Upper Valley Haven.
- 2) In May, Mentors & Mentees groomed a trail on Wrights MT.

Group Activities:

- January – Lunch at the Lebanon Village Pizza, followed by swimming at Upper Valley Aquatics and crafts at Tip Top Pottery; *“The Eagle Huntress”* movie at the Hopkins Center
- February - Sliding Party and cook-out on the sliding hill of a Mentor
- March - Visit to Limlaw's Pulp Chipping and Maple Sugar House
- Summer - Pontoon Boat cruise on the Connecticut River provided by a Mentor
- Fall – NESFEST at North East Slopes; Apple Picking at Wild Hill Orchards & Pressing Cider; Corinth Coffee House Benefit
- December – Annual Pizza Party for Parents & Families at Colatina Exit with Marko the Magician

Individual Activities: *(Mentors provide new experiences for their Mentees to boost their confidence and broaden their horizons. See below for an incomplete list.)*

Bowling at Room 111; Movies at the Nugget Theater; Rock Climbing at the Green MT Rock Climbing Center; Concerts at Court Street Arts; VINS; Montshire Museum; Strawberry Picking; Gardening at the Bradford Community Garden; Drama Productions at Old Church Theater; Art Classes at Catamount Arts; Ice Skating on Lake Morey; Snow Shoeing along the Connecticut River; Solar Eclipse Party at the Fairbanks Museum; Farm Tour at McLam's Farm; Volunteer Ushering at the Hopkins Center; Kayaking in Paddle the Border; Kayaking, swimming and ice fishing at Hall's Lake; visiting the Fish Hatchery in Warren; Bradford Historical Society presentation on WW1; Playing Basketball at Always Fit; Easter Egg Hunt in Newbury; Gardin Brothers Circus in Barre; Polar Caves ;Hiking on Black Mountain; Renaissance Fair in Thetford; St. Johnsbury Athenaeum; snacks at Whippi Dip, the Local Buzz, Newbury Village Store, Bliss Store and other eateries

TMP's Over-Arching Goal is to sustain the Mentor/Mentee relationships through the Mentee's High School Graduation. To that end, monitoring and support of each match is provided to enhance the success of the relationship.

TMP Board Members, Staff, Mentors, Mentees and Parents are grateful for the support we've received in 2017 from individuals, venues, organizations, businesses and Towns.

Kathy Garone, TMP Board President

Nancy Jones, TMP Program Coordinator

