

MENTOR MICHIGAN DIRECTORY

KENT COUNTY

This listing for Kent County is organized first by programs that serve the entire county, and second by programs serving a specific city within this county. The cities are listed alphabetically.

COUNTY-WIDE

Arbor Circle Mentoring Services

Janelle Burden
Arbor Circle
1115 Ball Ave NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505
Phone: (616) 451-3001
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Email: jbunden@arborcircle.org

Program Description:

Arbor Circle Mentoring Services assists at-risk youth through asset development, skill building, and community service opportunities. Youth ages 10 through 20 are paired one-on-one with caring, supportive, and positive adult volunteers who make a difference in the lives of the youth they serve. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a one year commitment, which involves three to four hours per week at a time that is convenient for the mentor and mentee.

ExperienceSeniorPower.com

Tony Fama
Maria Madeline Project, Inc.
24630 Scotia Boulevard
Oak Park, Michigan 48237
Phone: (248) 398-6438
Fax: (248) 692-0391
Email: tony.fama@experienceseniorpower.com

Program Description:

Through ExperienceSeniorPower.com, children and senior citizens learn computer and job skills together. Children receive an adult role model through these "adoptive grandparent" relationships and seniors have the opportunity to contribute their life experience and knowledge. This program includes one-on-one, group, team, and e-mentoring activities. Senior volunteers are expected to make a one year commitment during morning, afternoon, or weekend hours.

Heart of West Michigan United Way Volunteer Center

Jane Royer, Community Service Director

118 Commerce Avenue SW

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Phone: (616) 752-8603

Fax: (616) 459-8460

Email: jroyer@unitedwaycares.com

Program Description:

Volunteer Centers recruit, train, and place volunteers in nonprofit organizations throughout their service area. They are inclusive, serving all nonprofits and residents—they do not limit their service to a particular issue, group of people, or type of activity. Michigan's Volunteer Centers are all prepared to assist mentors find organizations where they can volunteer. Volunteer Centers often take a leadership position in convening organizations and individuals to find solutions to complex community issues. They live their belief that people enrich their own lives and strengthen their communities through volunteer service.

Kent County Foster Grandparent & Traveling Grannie

Peggy Lawrence Burns

Gerontology Network

516 Cherry Street SE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Phone: (616) 771-9749

Fax: (616) 771-9767

Email: pburns@michiganseniors.org

Program Description:

Foster Grandparent and Traveling Grannies/Grandpas Programs provide partnerships with schools and community organizations to help enhance youth and family development. They support intergenerational programming that builds relationships between seniors (60+ years) and youth (ages six – 19). Activities take place at school, during after school activities, and in the youths' homes. The mentors help with homework, address behavioral problems, promote self-esteem, and discuss issues and concerns which may lead to substance abuse or criminal behavior. They also provide guidance on making positive lifestyle choices and help youth approach conflict in a positive and productive manner. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a one year commitment, which involves 20 hours per week during morning, afternoon, and after school hours. Volunteers may be eligible for a stipend.

Michigan Youth Leadership Forum

William Milzarski
320 North Washington Square, Suite 250
Lansing, Michigan 48913
Phone: (877) 499-6232
Fax: (877) 499-6232
Email: MilzarskiW@Michigan.gov
www.MYLF.org

Program Description:

The Michigan Youth Leadership Forum involves 35 high school students that have disabilities. The students are integrated with other students and adults with disabilities to learn leadership, social skills, and citizenship. The program involves one-on-one, team, and peer mentoring and takes place during one week during the summer. The program is managed by the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns. Volunteers are expected to commit to one full week in the summer and follow up activities.

Scholastic Achievement Program

Angelika Jones
Metropolitan Certified Teachers Association, LLC
6841 Edgeton
Detroit, Michigan 48212
Phone: (313) 478-6684
Fax: (313) 365-5366
Email: themctaemail@aol.com
www.themcta.com

Program Description:

The Scholastic Achievement Program provides academic mentoring for failing school districts in Michigan. The program brings students and adults up to grade level in reading and math through one on one, group, team, peer, and e-mentoring. Additionally, we offer Life Coaching services for adults. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a one year commitment, which involves at least four to six hours per month during after school, evening, or weekend hours.

Zap Failing Grades

K. McClain
Power Zapper
11233 Russell
Plymouth, Michigan 48170
Phone: (734) 416-1460
Fax: (734) 416-1460
Email: kathypowerzapper@cs.com

Program Description:

Power Zapper is a School Success Achievement Program for students with failing grades. This time proven and tested program delivers a two out of three success rate for improvement in grades and school success. An organization, or individual(s) "adopts" a middle or high school. Working together with counselors and administration, they identify students who can benefit from group mentoring which takes place at the school. The mentors receive support through an orientation, series of workbooks, specific directives, and follow up support. There is a small cost for the training, workbooks, and follow up. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a three month commitment, which involves 30 minutes a week during school or after school hours.

