



Mentoring Program

Helping build positive social relationships



The mentoring program teams individuals served (mentees) by Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services with mentors from the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission (CHRC).

Mentees are those who are at risk for entering the criminal justice system. The goal is to build positive relationships that will prevent individuals from entering the criminal justice system. Mentors meet with mentees once a week or more, and engage in a combination of activities that help mentees practice healthy behaviors within a positive social relationship.

Mentors are unique adults who have learned from their mistakes and can teach those at risk.



Beliefs and Goals

- Mentees can become stronger by helping others
- Sharing stories helps others understand the power and importance of mentoring
- Reduce recidivism rates among individuals with developmental disabilities
- Give recognition in a variety of ways to mentees for taking positive steps to change their lives
- Mentees and mentors build skills around self-esteem, parenting and trauma-informed care

What Mentees Say

- “I’m celebrating a full year of being out of jail. That hasn’t happened in a long time.”
- “I graduated from high school with support from my mentor.”
- “I get help on making better decisions and helping with positive direction.”

What Mentors Say

- “He’s one of mine. I’ve gained a son.”
- “She called me the other day for no reason other than to say, ‘I love you.’”
- “He’s taking a stand with the old gang.”

Contact Alva Means, (513) 559-6694 or Alva.Means@hamiltondds.org, or Althea Barnett, (513) 352-2498 or Althea.Barnett@cincinnati-oh.gov, to learn more about the mentoring program.

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