GRAND RAPIDS

Baxter Community Center

Sharon LaChappelle

Mizizi Maji

895 Baxter SE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

Phone: (616) 456-8593

Fax: (616) 456-8595

Email: sharon_lachappelle@comcast.net

Program Description:

The Baxter Community Center mentoring program works with inner city middle and high school students to provide biweekly educational mentor/mentee meetings. Mentor matches are made as students and mentees come to know each other at the biweekly meetings. Usually a bond forms and it becomes clear that a particular mentor and mentee should be connected in a more formal manner. The program includes one-on-one, group, team, peer, and e-mentoring. In addition, tutoring sessions are held prior to the biweekly meetings. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a one year commitment, which involves eight hours per month usually during the evening hours.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Grand Rapids

Paul Miller

805 Leonard NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Phone: (616) 451-2021

Fax: (616) 774-0487

Email: bbbsgr@dablodgett.org

Program Description:

Big Brother Big Sister of Greater Grand Rapids matches volunteers who are high school age and older, with elementary and middle school children. Through community-based programs mentors and mentees meet two to three hours each week at a time that is convenient for both. Through school-based programs, mentors and mentees meet on school grounds for less than one hour each week. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a six month commitment, which involves one to four hours per week—depending upon the program.

Forest Hills Northern High School

S.H. Pete Rowe

3801 Leonard NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525

Phone: (616) 493-8600

Fax: (616) 493-8644

Email: srowe@fhps.k12.mi.us

Program Description:

Forest Hills Northern High School has a mentoring program to help 9th graders adjust to the challenging, often traumatic, high school environment. This is an informal and voluntary program for both mentors and mentees. Its goal is to provide students with a safe, comfortable, adult connection and to build character and confidence. Mentors make a connection with an assigned 9th grader and use that connection to convey a positive message. The long range goal is to have mentors develop relationships with students beyond their freshman year. An additional benefit has been that the mentees often become peer mentors. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a one year commitment. The amount of time and the day/time of meetings is flexible depending upon the needs of the mentee.

Grand Rapids Community College Service Learning

Martha Cox

143 Bostwick Ave. NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Phone: (616) 234-4162

Fax: (616) 234-3494

Email: mcox@grcc.edu

www.grcc.edu/ServiceLearning

Program Description:

The Grand Rapids Community College Service Learning program uses volunteers and federal work study students to mentor and tutor elementary school students in the Grand Rapids Public Schools. The one-on-one mentoring takes place during school hours. Volunteers are expected to make a three month commitment during the school year, which involves two to four hours per month.

Homework House

Dr. Bruce Roller
United Church Outreach Ministry
631 Hall SW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
Phone: (616) 241-4006
Fax: (616) 241-4006
Email: bruce.roller@ucomgr.org
www.ucomgr.org

Program Description:

Homework House recruits and trains primarily college-aged tutors to read, journal, and interact with elementary school children in inner-city Grand Rapids. Activities include group and e-mentoring. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a six month commitment, which involves one hour per week during afternoon or evening hours. Homework House is a program of United Church Outreach Ministry (UCOM) and agency of the United Church of Christ.

YES Mentoring Program

Becky Toth
Wedgwood Christian Services
3300 36th Street, SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49512
Phone: (616) 559-5812
Fax: (616) 281-6448
Email: btoth@wedgwood.org

Program Description:

The YES Mentoring Program is a church, community, and court partnership. Adult mentors serve as advocate and positive role models for youth ages nine through 17 involved in the Kent County juvenile justice system. Mentors provide support for youth and families as they progress through the court process and provide youth with a caring adult to help in their daily lives. One-on-one mentoring services are provided in a positive, preventative, proactive, and safe environment. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a one year commitment, which involves four to six hours per month during afterschool, evening, or weekend hours.

YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids

Richard Clanton
33 Library N.E
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
Phone: (616) 222-9622
Fax: (616) 222-9623
Email: rclanton@grymca.org
www.grymca.org

Program Description:

The YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids mentoring program provides endless opportunities for young African American middle and high school students. Positive role models work one-on-one with participants focusing on future employment and higher education. Field trips and workshops also help build the skills necessary to survive in today's marketplace. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a 40 week commitment, which involves two to four hours per week during evening or weekend hours.

Youth Enrichment Scholarship (YES!) Program

Ruth Bishop

Grand Rapids Community Foundation

161 Ottawa Avenue NW, #209-C

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Phone: (616) 454-1751

Fax: (616) 454-6455

Email: rbishop@grfoundation.org

www.grfoundation.org

Program Description:

The Youth Enrichment Scholarship Program matches students in 4th through 6th grades from select Grand Rapids Public Schools with a mentor. The students receive \$300 each year to choose summer enrichment experiences (day and overnight camps). Mentors work one-on-one with their mentee to help identify programs best suited for them, provide encouragement, and assist with transportation needs. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a two year commitment, which involves two to four hours per month during morning, afternoon, evening, or weekend hours.

GRANDVILLE

Homework House

Dr. Bruce Roller

United Church Outreach Ministry

631 Hall SW

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Phone: (616) 241-4006

Fax: (616) 241-4006

Email: bruce.roller@ucomgr.org

www.ucomgr.org

Program Description:

Homework House recruits and trains primarily college-aged tutors to read, journal, and interact with elementary school children in inner-city Grand Rapids. Activities include group and e-mentoring. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a six month commitment, which involves one hour per week during afternoon or evening hours. Homework House is a program of United Church Outreach Ministry (UCOM) and agency of the United Church of Christ.

KENTWOOD

Hamilton Elementary School

Peg Cramer
Kentwood Public Schools
3303 Breton Road
Kentwood, Michigan 49508
Phone: (616) 245-2203
Fax: (616) 245-3577
Email: peg.cramer@kentwoodps.org
<http://www.kentwoodps.org/>

Program Description:

The Hamilton Mentor Program develops one-on-one mentoring relationships to positively impact students, their families, and their futures. The program promotes academic tutoring, provides positive influences and general guidance, enhances career pathways, and broadens student's knowledge. Hamilton Elementary School is a very diverse school with over 340 kindergarten through 5th grade students. Over 75% of the students receive free or reduced lunch. Mentors are all middle school, high school, and college students as well as adults from business and faith-based communities. A unique aspect of the Hamilton Mentoring Programs is that entire families are supported through workshops such as Family Wellness – Survival Skills for Healthy Families Program, where children and parents learn communication skills and survival skills for everyday life. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a one year commitment, which involves one hour per week during afternoon hours.

WALKER

TEAM-UP

Cynthia Downer
Kenowa Hills Intermediate School
4252 Three Mile Road NW
Walker, Michigan 49544
Phone: (616) 453-6351
Fax: (616) 453-9686
Email: cdowner@khps.org

Program Description:

TEAM-UP, a mentoring program Kenowa Hills Intermediate School, serves 5th and 6th grade students who are experiencing difficulty in the school environment. The goal is to have an adult become a consistent and positive presence for a student and that the benefits of this relationship carry over into other areas of the student's life. All activities take place at the school. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a one year commitment which includes one hour per week during school (7:50 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.) or after school (2:35 – 3:30 p.m.).

WYOMING

Homework House

Dr. Bruce Roller
United Church Outreach Ministry
631 Hall SW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
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Program Description:

Homework House is a 19-year-old program of United Church Outreach Ministry (UCOM) and agency of the United Church of Christ that recruits and trains primarily college-aged tutors to read, journal, and interact with K-5 children 4 days a week in inner-city Grand Rapids.

MENTORING COLLABORATIVE

Mentoring Collaboratives are community-wide resources for mentoring programs, people looking to become mentors, and youth who want a mentor or need access to mentoring services. A Collaborative serves as a coordinating body for mentoring activities in their service area, which could be city-wide, county-wide, or regional in focus. They provide awareness and education around mentoring issues and work to ensure that all age groups are represented and provided with mentoring services. Collaboratives are made up of the mentoring programs in their service area, and they meet regularly to share best practices, learn about new trends in the field, partner on projects, and learn from one another.

Kent County Mentoring Collaborative

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MENTOR MICHIGAN VISTA

The Mentor Michigan VISTA program supports Mentor Michigan's goal of recruiting 10,000 new mentors for Michigan youth. Through this program, 25 individuals will be serving full-time throughout Michigan to support the development of youth mentoring programs by:

- Identifying and securing resources to support the development and sustainability of mentoring programs.
- Recruiting mentors and connecting them with effective programs serving youth.
- Developing partnerships with business, faith-based and nonprofit organizations, education institutions, and government.
- Increasing public awareness about mentoring and the positive outcomes associated with it.
- Providing training and support for mentoring programs.

The Mentor Michigan VISTA program is managed by the Connect Michigan Alliance.

Heart of West Michigan United Way

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Arbor Circle

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